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Subject PRO/AH/EDR> Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Arizona)

HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME - USA (ARIZONA)

A ProMED-mail post

<<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the
International Society for Infectious Diseases
<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Thu 9 Jan 2003

From: John Moore <wx-chase@tinyvital.com>

Source: The Arizona Republic, Thu 9 Jan 2003 [edited]

<<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0109safehaven09.html>>

Arizona: 2 Cases of Hantavirus Infection Confirmed in Maricopa County

Maricopa County health officials on Wed 8 Jan 2003 confirmed 2 recent cases of hantavirus infection and are urging the public to take precautions around rodent-infested areas. Health department officials learned of the cases, which are unrelated, in mid-December 2002 after the victims were hospitalized. Investigators determined that one man contracted the rare and sometimes fatal pulmonary disease in the county, and they are still trying to figure out where the other victim was exposed to the virus. Officials will not disclose the victims' identities, areas of residence, or details of their illnesses to maintain their privacy, health department spokesman Doug Hauth said.

Hantavirus was first identified in the Southwest in 1993. Since then 37 cases have been reported in Arizona. 9 people have died. Maricopa County has reported 6 cases, none fatal. "They were all identified early enough and given supportive care and pulled through," Hauth said.

A news producer and photojournalist with Channel 5 (KPHO) in Phoenix was one of those who survived. He contracted hantavirus in 2002 and believes he was exposed to the virus in Texas after the disease killed his mother and sister [see part (2) of the ProMED-mail post entitled "Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome update 2002 - USA (03) [20020809.5011](#)". - Mod.CP]. "Beyond the physical stuff, the emotional stuff has really taken its toll," he said on Wednesday. However, his recovery has been relatively quick. He has returned to work and exercising. "Usually, it takes people years," he said. "What saved me was information and early treatment. If you wind up going into an emergency room with flu-like or pneumonia-like symptoms, you need to be adamant with health care officials (that you've been exposed)," he said.

Hantavirus is an airborne virus spawned from certain rodent droppings, saliva, and excretions. It can affect humans who inhale the virus, but it cannot spread from person to person. The virus is found more often in places where mice can breed, including rural areas, construction locations, and areas with debris. Roof rats do not carry the disease. [Initially virus

infection] mimics symptoms of the common cold or flu, and may rapidly progress to respiratory failure when the lungs fill with fluid. Patients usually develop breathing difficulty 2 to 6 days after onset of symptoms, and victims typically end up in the intensive-care unit. There is no specific treatment or cure.

[Byline: Christina Leonard]

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John Moore
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[Although not stated, it is probable from the location that the hantavirus responsible for both these cases is Sin Nombre virus, whose reservoir host is the deer mouse Peromyscus maniculatus. - Mod.CP]

[see also:
2002

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Arizona) 20020607.442
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome update 2002 - USA (01) [20020630.4641](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome update 2002 - USA (02) [20020718.4794](#)
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome update 2002 - USA (03) [20020809.5011](#)

2001

Hantavirus pulm. synd. - USA (Arizona) [20010428.0828](#)

2000

Hantavirus pulm. synd. - USA (Colorado ex Arizona?) [20000523.0810](#)

1999

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Arizona) [19990519.0829](#),
[19990522.0846](#)

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - USA (Arizona) (02) [19990726.1261](#)

1998

Hantavirus infection, human - USA (Arizona) [19980222.0336](#)
Hantavirus infection, human - USA (Arizona) (02) [19980224.0359](#)
Hantavirus infection, human - USA (Arizona) (03) [19980226.0374](#)

1996

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) - Arizona, USA [19960319.0504](#)
.....mpp/cp/pg/mpp

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