

Microcephaly in Infants, Pernambuco, Brazil, 2015

Technical Appendix

Accumulating Evidence of a Relationship between Microcephaly and Zika Virus Infection during Pregnancy

Evidence is accumulating of the link between Zika virus infection and microcephaly. A high proportion of mother of newborns with microcephaly reported fever and rash during pregnancy (1). The timing of the microcephaly epidemic was roughly 6 months after detection of an epidemic of fever and rash attributed to Zika virus (1). The disperse geographic distribution of microcephaly cases was not compatible with toxic exposure (1). Brain images of affected newborns showed calcifications and other anomalies suggestive of an infectious origin in morphologic studies (2). There was lack of laboratory evidence for established causes of congenital infections (grouped under ToRCHeS: toxoplasmosis, parvovirus, rubella, cytomegalovirus, herpes, syphilis) in most of the cases, in the preliminary investigation (3). Zika virus was identified in amniotic fluid of 2 women in which microcephaly was diagnosed in the fetus and in the brain tissues of a newborn with microcephaly who died soon after birth (1,4,5).

References

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