

Hospital acquired computervirus infections

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Definition

The hospital acquired computerviruses or HACs have been defined as computerviruses acquired in hospitals (see fig 1).

Aetiology

The origin of computerviruses is unknown, although they are thought to have evolved from the coxsackieviruses by a process of mutation, rotation, recombination, translocation, dislocation, and extreme provocation.

Epidemiology

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

Pathogenesis

Computerviruses were cast forth upon the airwaves and upon the seawaves and upon the brainwaves. And some fell on hard disks and some fell on soft disks. But all were corrupted.

Clinical features

The hospital acquired computerviruses cause a severe diskitis with diffuse, widespread information.

Table 1 shows the different strains of computerviruses and their clinical features.

Treatment

The only agent with limited antiviral activity against the computerviruses is unicyclovir, which is altered by the computer to the active metabolites bicyclovir, tricyclovir, and recyclovir.

Prevention

There is a vaccine made from organisms which are barely alive but attenuated, such as hospital administrators.

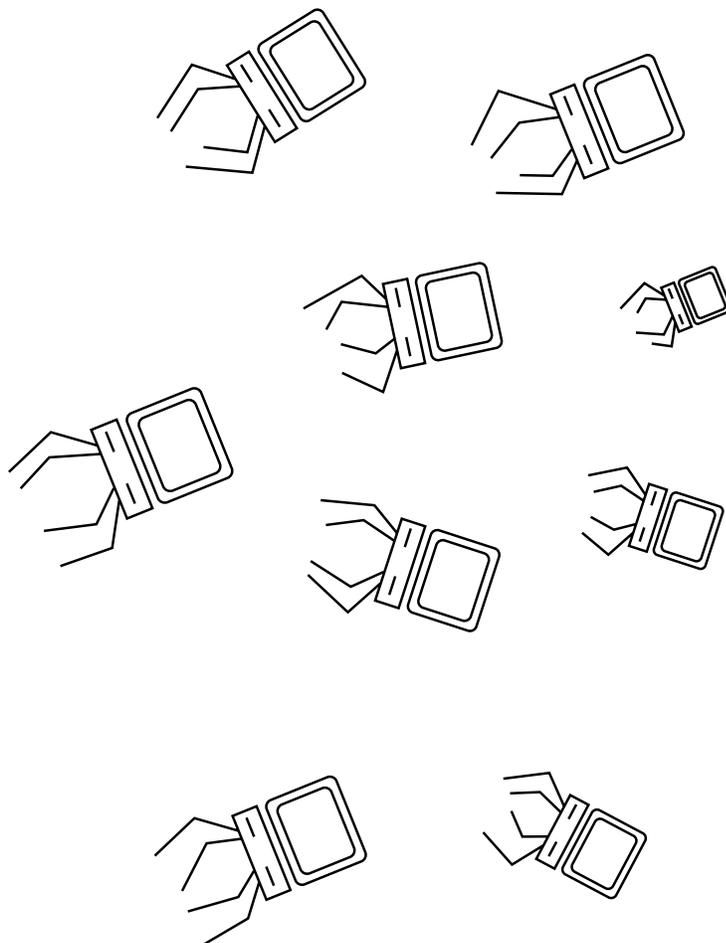


Figure 1 A swarm of computerviruses.

Table 1 Computerviruses and their clinical features

| Computer virus | Clinical features |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Finance Department Virus (FDV) | Flashes message: "Your Department has spent money. This is an ILLEGAL OPERATION" |
| Emeritus Professor Virus (EPV) | Flashes message: "Insufficient memory" |
| Orthotics Virus (OV) | Flashes message: "Needs re-booting" |
| Committee Virus (CV) | No message. Screen goes blank |
| Migraine Virus (MV) | Flashes lights |
| Sexual Health Virus (SHV) | Flashes!! Displays message: "Hard disk too floppy. Take Viagra" |
| Radiology Virus (RV) | Flashes message: "Scan repeatedly until broke" |
| Intensive Care Virus (ICV) | Flashes message: "Do you want to save?" |
| Pathology Department Virus (PDV) | Flashes message: "A fatal error has occurred" |
| Mortuary Virus (MV) | Flashes message: "You have exited" |