

OTHER ARBOVIRAL INFECTIONS

Encephalitis is an acute inflammation of the brain that can be caused by an arbovirus. In Wisconsin, several types of mosquito-borne arboviruses can cause encephalitis, with two main California serogroup viruses: La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) and Jamestown Canyon (JC). These serogroups are part of the viral family Bunyaviridae. LAC is most likely to be the cause of an encephalitis-related case, compared to other serogroups.

The Facts

- Arboviral encephalitis is swelling of the brain caused by severe symptoms from California serogroup viruses such as La Crosse and Jamestown Canyon viruses.
- A total of 51 California serogroup cases occurred in Wisconsin during 2008-2014.
- LAC: Its first case was identified in a Minnesota resident that was treated and died in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Subsequently, it was first identified in Wisconsin residents in 1963 in children from La Crosse, Wisconsin. A total of 68 cases with an average of 10 cases per year occurred from 2002 to 2008.
- JC: 19 confirmed cases from 2011-2014.

Clinical Signs

The incubation period is 5-15 days. Some people may have no apparent symptoms. Symptoms may include:

Acute Symptoms

- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Tiredness

Severe Symptoms:

- Encephalitis
- Seizures
- Coma
- Paralysis
- Meningoencephalitis

Treatment

- There is no commercial test for viral detection of LAC or JC virus, but they can be tested at the CDC.
- No vaccine is available.
- Hospitalization: Supportive treatment should be provided.



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