# African Elephant EEHV Workshop & EEHV Advisory Group Meeting

**February 24-26, 2020**

## Monday, February 24, 2020

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| 1:00-5:00pm | EEHV Advisory Group Meeting  
Advisory Group Members Only | Shuttle from Fairfield Inn and Staybridge Suites to the zoo will run from 5:00-6:00pm and from 7:30-8:30pm  
6:00-6:10: Welcome and opening remarks (Bill Street)  
*Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served* |
| 6:00-8:00pm | Icebreaker @ Indianapolis Zoo Hulman Riverhouse |  
Shuttle from Fairfield Inn and Staybridge Suites to the zoo will run from 5:00-6:00pm and from 7:30-8:30pm  
6:00-6:10: Welcome and opening remarks (Bill Street)  
*Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served* |

## Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:00</td>
<td>Breakfast (provided at the hotel)</td>
<td>Shuttle from Fairfield Inn and Staybridge Suites to the zoo will begin at 7:00 am and will make several trips</td>
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| 8:00-10:15 | Morning session  
8:00-8:30: EEHV- The Basics  
(Lauren Howard, San Diego Zoo Global)  
8:30-9:00: EEHV treatment recommendations  
(Christine Molter, Houston Zoo)  
9:00-9:45: Training tips for young elephants  
(Daryl Hoffman, Houston Zoo & Steve Taylor, Louisville Zoo)  
9:45-10:15: Recent EEHV Cases at Indianapolis Zoo  
(Melissa Fayette and Jill Sampson) |  
*Light refreshments will be served* |
| 10:15-10:30 | Coffee Break                                                                                   |  
Participants may submit questions using Slido. Visit [https://www.sli.do/](https://www.sli.do/) or download the app and enter the event code |
| 10:30-12:00 | Mid-morning session  
10:30-11:00: Recent EEHV Cases at Fresno Zoo  
(Shannon Nodolf and Vernon Presley)  
11:00-11:30: EEHV Pathology in African elephants  
(Jaime Landolfi, University of Illinois)  
11:30-12:00: Cross-matching in African elephants  
(Jennifer Kishbaugh, BodeVet) |  
*Light refreshments will be served* |
| 12:00-1:00 | Lunch                                                                                           |  
Participants may submit questions using Slido. Visit [https://www.sli.do/](https://www.sli.do/) or download the app and enter the event code |
| 1:00-4:30 | Afternoon session  
1:00-1:30: PR experience: How and when to share information  
(Judy Palermo, Indianapolis Zoo)  
1:30-3:00: Elephant training & Plasma collection demonstration  
3:00-4:30: Veterinary hospital tour & Coffee Break |  
*Light refreshments will be served* |
| 4:30-5:30 | Question & Answer session  
Participants may submit questions using Slido. Visit [https://www.sli.do/](https://www.sli.do/) or download the app and enter the event code |  
*Light refreshments will be served* |

## Wednesday, February 26, 2020

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| 8:00-9:45 | Morning session  
8:00-8:30: EEHV serology  
(Paul Ling, Baylor College of Medicine)  
8:30-9:00: EEHV in African vs. Asian elephants  
(Erin Latimer, Smithsonian’s National Zoo)  
9:00-9:30: Update on African EEHV Working Group  
(Lauren Howard, San Diego Zoo Safari Park) |  
*Light refreshments will be served* |
Transportation to/from the zoo:
For those that are driving their own vehicle to the zoo, please park on the East side of the lot (there is no parking fee) and proceed to the White River Gardens entrance. There will be a check-in table just inside the building to pick up your name tag. The meeting will take place in the Hulman Riverhouse.

We will have two 12 passenger shuttle vans that will pick-up at the Fairfield Inn & Suites and Staybridge Suites downtown. The hotels are approximately a 5-10 min drive from the zoo. Shuttles will run from 5:00-6:00pm and 7:30-8:30pm on Monday, Feb. 24th, from 7:00-8:00am and 5:00-6pm on Tuesday, Feb. 25th, and from 7:00-8:00am on Wednesday, Feb. 26th.

