Rabies, viral hemorrhagic fevers and insect-spread diseases

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Abstract

Until the advent of the human immunodeficiency virus pandemic, the viral diseases with the highest case fatality rates and evoking the greatest alarm were rabies and the several agents that cause the viral hemorrhagic fevers. Despite mounting evidence of an extraordinarily high case fatality rate, there is a quality of silence to the human immunodeficiency virus epidemic. The sheer violence of rabies, Lassa fever, Ebola or Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fever, and yellow fever commands unmatched respect. Research published in 1989 and 1990 gave promise of oral rabies vaccines for wild animals, documented the unexpected appearance of Ebola-like virus in the Philippines, urban yellow fever in Africa, and jungle yellow fever in Trinidad. The genetic manipulation of viruses is producing new vaccines and diagnostic reagents. An important retrospective epidemiologic study of dengue hemorrhagic fever in Cuba was published.

References

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