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Population and Public Health Branch (PPHB)

Office of Laboratory Security

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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET - INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

SECTION I - INFECTIOUS AGENT

NAME: *Ross river virus*

SYNONYM OR CROSS REFERENCE: Epidemic polyarthritis and rash, Ross river disease, Ross river fever, RRV

CHARACTERISTICS: Togaviridae (formerly group A arboviruses), genus Alphavirus; spherical, enveloped virions 60 nm in diameter, single-stranded, positive-sense RNA genome

SECTION II - HEALTH HAZARD

PATHOGENICITY: Characterized by arthralgia or arthritis typically in the knee, ankle and small joints of the extremities, followed by a maculopapular rash; buccal and palatal enanthema can occur; mild or absent fever

EPIDEMIOLOGY: Found in regions of Australia, New Guinea, and the Pacific Islands

HOST RANGE: Humans, mammals, birds

INFECTIOUS DOSE: Not known

MODE OF TRANSMISSION: By bite of an infective mosquito

INCUBATION PERIOD: Usually 7-11 days

COMMUNICABILITY: No evidence of person-to-person transmission

SECTION III - DISSEMINATION

RESERVOIR: Unknown, serological evidence points to several mammals

ZOONOSIS: Probable - disease most likely acquired from animal reservoirs via mosquito

VECTORS: Mosquitoes - *Culex annulirostris*, *Aedes vigilax*, *Ae. camhorhynchus*.

SECTION IV - VIABILITY

DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY: No antiviral available to date

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DISINFECTANTS: Sensitive to 70% ethanol, 1% sodium hypochlorite, 2% glutaraldehyde, Sensitive to lipid solvents

PHYSICAL INACTIVATION: Inactivated by moist, dry heat > 58° C; sensitive to drying

SURVIVAL OUTSIDE HOST: Unknown, less than one day in culture medium at 37° C

SECTION V - MEDICAL

SURVEILLANCE: Monitor for symptoms; confirm by serological analysis and viral isolation in mosquito cell culture

FIRST AID/TREATMENT: Mainly supportive therapy

IMMUNIZATION: None available to date

PROPHYLAXIS: None available

SECTION VI - LABORATORY HAZARDS

LABORATORY-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS: none found

SOURCES/SPECIMENS: Blood

PRIMARY HAZARDS: Accidental parenteral inoculation, aerosols

SPECIAL HAZARDS: None

SECTION VII - RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS

CONTAINMENT REQUIREMENTS: Biosafety level 2 practices and containment equipment for all activities involving the virus and potentially infectious body fluids or tissues

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING: Laboratory coat; gloves when skin contact with infectious materials is unavoidable

OTHER PRECAUTIONS: Frequent handwashing

SECTION VIII - HANDLING INFORMATION

SPILLS: Allow aerosols to settle; wearing protective clothing gently cover the spill with absorbent paper towel and apply 1% sodium hypochlorite starting at the perimeter and working towards the center; allow sufficient contact time (30 min) before clean up

DISPOSAL: Decontaminate all wastes before disposal; steam sterilization, chemical disinfection, incineration

STORAGE: In sealed containers that are appropriately labelled

SECTION IX - MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Date prepared: March, 2001

Prepared by: Office of Laboratory Security, PPHB

Although the information, opinions and recommendations contained in this Material Safety Data Sheet are compiled from sources believed to be reliable, we accept no responsibility for the accuracy, sufficiency, or reliability or for any loss or injury resulting from the use of the information. Newly discovered hazards are frequent and this information may not be completely up to date.

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