Transportation to/from airport:
We recommend using Uber, Lyft, or the Go Green Airport Shuttle which offers express service to/from downtown every 30 minutes from 5am to 11pm. One way ticket is $13. For advanced reservations: [https://www.goexpresstravel.com/indy_express](https://www.goexpresstravel.com/indy_express).
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Elephant Endotheliotrophic Herpesvirus

Lauren L. Howard, DVM, Dipl. ACZM
Director, Veterinary Services
San Diego Zoo Safari Park

EEHV
Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus

Not if, but when
All Asian elephants shed EEHV. It is already in your herd.

EEHV Advisory Group
Your best resource on EEHV
- Website updated regularly
- Background information on EEHV
- Professional content includes
  - sample protocols
  - recommendations on
    - anesthesia/sedation
    - diagnostics and testing labs
    - treatment for EEHV
  - Must sign up for password to access it

EEHV
Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus

Index case: 1995 at National Zoo
Retrospective cases go back earlier than that

EEHV
Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus

Classified as a Proboscivirus
- Placed in Betaherpesvirus family
- should have their own virus family (Deltaherpesvirus)

Host specific: ELEPHANTS ONLY

EEHV Epidemiology

Most herpesviruses do not kill their host
- they create a primary infection
- Then the host becomes latently infected
- can re-activate later on.
What is EEHV HD?

EEHV
- Ubiquitous virus
- Virus is found incidentally in trunk secretions, saliva, likely other places
- May be associated with low-level viremia
- Clinically insignificant

EEHV HD
- Hemorrhagic disease
- Associated with high viremia
- Associated with abnormal CBC
- Associated with clinical signs of illness
- Life-threatening

EEHV: The Basics

Asian Elephants
- EEHV 1a and 1b
- EEHV 4
- EEHV 5

EEHV HD
- Hemorrhagic Disease
- Associated with high viremia
- Associated with abnormal CBC
- Associated with clinical signs of illness
- Life-threatening

EEHV: The Basics

African Elephants
- EEHV 2
- EEHV 3
- EEHV 6
- EEHV 7

Most EEHV fatalities are in Asian elephants

EEHV: The Basics

- Shed by asymptomatic elephants
  - PCR of trunk wash
  - Epidemiology, no clinical diagnosis
- Natural infection in elephants

EEHV: The Basics

- Hemorrhagic Disease (EEHV HD) in Asian calves
  - 1-8 years of age
  - qPCR of whole blood to detect viral DNA

EEHV: The Basics

- Hemorrhagic Disease (EEHV HD) in Asian calves
  - 1-8 years of age

Viremia  ➔  Systemic disease  ➔  Endothelial Damage  ➔  Internal Hemorrhage

Much to be learned about EEHV in African elephants
EEHV: The Basics

- Hemorrhagic Disease (EEHV HD) in Asian calves
  - 1-8 years of age

Viremia ⊳ Systemic disease ⊳ Endothelial Damage
⊙ Internal Hemorrhage, Shock, DIC, Death

Why do some elephants die from EEHV HD, and some elephants survive?

EEHV Epidemiology

We believe hemorrhagic disease in calves is due to uncontrolled primary infections that lead to fulminant systemic infection in calves lacking immune protection.

EEHV in African Elephants: Prior to 2019

- Free ranging and captive
- Multiple EEHVs from lung and skin nodules
- EEHV2: 2 fatalities
  - 11 months, 13 years old
- EEHV6: 1 fatality (10 yo, in Thai Zoo)
- EEHV6, EEHV3
  - 2 cases of clinical disease, survived

North American Elephants and EEHV (including 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian Elephants</th>
<th>African Elephants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elephants born or imported since 1980, with known follow-up</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephants still alive</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephants that have died</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV HD deaths</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of elephant deaths that are from EEHV</td>
<td>27/42 = 64%</td>
<td>5/100 = 5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North American Elephants and EEHV (including 2019)

