



What

Yellow fever (YF) is a mosquito-borne viral hemorrhagic fever with a high case-fatality rate, ranging from 20% to 57%. The YF virus is primarily transmitted through infected *Aedes* mosquitoes, which are active during the daytime.



Who

The Yellow Fever (YF) virus and the mosquitoes that spread it are found in certain parts of South America and Africa. Travelers to these regions are at risk of contracting the virus. It is important for travelers to discuss their risk with a healthcare provider before traveling.



Where and when

The main transmission cycle of Yellow Fever (YF) is the jungle cycle. People living in or traveling to forested areas of endemic regions are at the highest risk. However, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, a common domestic mosquito, can also spread the virus in more urbanized areas.

Prevention

The best way to prevent diseases transmitted by insects is to avoid being bitten. This may be done by use of insect repellents, wearing protective clothing, sleeping under insectnets or in airconditioned rooms. Avoid mosquito-breeding areas. When you do get infected, it is equally important to prevent mosquito bites. A safe and effective Yellow Fever (YF) vaccine is available, and a single dose may provide lifelong immunity for most people. The vaccine is a live, weakened form of the virus. However, not all individuals may be able to receive it, so it is important to seek advice from a travel doctor or specialist before getting vaccinated.



Treatment

Diagnosis of Yellow Fever (YF) can be made by detecting specific YF antibodies or by identifying the virus itself. There is no specific antiviral treatment for YF, and management focuses on treating the symptoms. The intermediate cycle occurs in certain areas in Africa.

Symptoms

Most people infected with the yellow fever virus do not become sick or experience only mild symptoms. For those who do get sick, symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, backache, and muscle aches typically begin about 4 days (ranging from 2 to 9 days) after infection. Approximately 15-25% of individuals who develop symptoms will experience a brief period of improvement before progressing to serious illness, which may include jaundice, bleeding, shock, organ failure, and, in some cases, death.



In case of infection

About 15-25% of people infected with yellow fever will deteriorate in the second phase of the disease. Of those, approximately 20-50% may not survive. Recovery from severe disease can be accompanied by fatigue lasting for several weeks. Management of severe disease in intensive care units (ICUs) can improve outcomes, but such facilities are often not available in yellow fever endemic areas. After recovering from yellow fever infection, immunity is typically life-long.