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Title: Enhancing Preparation for Large Nipah Outbreaks
Beyond Bangladesh: Preventing a Tragedy like Ebola in West
Africa

Authors: Halsie Donaldson, Daniel Lucey

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Preventing a Tragedy like Ebola in West Africa**

Authors: Halsie Donaldson M.S.
Georgetown University School of Medicine
3800 Reservoir Road NW
Washington, DC USA
Email: had29@Georgetown.edu

Daniel Lucey MD, MPH (*Corresponding Author*)
Adjunct Professor of Medicine-Infectious Disease
Georgetown University School of Medicine
3800 Reservoir Road NW
Washington, DC USA
E-mail: DRL23@Georgetown.edu

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Different Nipah epidemiology in Malaysia, Bangladesh, Philippines
- Beyond Bangladesh need to enhance preparedness for large Nipah outbreaks
- Prevent Nipah epidemics beyond south Asia and avoid a tragedy like Ebola in West Africa

Nipah virus, within the **paramyxoviridae family** (Wang et al 2001), was first identified in humans with encephalitis in the 1998-1999 outbreak in Malaysia and Singapore involving at least 276 cases and 106 deaths (Chua et al. 2000). The epidemiologic link was from fruit bats infecting pigs that then served as an amplifier host and infected humans through close contact. Person-to-person transmission was rarely documented, and no further human cases have been reported from either country. Detailed analyses of the environmental changes that triggered this outbreak connecting wildlife (bats), livestock (pigs) and humans was reported (Pulliam et al

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