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In 1938-39, in the Priorn region, there was discovered a severe new
severe neuroinfection - autumnal encephalitis. The first cases of autumnal
encephalitis are observed usually near the end of August and in mid-September.
In the next 15-20 days the number of infections sharply rises, and then quickly
drops, and near the 1st of November, when the nightly frosts begin, the flare-
ups terminate. The average length of these epidemics in 40-50 days. Tied in
with such a seasonality, it is called autumnal encephalitis.

The infected areas ravaged by this disease are meadow steppes, spread
along the shores of lakes, grown over with reeds, and quickly becoming rainy
after an increase in precipitation.

The flare-ups of autumnal encephalitis are accompanied by the appearance
of hot weather with numerous sunny days. The epidemic of 1938-39 was accom-
panied by floods, which greatly aided in the development of the infection over
wide territories. Infections in heavily populated areas and in large cities
of the Priorn region were not noted.

Autumnal encephalitis starts unexpectedly. The patient complains of
severe pain in the brow area, nasal discharge and general weakness, upset
stomach, and vomiting. The temperature rises to 38-39°C quickly and remains
so for 6-9 days. The face of the patient turns copper-colored; patient is
sluggish, and with difficulty answer questions, in many patients the mind
is obscure, which is accompanied by altered native excitement, hallucination
or on the reverse, a deep sleepiness, a general dizziness and a complete
indifference.

In numerous cases the nervous system is quickly affected, the mind becomes obscure, breathing becomes difficult and the patient dies from paralysis of the breathing center. More often than all the death comes no later than 5 days after the start of the illness. The death rate with autumnal encephalitis is 50-60%.

In many people, recovered from the infection, there remains for a long time a general exhausting, loss of ability to work, headaches, sketchy memory, and sleepiness (Alperovich, Glazunov, Panov).

In 1938 the nature of the agent of autumnal encephalitis was interpreted (Smorodintsev, Shubladze, Neustroev). As with the agent of tick encephalitis, this is a filtering virus. The agent mainly concentrates in the brain of the patient and dead people, in a lesser quantity, in the blood, urine and spinal fluid. If a particle of the brain of a person, having died of the disease, is injected into the brains of white mice or monkeys, then after 2-10 days there develops convulsions and paralysis of the extremities. The virus, concentrated in the brains of ill mice, succumbs to being given over in time to well mice, injecting it into the brain through the mucous membrane of the respiratory path under the skin into the blood stream.

The encephalitis leaves, in those recovered, a life unsusceptibility to a secondary infection.

By the chart of infection and by the nature of the agent, autumnal encephalitis is analogical with Japanese encephalitis, well known in Japan already for many decades. There, every year, thousands die from encephalitis.

As in Japan, the vectors of the agent of autumnal encephalitis in the...
Prigorod region - the mosquitoes. Among the 50 various types of mosquitoes, inhabiting the Prigorod, there were found 4 types, vectors of the agent of Japanese encephalitis (Petrihova, Smorodintsev, Shutlize). The microbe of encephalitis nests in the bodies of these mosquitoes and upon biting is injected under the skin of the person along with the saliva.

It was possible to repeatedly isolate the agent of autumnal encephalitis from the body of the mosquito-vectors, generally in nature. The mosquito-vectors, infected artificially by feeding with or Collins animals, retain the agent of the infection in their bodies for a long time. Also established was the ability of the winged mosquito-vectors to transmit the virus to eggs and to the larva and pupa originating from them. If the infected mosquito winters, then the next season it can give a new generation, containing the virus of encephalitis. There is possible still another path of infecting well mosquitoes in the centers of infection; if people, domestic animals, rodents and birds are subjected to the bite of the infected mosquitoes, then the virus, injected by the mosquitoes, circulates for some time in the blood of the bitten person and animal.

For the prevention of autumnal encephalitis there are conducted draining of the infected area, destruction of the larva and pupa of the mosquitoes, by means of evaporation with paris green or Collins of the cistern tanks. For protection against the mosquitoes, it is recommended that one wear a protective net, sprayed with a lysol solution, and guard the bed with cheesecloth.

To increase the immunity of the people living in the infectious areas to autumnal encephalitis, vaccine containing virus of this infection, rendered harmless by formaline, is injected under the skin. Infection among those immunized is of a lighter form and progresses quicker than in those not immunized.