Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV)

**Action Steps**

EEHV is an acute, contagious illness. It primarily affects young elephants, most of whom usually die. Famciclovir seems to be the only effective treatment. Because the time from the onset of the first clinical signs to death is so short, early detection and immediate treatment are critical. The following are steps you can take to save elephant lives.

**STEP 1**
**Signs your elephant may be infected with EEHV—check for symptoms daily**

- Colic
- Lethargy
- Edema of the head, neck, trunk, and/or thoracic limbs
- Anorexia
- Bruising of the tongue
- Oral ulcers
- Acting “off”
- Tachycardia
- Sudden death

**STEP 2**
**Treatment**

*The current recommendation is to treat with famciclovir (Famvir®) for seven days if a younger elephant (seven years or less) is showing ANY of these symptoms listed. Also continue with other testing so as not to miss a diagnosis.*

Famvir® 12 mg/kg qid the first day, then 12 mg/kg bid for three weeks, PO or rectal.

(Use with ultrasound gel, NOT KY jelly)

**Other supportive therapies**

- Furosemide
- Antibiotics
- Oxygen therapy
- Analgesics

*Suggested therapy—please contact Drs. Schmitt, Isaza, or Miller (see below) for current recommendations.

**STEP 3**
**Sample collection and shipment**

- EDTA/heparin whole blood—for PCR detection of active cases and post-mortem diagnosis. Please transfer to a plastic tube for shipping. Blue ice for shipment is OK.
- Serum—for serological detection of anti-EEHV antibodies for epidemiologic or pre-transport purposes. Please transfer to a plastic tube for shipping. Ship on dry ice.

**STEP 4**
**To learn more about the virus, contact**

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