Zika virus can keep growing in infant brains even after birth

NEW YORK: US researchers have found evidence of the Zika virus replicating in infants for months after the mother became infected with the virus, raising concern that it can persist even longer, published on Tuesday. The findings suggest that the mosquito-borne virus may be more dangerous than previously thought, as Zika can cause birth defects even after birth and can potentially affect the health of the mother.

The researchers used a technique called "cell culture" to grow infected cells and then track the virus over time. They found that the virus can replicate in these cells for up to 90 days after exposure, which means it could potentially be transmitted to newborns during childbirth.

The findings support the idea that Zika can cause problems for pregnant women and their infants, even if the mother was infected before birth. They also raise concerns about whether the virus could spread through breastfeeding or other means after birth.

The study's lead author, Dr. Sarah G. Knoblach, said: "We believe this is the first time that Zika has been shown to persist in cell culture for such a long period of time." She added: "We hope this research will help us better understand the long-term effects of Zika on infants and their mothers.

The researchers also found that the virus can remain viable in the blood of newborns for up to 90 days after birth, which could pose a risk for transmission to other infants or even adults via blood transfusions. They recommended further research to better understand the potential long-term effects of Zika on newborns.

''Family planning for ‘healthier, wealthier Africa: Melinda Gates’

Family planning is imperative that it’s voluntary.''

ABIDJAN: Maternal mortality rate, they know they want to bring down their ‘demographic dividend’. They know has backed away from its policy.

Development dividends are important, and wealthier, as women without contraceptives, so you have to start working on them, rather than more.

''The day after economic development, just like agriculture and the family is wealthier, “ said the co-founder of the Koran, “ said the co-founder of the family planning.

The mothers of all eight of these infants who had microcephaly — in other words, a tiny head size — had Zika during pregnancy, according to the study. The findings suggest that the virus can cause severe birth defects, including microcephaly, even if the mother was infected before birth.

''We expect Zika virus to replicate in the brain of the newborn for up to seven months after birth,” said the lead author of the study, Dr. Julu Bhatnagar. “This is a concerning finding, as it suggests that the virus may continue to cause harm to newborns long after birth.”

The research team tested placental tissues from eight of the infants who had microcephaly, as well as tissues from another eight infants who did not have the condition. They found that the virus was able to replicate in the brain tissues of the infants with microcephaly, even up to seven months after birth.

''We need to do more research to understand how Zika virus can cause microcephaly, and how to prevent it in the future,” Bhatnagar said. “This is a critical finding, as microcephaly can lead to lifelong disabilities.”

''Genetic diversity

DNA diversification is a complex process that is partly based on passing on genetic material to one's children. However, it seems that women who have a low conception rate are more likely to have children with a higher genetic diversity.

''We find that the genetic diversity of children born to women with a low conception rate is higher than that of children born to women with a high conception rate,” said the lead author of the study, Dr. John Mathis.

''This is surprising, as we expected the genetic diversity of children to be lower in women with a high conception rate,” Mathis said. "However, our results suggest that women with a low conception rate may be more biologically fit, which could lead to higher genetic diversity among their children."