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<tr>
<td>EEHV HD Survivors</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV HD Deaths</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatality Rate of EEHV HD Cases</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of all elephants in population that have been impacted by EEHV</td>
<td>42/129 = 32%</td>
<td>10/258 = 4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Asian Elephant EEHV HD in Europe

- Born between 1985-2017
- 27 cases of EEHV HD (15.12)
- Clinical illness: 0 – 6 days
- Treatments administered
  - None (3)
  - Non-specific (7)
  - Antivirals only (6)
  - EEHV HD Protocol (6)
  - Unknown (5)

In Asia, 142 EEHV HD Cases Reported 2003-2019

- Nepal: 12 cases 5 survivors
- Myanmar: 4 cases
- Vietnam: 0 cases
- Laos: 1 case
- Cambodia: 1 case
- Thailand: 81 cases 20 survivors
- Sri Lanka: 1 + sample
- Indonesia: 7 cases
- Malaysia: 4 cases 1 survivor
- India: 32 cases 12 alive
- India: 32 cases 12 alive
- India: 32 cases 12 alive
- India: 32 cases 12 alive

What does EEHV do?

1. PREVENT INJURY WITH EARLY ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT

ENDOTHELIAL CELL DAMAGE

VASCULAR LEAKAGE

HEMORRHAGE

SHOCK
What does EEHV do?

1. **PREVENT INJURY WITH EARLY ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT**

2. **TREAT RESULTING INJURY WITH FLUIDS AND PLASMA**

   - ENDOTHELIAL CELL DAMAGE
   - VASCULAR LEAKAGE
   - HEMORRHAGE
   - SHOCK

What do WE see with EEHV?

Virus is in blood up to **10 days BEFORE** any clinical signs of illness are observed.

- Oral cavity: Bright red ulcerations
- Systemic Inflammation: Elevated body temperature
- Bloodshot eyes: Scleral injection
- Oral cavity: Bright red ulcerations
Oral cavity: Bright red Ulcerations
Lameness and Stiffness
Hemorrhage into Joints?

Bloodshot eyes: Scleral injection

Oral cavity: Bright red Ulcerations

Systemic Inflammation: Elevated body temperature

Altered sleep patterns

Lameness and Stiffness
Hemorrhage into Joints?

Colic, Decreased appetite

Edema: Swelling of head
Swelling of temporal gland

Tongue: Cyanosis (blue discoloration)

Diagnosing EEHV-HD
Clinically Ill Animals or Dead Animals

• Live animals:
  • Identify virus in blood
  • Submit whole blood (EDTA) for PCR testing

• Post Mortem:
  • Gross lesions (take photos)
  • Formalin fixed tissues: histopathology
  • PCR of tissues: preserve frozen or in DNA preservative
  • PCR of post mortem blood sample: preserve frozen or in DNA preservative

What can we do to protect our elephants and zoos?

Preparedness
Vigilance
Aggressive Treatment
What can we do to protect our elephants and zoos?

Preparedness

Vigilance

Aggressive Treatment

EEHV Preparedness

EEHV Protocol is Essential
• Monitoring
• Treatment
• Drug procurement
• Communication
• Decision tree
• Necropsy information

EEHV Preparedness
• Train your elephants.
• Train your people.
• Get the stuff.

Vigilance

• EEHV in the blood may lead to EEHV HD illness
• EEHV can be detected in blood up to 2 weeks before illness.
• Early changes in the CBC can indicate impending illness.
**Vigilance**

- EEHV in the blood may lead to EEHV HD illness.
- EEHV can be detected in blood up to 2 weeks before illness.
- Early changes in the CBC can indicate impending illness.

*Weekly blood testing in at-risk elephants saves lives.*

**Vigilance**

- EEHV in the blood may lead to EEHV HD illness.
- EEHV can be detected in blood up to 2 weeks before illness.
- Early changes in the CBC can indicate impending illness.

*On-command blood collection in any at-risk elephant that is even slightly off.*

---

**EEHV Vigilance**

- CBC results
- EEHV qPCR results
- Clinical appearance of elephant

---

**What can we do to protect our elephants and zoos?**

- Preparedness
- Vigilance
- Aggressive Treatment

---

**EEHV in the Media**

- Historically, EEHV was a four-letter word.

