Norovirus

Norovirus is a genus of virus in the calicivirus family, which leads to acute gastroenteritis in the infected. It is the most common cause of viral gastroenteritis in the world, and disease is typically self-limited.



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Characteristics

Calicivirus
Chalice-virus
Norovirus is part of the caliciviridae family, which are a group of viruses which are RNA, single-stranded, linear and nonsegmented.

RNA Virus
RNA-rhino
Norovirus is an RNA virus, meaning that its genetic material is RNA (ribonucleic acid).

Non-enveloped
Nun-envelope
This virus is non-enveloped, meaning that its viral capsid is not covered.

Icosahedral
Ice-cathedral
Norovirus has an icosahedral capsid shape.

SS Positive Linear
SS Positive on Ice-cathedral
The genetic material for norovirus is composed of RNA, and this genetic material is single-stranded positive linear.

Symptoms

Acute Gastroenteritis
Acute-angle Toilet-in-flames
Norovirus is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis worldwide, and leads to symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.

Treatment

Supportive Therapy
Supportive IV Bags
Viral infection is typically self-limited and patients should be given supportive therapy, such as oral and IV fluids. Nutrients and minerals should also be administered to replace those lost through diarrhea and vomiting.

Considerations

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Often found in Cruise Ships

Cruise Ship

Norovirus is highly communicable and contagious, and can easily be spread from contaminated food water, or by touching contaminated surfaces. Close living quarters may increase virus transmission, which is why this virus associated with cruise ships. Additionally, we hear about this disease more on cruise ships because health officials track illnesses on ships, meaning outbreaks are found and reported more quickly on a ship than on land.

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