



Letter to the Editor

Zika virus infection: Control and prevention



Dear Editor,

The recent publication on Zika virus infection was a very interesting article.¹ Chen and Tang¹ mentioned that “the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC) activated ZIKV as a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease similar to Ebola virus disease and MERS”, and noted that “the only way to prevent congenital ZIKV infection is to prevent maternal infection.” In fact, several countries have already implemented similar control and categorized the Zika virus as a Notifiable Infectious Disease. However, of greater concern is the knowledge of the public health practitioners on this new disease. Since the disease is very difficult to differentiate from other tropical infections, it is very difficult to make an early diagnosis.^{2–4} Therefore, the disease notification might not be complete. Focusing on prevention, in particular, how to prevent maternal infection is a very big issue. As a mosquito-borne disease, it is very hard to prevent mosquito bites. Burd and Griffin⁵ noted that “women desiring pregnancies who are identified to travel, have a partner traveling to, or living in the areas of Zika infections should be encouraged to have a preconception consultation with maternal fetal medicine.” In summary, the present Zika virus infection is an actual important disease that is very difficult to control and to prevent. Mosquito prevention is the basic concept but it is usually not successful. For any women, especially for pregnant women, avoiding visits to the endemic risk areas is the recommendation. In cases where travel is actually needed, contraception should be considered for nonpregnant women. For pregnant women, use of standard mosquito preventive tools

(net, repellent, etc.) is suggested and a short visit duration should be arranged. Antenatal care and fetal monitoring after traveling should also be arranged.

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