

What is KFD?

Kyasanur Forest disease (KFD) is caused by Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family *Flaviviridae*. KFDV was identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka (formerly Mysore) State, India.

Vector

The hard ticks *Hemaphysalis spinigera* and *H. turturis* are the main vectors in transmitting the disease. Nymphal stage is the most active stage for transmission of KFD Virus to human. Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick.

Signs and Symptoms

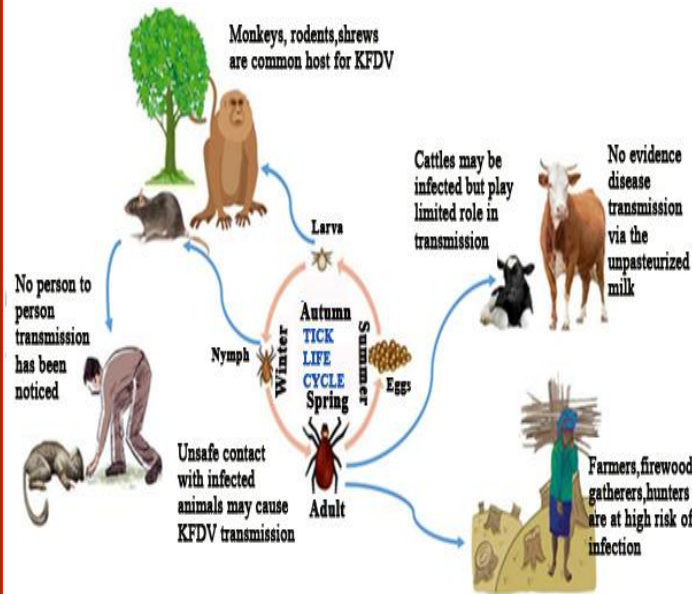
After an incubation period of 3-8 days, the symptoms of KFD begin suddenly with chills, fever, and headache. Severe muscle pain with vomiting, gastrointestinal symptoms and bleeding problems may occur 3-4 days after initial symptom onset. Patients may experience abnormally low blood pressure, and low platelet, red blood cell, and white blood cell counts.

Transmission

KFD is transmitted to man by bite of infected tick and especially nymphal stage ticks. The wild monkeys *Semnopithecus entellus* and *Macaca radiata*, gets the disease through the bites of infected ticks. No person-to-person transmission has been described.

Large animals such as goats, cows, and sheep may become infected with KFD but play a limited role in the transmission of the disease. These animals provide the blood meals for ticks and it is possible for infected animals with viremia to infect other ticks, but transmission of KFDV to humans from these larger animals is extremely rare. Furthermore, there is no evidence of disease transmission via the unpasteurized milk of any of these animals.

Transmission Cycle



Stages Developments of *Hemaphysalis spinigera*

Prevention

- Insect repellents
- wearing protective clothes



Kyasanur Forest Disease

