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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.



Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
3511	12.07.2016	13.07.2016	Gaya Bihar	www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/AES-herpes-claim-15-lives-in-Gaya/articleshow/53180697.cms
Title:	AES, herpes claim 15 lives in district Gaya, Bihar			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Gaya, SSU- Bihar			

Altogether 15 children admitted to Anugrah Narain Magadh Medical College Hospital (ANMMCH) with acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) have died and test reports attributed three of the 15 deaths to herpes. As on Tuesday, seven children with encephalitis symptoms are undergoing treatment in the hospital.

The high mortality rate is worrying, say health officials. Of late, altogether 25 children were hospitalised. Out of these 25 cases of hospitalisation, only one patient was discharged after recovery. "Two patients escaped from the hospital but are said to be surviving," said a source.

Awareness campaigns and involvement of village-level health workers for early identification and proper hospitalisation has apparently yielded no result as fresh cases like previous once reached the hospital late thereby making their recovery difficult.

According to ANMMCH superintendent Dr Sudhir Kumar Sinha, "It would be wrong to attribute all the 15 deaths to encephalitis, as in three cases, tests conducted at Rajendra Memorial Viral Lab in Patna identified the disease as Harpies and not AES, as was suspected in clinical examination."

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Disclaimer:-This is a Media Alert and pending verification.

**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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The superintendent said all facilities including kits and ventilator etc were available in the hospital. Dr Sinha attributed the high death rate to late hospitalisation. All the cases were not from Gaya district.

"Patients from neighbouring districts also come to ANMMCH for treatment," said the superintendent.

None of the tests conducted on the patients has so far confirmed Japanese Encephalitis (JE), the more deadly disease. In previous years, JE positive cases were found in ANMMCH.

This year, encephalitis preceded the monsoon. The premature onset of the disease remains unexplained.

Meanwhile, the official advisory issued to the residents of vulnerable areas and the encephalitis protocol cautions people against proximity to pigs as pigs have been identified as the most potent carrier of the virus that causes the deadly disease. Almost all the victims hail from the Mahadalit community as mushars.

Use of mosquito repellents and mosquito nets have also been advised. According to activist SB Bhaskar, who has spent several decades of his life among mushars, both on account of poverty and ignorance, the encephalitis-prone population can neither use mosquito repellants nor mosquito nets.

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