



Chandipura Virus Infection

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, many children have died of suspected **Chandipura virus (CHPV) infection** in Gujarat.

▪ CHPV Infection:

- The CHPV is an **arbovirus** that belongs to the ***Vesiculovirus* genus** in the ***Rhabdoviridae* family**.
- CHPV is transmitted by various species of sandflies, such as ***Phlebotomine* sandflies, *Phlebotomus papatasi*** and mosquitoes such as ***Aedes aegypti* (vector for dengue)**.
 - It primarily affects children **under 15 years** old.

▪ Complications and Symptoms :

- The virus resides in the **salivary glands** of these insects and is transmitted through their bites. CHPV can infect the **central nervous system**, potentially leading to **encephalitis**, an inflammation of the brain's active tissues.
- **Symptoms** resemble flu, including fever, body aches, and headache. It can cause altered mental state, seizures, encephalitis, respiratory distress, bleeding tendencies, and anaemia in advanced stages.

▪ Treatment:

- Currently, there is **no specific antiviral treatment or vaccine** for CHPV, so care is supportive and symptomatic.

▪ Epidemiology:

- CHPV was **first identified in Chandipura village of Maharashtra in 1965** during a dengue outbreak.
- The infection remains **endemic in central India**, especially in **rural and tribal areas** with higher sandfly populations.
- Outbreaks are **more frequent during the monsoon season** due to increased breeding of sandflies.

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FAST & FURIOUS

➤ The virus was first isolated and identified in 1965 at Chandipura village in Nagpur

58%
is the fatality
rate of
Chandipura
viral infection

➤ It is transmitted to humans by sandflies that breed in small, dark crevices and cracks of houses

➤ The virus was not considered to have an epidemic potential until an outbreak of acute encephalitis among children in Andhra Pradesh in 2003

➤ The disease rapidly progresses from influenza-like symptoms to coma, resulting in death in extreme cases

➤ Viral encephalitis is a public health concern worldwide

“ Unlike dengue, exposure to Chandipura and Japanese encephalitis virus creates herd immunity in the community. Therefore, only a few catch illness while the rest of the exposed population gets immunity against the virus. That is why the cases are sporadic

– **Mukund Deshpande** | ENTOMOLOGIST

Read More: [Nipah Virus](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/chandipura-virus-infection>