

ABOUT NIPAH VIRUS

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Nipah virus (NiV) is a deadly virus that causes Nipah encephalitis and is spread by fruit bats, with pigs acting as intermediate hosts. The virus was first isolated in 1998 from a NiV-infected patient in Malaysia. In India, the first NiV outbreak occurred in Siliguri in 2001, followed by the Nadia outbreak in 2007, and the recent third outbreak in Kozhikode. NiV is a highly virulent and contagious virus that can cause high fatalities. The virus can be detected by ELISA and RT-PCR, based on which a specific diagnosis can be made. There is no definitive treatment for Nipah disease and is managed by supportive care only.