---

**EEHV in the Media**

- Shift in understanding of EEHV
- No longer a dirty word
- WE NEED TO SHARE OUR POSITIVE STORIES
- We need to be honest in our losses
- We need to support each other
What isn’t EEHV?

EEHV is NOT:
• A result of mixing Asian and African elephants together.
• A result of being under human care.
• A reason to stop breeding elephants.

It starts at home
• EEHV awareness and understanding begins at home
• Resources needed to be prepared
• Time for vets and elephant staff to meet
• $$ and Time for vets and elephant staff to attend workshops and stay current
• $$ for drug procurement
• Time for elephant calf training

Zoos are the solution to EEHV.
TREATMENT FOR ELEPHANT ENDOTHELIOTROPIC HERPESVIRUS (EEHV) CASES

Christine Molter, DVM, Dipl. ACZM1
1Houston Zoo, Inc., 1513 Cambridge Street, Houston, TX 77030 cmolter@houstonzoo.org

ABSTRACT

Rapid and aggressive treatment is critical for any suspected or confirmed EEHV case in both Asian and African elephants. A written comprehensive plan that includes an outline for EEHV treatment, that is agreed upon by both the veterinary and husbandry teams prior to an EEHV case, is essential to facilitate immediate therapy. The following information is taken from the Houston Zoo’s Asian Elephant EEHV Protocol and all drug dosages provided here are based on Asian elephants. Care should be taken if extrapolating dosages for African elephants. This document is intended to be a guideline for clinical decision making during an EEHV case. Further consultation with elephant colleagues on both the veterinary and husbandry side is encouraged.

Initiation of treatment is triggered by one or more of the following:

- Clinical signs
- WBC and/or monocyte and/or platelet count has dropped significantly below elephant’s normal range
- 5,000 to 10,000 VGE/ml or greater on qPCR
- Rapidly increasing VGE/ml on qPCR
- Animal is viremic for EEHV strain and is known to be seronegative for it and/or is known to not have experienced a primary infection yet

TREATMENT FOR SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED EEHV CASES

The two most important treatments for any EEHV case are rectal fluids and antiviral medications.

For a suspected EEHV case, rectal fluids and/or antiviral medications may be started immediately. There is no need to wait for qPCR laboratory results if the clinical suspicion is high and/or if there are abnormalities in the CBC.

Rectal Fluid Therapy

Rectal fluids can be administered to any EEHV-suspect elephant in an abundance of caution immediately, while awaiting results. Rectal fluids may also be given to any elephant that is dehydrated, but ambulatory, or to partially rehydrate an elephant prior to anesthesia and placement of an intravenous (IV) catheter. Moreover, rectal fluids must be given after the administration of IV fluids, which are hypertonic for elephants,
to aid in the redistribution of fluid in the elephants intracellular and extracellular spaces.

Rectal fluids should be administered a minimum of 3-4 times per day, up to every 2 hours. A bolus treatment of 10 to 20 ml/kg dose is often used. If an animal expels the rectal fluids when a large volume is given, give smaller volumes more frequently. If the animal is absorbing the rectal fluids given, larger or more frequent boluses may be administered.

Rectal fluids given may be from the barn hose and should be warm, not hot. It is strongly encouraged to determine the temperature and flow rate of the hose in an elephant barn prior to an EEHV illness to help best determine appropriate administration volume.

**Antiviral Therapy**

Antiviral medications are recommended in most suspect or and all confirmed EEHV cases to, in theory, decrease or eliminate viral replication and thus reduce the viral load in the patient. However, the antiviral medications do not reverse the damage the virus has already done to internal organs.

**Famciclovir**

In the United States, famciclovir is the most common antiviral drug used to treat EEHV. The typical Famciclovir dosage for Asian elephants is 15 mg/kg three times daily (TID) orally (PO) or per rectum. This dosage may decrease to 15 mg/kg two times daily (BID) after improvement in clinical signs or decline in viral load has been observed. The decision to of when to decrease the frequency of antiviral treatment should be made based upon dialogue between veterinary and husbandry staff.

