symptoms from the complications. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, and no effective antiviral treatment.

How can JE be prevented?

Immunization is the best way to prevent JE. Avoiding mosquito bites can also reduce the risk of disease. Unfortunately, JE vaccine could not help patients with Japanese encephalitis.

JE vaccines

- The JE vaccine which has been widely available is an inactivated, mouse brain-derived vaccine.
 The vaccine does not provide long lasting protection and multiple doses of vaccination may cause hypersensitivity events, including acute allergic encephalomyelitis.
- A new live-attenuated JE vaccine has been developed with better efficacy, less side effects and being more convenience to incorporate into routine immunization schedules.

Live, attenuated SA 14-14-2 vaccine

Now there is another option for JE vaccination, the live attenuated SA 14-14-2 vaccine, cultured in primary hamster kidney cell. This vaccine has been used in China since 1988. It has been licensed and also used in another countries like South Korea, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The SA 14-14-2 vaccine is very effective. Several studies have demonstrated an efficacy of 95-100% after a single dose vaccination of SA 14-14-2.

The vaccine also provides good safety. There are no records of severe side effects from the vaccine that has been used for more than 20 years with the doses of more than 300 million doses.

Vaccine production is in accordance with WHO technical specifications.

It also appears feasible that a single dose of vaccine will provide long term protection.

Who should be given JE Vaccine, SA 14-14-2?

- All children who are 9 months of age and older should be given a single dose of 0.5 ml. subcutaneously, and a booster dose can be given from 3 months to 1 year after primary dose.
- Travelers who travel into endemic areas should be given a single dose of 0.5 ml. subcutaneously, as required, with a booster dose given at an interval of about 1 year.
- A single booster dose of SA 14-14-2 could be given to anybody who had received a complete vaccination with inactivated JE vaccine.

The SA 14-14-2 JE vaccine has several advantages

- Better efficacy
- Simple administration due to fewer doses
- Good safety record with no severe adverse events reported

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