

ZIKA VIRUS OUTBREAK - ASSISTED REPRODUCTION PATIENTS SHOULD AVOID PREGNANCY?



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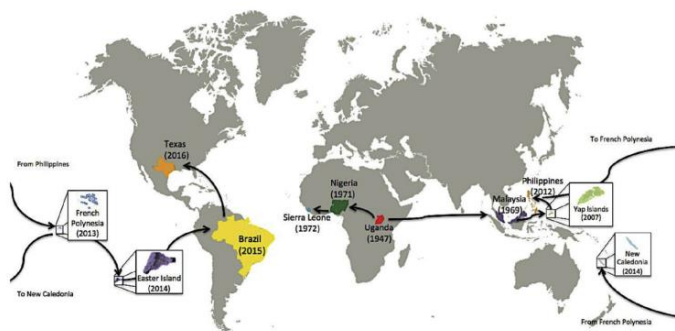
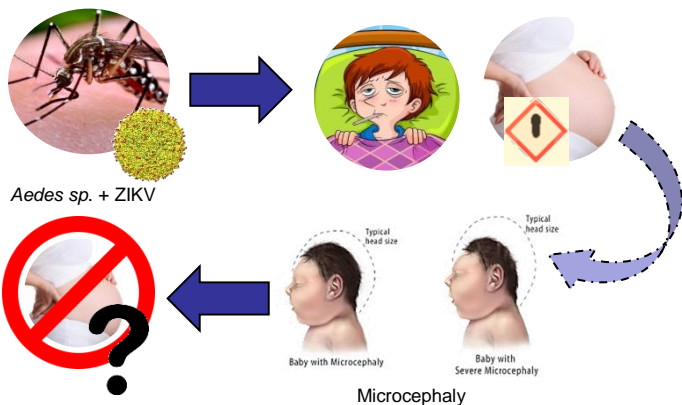
INTRODUCTION

Brazil has experienced over 1.5 million cases of Zika virus (ZIKV), and World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that potentially 4 million people in the Americas may become infected in 2016. The Brazilian health officials warned women to avoid pregnancy until the ZIKV outbreak passes. Governments in Colombia and Ecuador made similar recommendations. Recommendations in El Salvador are even more extreme, and women there have been advised to avoid pregnancy until 2018. This study discusses whether women should avoid pregnancy, because of the current ZIKV outbreak, and if such recommendations by public health authorities are justified, based in the incidence rate of others harmful pathogens to vulnerable pregnant women and infants.

RESULTS

Type	Pathogens	Prevalence	Reference
Bacteria	Chlamydia trachomatis	2.57%	(Mylonas 2012)
	Neisseria gonorrhoea	0.7% to 7%,	(Rao et al. 2008)
	Neisseria gonorrhoea (risk group)	15–35%	(Benzaken et al. 2006)
	Treponema pallidum	0.71%	(Gottlieb et al. 2008)
Parasites	Trypanosoma cruzi	1% - 40%	(Martins-Melo et al. 2014)
	Toxoplasma gondii	8% - 22%	(Hill and Dubey 2016)
	Plasmodium falciparum	2.9%	(Kourtis et al. 2014)
Virus	Parvovirus B19 (endemic period)	1.5%	(Valeur-Jensen et al. 1999)
	Parvovirus B19 (epidemic period)	13.0%	(Valeur-Jensen et al., 1999)
	Cytomegalovirus	0.3%	(Preece et al. 1986)
	Varicella Zoster	0.16% - 0.46%	(Helmuth et al. 2015)
	Herpes Simplex Virus	2%	(Brown et al. 2005)
	Microcephaly due to ZIKV	0.88%	(Johansson, et al. 2016)

MATERIALS AND METHODS



CONCLUSION

The ZIKV infection risk is extremely high, especially in endemic regions. However the microcephaly risk due to ZIKV is not higher than the risk of miscarriage and birth defects due to other recognized pathogens. Patients who face infertility and the fact that their ovarian reserve is declining, specially older patients, when receiving adequate orientation, did not postpone their IVF cycles, in Brazil. Therefore, it is prudent to take precautions to avoid ZIKV as any other infection during pregnancy.