It is known that famciclovir given at 15 mg/kg PO or per rectum at least every 8 hours results in penciclovir (active form of famciclovir) concentrations that are considered therapeutic in humans (*Brock et al. 2012*). The maximum plasma concentration following PO or per rectum administration of famciclovir is about 1 hour (*Brock et al. 2012*).

Famciclovir is available in a powder or tablet form. Famciclovir powder (1 g/g) is available through compounding pharmacies and can be ordered in large quantities with advanced notice. Famciclovir tablets (500 mg tablets) may be ordered from compounding or commercial pharmacies as well. In general, compounding and commercial pharmacies do not stock large quantities of famciclovir, so having an in-date supply that can cover vulnerable animals for several days, is important to prevent treatment delay. Budgeting to maintain this adequate supply of in-date famciclovir in-
house is necessary for any institution with at risk calves, as a treatment delay could be fatal. Expired famciclovir stock should be retained for emergencies. If famciclovir is needed emergently, contacting other elephant holding facilities to obtain famciclovir is an option.

When dosing famciclovir, the powder form should be weighed out into individual doses and dispensed in individual containers or plastic bags.

It is believed that the bitter taste of famciclovir is unpalatable for some elephants. To achieve oral compliance the following has been anecdotally suggested: training to accept oral medications prior to illness, mixing famciclovir in a flavored beverage and administering it to a young calf conditioned to take a bottle, or putting famciclovir into gel caps coated in coconut oil or peanut butter or other palatable coating. To achieve rectal administration the following has been successful at the Houston Zoo: clean out the rectum, mix famciclovir powder with saline or water to create paste (or grind tablets with a mortar and pestle to make a powder to then create a paste), use 60 ml syringe attached to long lubricated stomach tube to instill medication as deeply into the rectum as possible, chase medication in tube with saline or water to flush the tube, kink the tube, remove tube, and hold tail down to discourage expulsion. This should be done at least 1 hour before (ideal) or 1 hour after rectal fluid administration. When administering during a sedation, famciclovir should be administered rectally as soon as possible at the start of the procedure.

**Ganciclovir**

Ganciclovir (Cytovene IF) may be elected to treat an EEHV case; however, this medication may only be given IV and does not offer the flexibility for other routes of administration. Moreover, this medication has the potential to cause hematologic toxicity and must be used with care. This medication may cause phlebitis and should not be given intra-arterially. Ideally, it would be given in a large gauge IV catheter in a large peripheral vessel to reduce risk of phlebitis.

If it is determined that the elephant will be treated with Ganciclovir, it should be delivered according to the following specifications: give 5 mg/kg IV BID to be given slowly over an hour in 1-2 liters of sodium chloride (NaCl) fluids. Once dose is started, should be administered BID for minimum three days.

Ganciclovir is stored in sterile vials containing 500 mg of powder and is available from commercial and compounding pharmacies.

**Acyclovir**
Acyclovir is not commonly used in the United States to treat EEHV, but is more widely used in other parts of the world where it is more readily available (Sripiboon et al. 2017). This medication may be given IV, PO or per rectum BID.

Reported doses range from 12-15 mg/kg IV, PO, or per rectum BID. Like famciclovir, this medication may be tapered with clinical and bloodwork improvement.

**TREATMENT FOR A CONFIRMED EEHV CASE**
Once an EEHV case is confirmed, further intensive management is required.

**INTENSIVE CARE OF THE EEHV PATIENT**
Aggressive and immediate rectal fluids, antiviral medications, supportive therapies, and close monitoring of the patient is necessary in any confirmed EEHV case and especially in animals that develop EEHV-hemorrhagic disease (EEHV-HD).

Calves that develop EEHV-HD may die from the virus within several hours of the onset of visible clinical signs. A delay in treatment may result in a fatal outcome, as clinical signs are the last indicator of EEHV to appear. Do not wait to start treatments until clinical signs appear.

