

Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV)

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A recent study investigates the haemorrhagic disease (HD) in Asian elephants, focusing on the elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus subtypes (EEHV) responsible for the disease's recent surge and its pathogenesis.



[ref-wikipedia]

About EEHV:

- EEHVs is a type of **herpesvirus** that can cause a highly **fatal haemorrhagic disease** in young Asian elephants.
- Like how most humans carry a **cold virus**, the **majority of elephants** also carry this virus.
- When EEHV is triggered, the elephant dies of **massive internal bleeding** and **symptoms** which are hardly visible.
- The disease is usually fatal, with a short course of 28-35 hours.

Symptoms:

- Lethargy, unwillingness to eat, a rapid heartbeat, decreased white blood cell and platelet count, and edema.

Treatment:

- There is no **definitive cure** for herpesviruses in both animals and humans.
 - Since herpes viruses **become latent**, discovering a complete 'cure' is not feasible.
- There is **no vaccine** for the **disease** and the **EEHV virus** has about a 20-30% survival rate.
- Diagnosed elephants receive **antiviral medications**, blood and plasma transfusions, as well as stem cell and **supportive therapies** to help fight the virus.