

Argentine hemorrhagic fever

Argentine hemorrhagic fever (AHF) is a hemorrhagic fever and zoonotic infectious disease occurring in Argentina. It is caused by the *Junín virus* (an arenavirus). Its vector is a species of rodent.

Epidemiology

The disease was first reported in a small place in Buenos Aires province, Argentina in 1958, giving it one of the names by which it is known.

Transmission

- Arenaviruses are spread from rodents directly to humans.
- A person can contract the virus by:
 - Ingesting stool particles, getting urine or stool in a wound.
 - Inhaling dust that contains stool particles.
 - Urine or stool enters a wound
 - Infection is produced through contact of skin or mucous membranes, or through inhalation of infected particles. It is found mostly in people who reside or work in rural areas; 80% of those infected are males between 15 and 60 years of age.
- Rarely, the virus spreads from one infected human to another.

Symptoms

The most common initial symptoms of arenavirus infection include:

Back pain, Body aches, Fever , Nausea, Vomiting, Rash on the chest, Anorexia, Malaise

After 3-5 days, signs and symptoms of hemorrhage may occur in some patients.

Additional symptoms of arenavirus infection may include: Blood in the urine, Blood in the vomit or stool, Rash that looks like broken blood vessels in the skin, or bruises

Severe symptoms of arenavirus infection may also include: Coma, Neck pain , Confusion, drowsiness Low blood pressure, Severe bleeding Lymphocytic choriomeningitis causes

Treatment

Treatment for an arenavirus infection includes general supportive care and fever control. Antiviral medications may be effective in some cases.

Prevention

Prevention of arenavirus infection includes:

- Avoid regions where arenavirus infections occur.
- Avoid contact with rodents, which carry the virus.