

Dengue Fever

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral infection that occurs in tropical and subtropical areas of the world. The virus is transmitted by female mosquitoes mainly of the species *Aedes aegypti*. The disease causes flu-like symptoms and can develop into severe dengue, also known as dengue hemorrhagic fever, which can cause bleeding, low platelet levels, and even death.

Causes:

Dengue is caused by any one of four related viruses transmitted by mosquitoes. These viruses are known as DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4. When a mosquito bites a person infected with a dengue virus, the virus enters the mosquito. When the infected mosquito then bites another person, the virus enters that person's bloodstream.

Symptoms:

Symptoms typically begin three to fourteen days after infection and include high fever, headache, vomiting, muscle and joint pains, and a characteristic skin rash. Severe cases can cause dengue hemorrhagic fever, which leads to bleeding, blood plasma leakage, and potentially death.

Prevention:

Prevention includes protecting against mosquito bites by using insect repellent, wearing long-sleeved clothing, and eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed. There is a vaccine available in some countries for people who have previously been infected.

Treatment:

There is no specific treatment for dengue. Supportive care includes rest, fluids, and medications to reduce fever and pain. Hospital care may be needed for severe cases to manage symptoms and monitor the patient's condition.