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**ZIKA VIRUS**  
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The report shows today's urgent problem that is being discussed all over the world — the outbreak of Zika virus. Over 1,000 cases of microcephaly linked with Zika were registered in Brazil in 2016 where Summer Olympics and Paralympics were held. The World Health Organization declared that the Zika virus outbreak constituted a public health emergency of international concern. Evidence shows that Zika infection can pass from mother to fetus during pregnancy. Many people are concerned that there may be a link between maternal Zika virus infection and microcephaly which is a neurological condition in which an infant's head circumference is significantly smaller than the average size for infants of the same age. The disease can result in developmental delays in movement and speech as well as in other complications such as dwarfism or short stature, facial distortion, mental retardation, hyperactivity, and seizures. There is also a potential risk that the Zika virus could spread through infected blood. It has been also identified in saliva, urine and semen and can be transmitted by sexual intercourse.

Unfortunately, there is currently no treatment or vaccination available for Zika and no rapid tests either. Vaccine development is under way at the National Institutes of Health.

However, the following measures are recommended for people with Zika virus such as rest, increasing fluid intake to prevent dehydration, pain and fever relief with medications but not aspirin and non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs.

Due to the fact that there is no vaccine, avoiding mosquito bites is vital to prevent transmission of Zika virus. The most effective bite prevention methods also include using insect repellent, wearing loose clothing with long sleeves and trouser-legs, and sleeping under a mosquito net in areas where malaria is also a risk.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about Zika virus that is why emergency measures should be undertaken as soon as possible. Otherwise, it may be too late and the virus will find a different way to get around, or mutate into an even more dangerous form. Some scientists believe that the virus can spread even out of areas with mosquitos that distribute Zika.