West Nile Virus Treatment

Self-Care at Home

Home care for people who suspect they may have become infected with West Nile virus is fairly limited. There is no specific treatment. Mild illness does not require therapy other than medications to reduce fever and pain. Avoid aspirin because it presents a risk for a fatal condition known as Reye’s syndrome, especially in children.

Medical Treatment

There is no known effective antiviral treatment or vaccine to prevent West Nile virus.

- Milder illnesses do not require treatment.
- In severe cases of West Nile virus, intensive supportive therapy is indicated. This includes hospitalization, IV fluids and nutrition, airway management (some people may need a tube to keep the airway open), ventilatory support (some people may need a machine to help them breathe), prevention of secondary infections, as well as good nursing care.


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