

This information is current as of the date faxed and for the patient specified ONLY. Do not use this information for other patients without contacting the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

VENEZUELAN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS: Health Care Information

Signs and Symptoms: Sudden onset of illness occurs with generalized malaise, spiking fevers, rigors, severe headache, photophobia and myalgias. Nausea, vomiting, cough, sore throat and diarrhea may follow. Full recovery takes 1 to 2 weeks.

Clinical Diagnosis: Physical findings are usually non-specific. The white blood cell count often shows a striking leucopenia and lymphopenia. Virus isolation may be made from serum, and in some cases throat swab specimens. Both neutralizing and IgG antibody in paired sera or VEE-specific IgM present in a single serum sample indicate recent infection.

Treatment: Supportive only.

Isolation and Decontamination: Use standard precautions for health care workers. Human cases are infectious for mosquitoes for at least 72 hours. The virus can be destroyed by heat (80 degrees centigrade for 30 minutes) and standard disinfectants.