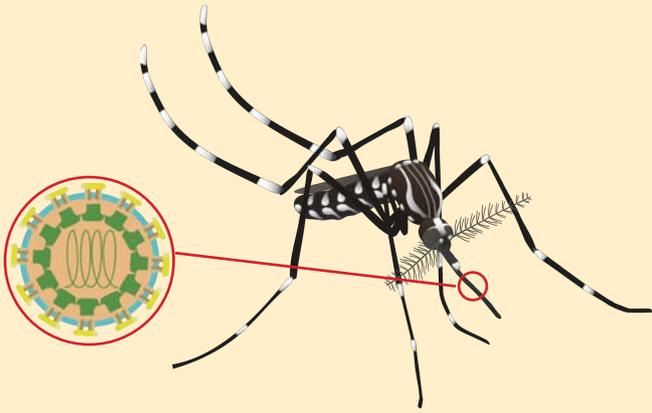


The Zika virus

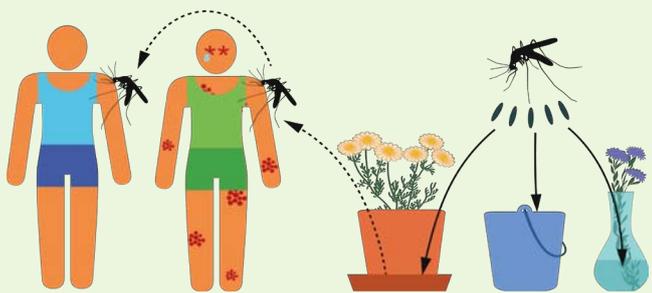
in 10 pictures

1 What is the Zika virus?



The Zika virus is from the Flavivirus family and humans can be infected through bites of some mosquitos, mainly the Yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*). These mosquitos can also transmit dengue, yellow fever, and Chikungunya.

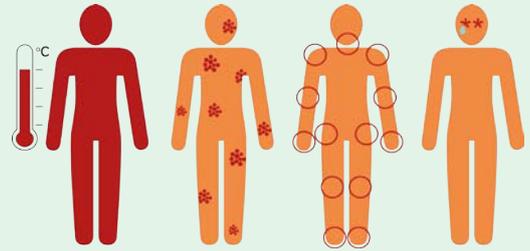
2 How is it transmitted?



It is transmitted when an infected mosquito (having previously bitten an infected person) bites a healthy person. These mosquitos generally bite during the day. The females lay eggs in stagnant water and containers such as buckets, large bowls, animal food dishes, pots, and vases.

Also, some cases of sexual transmission have been reported. **There is currently ongoing research** on whether it can be passed from mother to child during pregnancy and birth.

3 What are the symptoms?



One of every five infected persons develops the disease. The virus can stay in blood for up to a week. The prognostic is weak and some symptoms include:

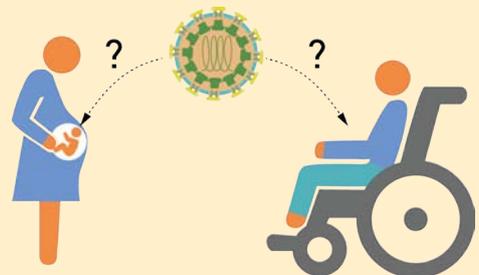
- Fever
- Eruptions on the skin
- Joint pain
- Conjunctivitis

4 Is there a treatment?



There is currently no vaccine for preventing the disease from Zika virus. However, some of the symptoms are treatable.

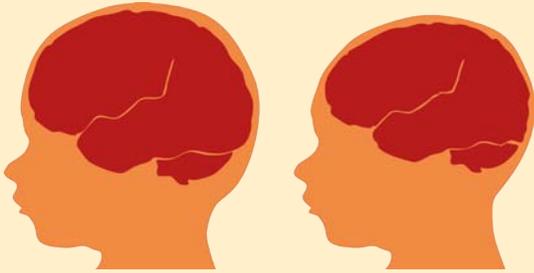
5 Is it a severe disease?



Generally speaking the disease does not require hospitalization and it is rarely lethal.

It is currently being investigated in adults if there is any relationship with Guillian-Barré syndrome (which provokes paralysis). It has been confirmed that it provokes microcephaly in fetuses.

6 What is microcephaly?



Microcephaly is a neurological disease which causes incorrect development of the brain of fetuses during pregnancy or causes a discontinuation of growth after birth.

Infants inflicted with the disease have smaller heads than normal. Some symptoms of the disease include convulsions, intellectual disability, spasms, and hyperactivity.

7 How can infection be avoided?



The best way to avoid infection is to not allow disease-transmitting mosquitos to bite you.

- Get rid of all containers which accumulate water
- Wear long-sleeved clothing
- Use mosquito nets
- Use mosquito repellents

8 Where is Zika virus found?

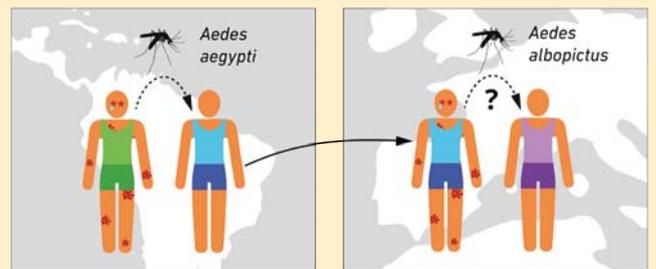


Before 2015, there were some isolated cases of Zika in some areas of Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. However, beginning in May 2015 there have been close to 1.5 million cases detected in Brazil, and it has extended north towards Central America.

9 How has Zika expanded?

- 2007** A strain from Southeast Asia causes rapid breakouts in the South Pacific Islands.
- 2013** Breakout in French Polynesia. Serious neurological and autoimmune complications are reported.
- 2015** Brazil: first case reported in May, and first possible association with microcephaly in November.

10 Might it arrive to Spain?



Due to globalization, it is likely that a traveller infected with Zika virus will arrive to Spain, but the yellow fever mosquito won't be able to transmit the disease because this mosquito isn't currently found in Spain.

At the moment it is not confirmed that the specific variety of tiger mosquito present in Spain can effectively transmit the disease, since this capacity varies geographically.