

No Studies Yet on Whether Zika Mosquitoes Could Occasionally Transmit HIV, Reports Dr. Leslie Norins

Researcher finds only two 30-year-old studies on whether mosquitoes could transmit HIV. Zika mosquitoes have not yet been examined, but should be this summer.

NAPLES, FLORIDA, USA, March 21, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- An intensive search of the medical literature has revealed no research yet on whether Zika mosquitoes could occasionally transmit HIV, reports Leslie Norins, MD, PhD. He says investigating this possibility is important because Miami-Dade in 2016 led the U.S. in both cases of domestically transmitted Zika virus and in new infections with HIV. He urges research be planned now for the summer mosquito season.



Mosquito next to HIV/AIDS support ribbon

Dr. Norins, who trained as a physician-scientist, has been a medical publisher for 40 years. His findings appear on Analizir.com.

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Zika mosquitoes should be studied to determine if they occasionally might also transmit HIV.”

Dr. Leslie Norins

He was stimulated by a theoretical scenario: a mosquito sucking blood from a person infected with both Zika virus and HIV. Could that insect then transmit both infections, or only one? And who would believe a chaste male claiming the mosquito which gave him Zika also gave him the AIDS which developed a year later?

Official doctrine asserts that mosquito transmission of HIV doesn't happen, says Dr. Norins. But tracing back the origins of this widely-repeated belief, he found it is based on only two scientific papers, both almost 30 years old. And these have weaknesses, he believes.

One was a 1988 field study, in rural Belle Glade, Florida, 85 miles north of Miami. An epidemic of 93 AIDS cases there caused national alarm when mosquitoes were mentioned as possible transmitters.

Government investigators concluded that 59 could be “directly” linked to another AIDS case. But only 30 had “risk factors” of homosexuality or I.V. drug abuse. The remaining 29 were unexplained.

For another 35, heterosexual contact was, strangely, labeled a risk factor, though it is not one in the U.S. Apparently, there was a kind of profiling, since a footnote says that back in Haiti heterosexual spread of AIDS was common. The inference was that since these heterosexuals were from Haiti, their national origin explained their AIDS.

The second study, in 1989, was a laboratory one, using mosquitoes under artificial conditions. An unusual genus was chosen, the “elephant mosquito”. It does not suck blood, or transmit any human diseases. Injected HIV survived briefly, but did not grow. The relevance of this to what occurs in nature is not clear.

Dr. Norins recommends a research push in Miami in summer to trap and assay Zika mosquitoes that may have fed on HIV-positive patients, plus laboratory experiments using Zika mosquitoes and HIV.

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