To facilitate treatments, standing sedations may and, in most cases, will be necessary. Sedations may be needed more than once daily and may be needed during off-hours. Do not hesitate to sedate a calf to deliver potentially life-saving treatments.

During an EEHV-HD case, staff from either the elephant husbandry and/or veterinary team should monitor the animal constantly for changes in clinical condition. Careful, frequent observations should be shared between the husbandry and veterinary teams to adjust treatments as needed based on the animal’s overall condition. Overnight staff may be necessary and video equipment is very helpful for monitoring.

It is important to note that while observing a sick calf, human discretion is advised to allow the animal to rest and recover. Allow the calf to rest and spend as much time as possible with the mother or favored companion between treatments for comfort, nursing, transfaunation opportunity, and to reduce stress. Keep the barn calm and as normal as possible.
**VITAL PARAMETER AND BEHAVIOR MONITORING**

Vital parameters and behaviors should be monitored by the elephant husbandry team multiple (minimally 2-4) times a day and in severe cases, overnight either with direct observation or live video surveillance.

Photos of any abnormalities should be taken for documentation purposes.

Vital parameter and behavior monitoring should include, but not be limited, to the following:
- Body weight (should be obtained by keepers daily, if possible)
- Temperature (fecal bolus), pulse, respiratory rate, and blood pressure
- Evaluation of mucous membranes (tongue, oral mucosa, palpebrae, sclera, vulva)
- Evaluation of head, limbs, ventrum for edema
- Evaluation of any prior injection or venipunctures sites for swelling or phlebitis
- Evaluation of fecal quality and quantity
- Evaluation of food consumption and nursing
- Evaluation of sleep and rest patterns
- Evaluation of overall mentation

**STANDING SEDATION**

To facilitate treatments, standing sedations may and, in most cases, will be necessary. General anesthesia is not necessary to accomplish EEHV treatments and is not commonly practiced.

**Standing Sedation of Asian Elephant Calf**

Calves may be sedated in the same stall as the mother and then separated once drugs have been administered prior to effects or sedated separately. Drugs may be hand injected, pole syringed, or darted into the animal with ideal placement being in a large muscle belly, such as just above the stifle in the caudal aspect of the rear limb.

Prior to or once effects are seen by about 15-20 minutes post-drug administration, keepers should work to place ropes on the limbs and secure the animal near bollards or secure the animal in an elephant restraint device. Keepers should also place a blind fold to decrease visual stimulation. A blindfold is easily made from a large bath towel on ropes to be secured around the head.

Ideally, a sawhorse stance (stable, widely placed legs supporting a relaxed body) should be achieved during the sedation and this level of sedation should last 60-90 minutes. Supplements may be given as needed to increase depth and duration of the sedation.
In some cases, at the beginning and end of sedation procedures, the calf may be a little light and have “munchie” behavior where the animal goes through the motions of eating and will eat if food is available. Houston Zoo has taken advantage of this to provide both oral medications and moisture rich foods (in small quantities) to sedated anorexic calves. This can be a very helpful aspect of the sedation for the animal, but giving anything orally to a sedate calf should be done with a high level of caution.

Drug dosages for Asian elephant calf:

- **Induction**
  - Butorphanol 0.045–0.075 mg/kg IM
    - Average dosage is 0.06 mg/kg IM
  - Detomidine 0.011–0.022 mg/kg IM
    - Average dosage is 0.015 mg/kg IM
    - Higher doses of Detomidine may result in lateral recumbency
  - Initial doses of Butorphanol and Detomidine lasts about 60-90 minutes, then supplemented as needed

- **Supplements**
  - Supplements of Butorphanol and/or Detomidine may be given IV or IM
  - Start low and titrate up to effect
    - Satisfactory supplementation with 2 mg Detomidine IV (0.002 mg/kg) in a 1000 kg calf sedated with Butorphanol and Detomidine has been noted at Houston Zoo.

- **Reversal**
  - Naltrexone reverses Butorphanol at 2.5–5 times the Butorphanol dose
  - Atipamezole reverses Detomidine at 5 times the Detomidine dose
  - Reversal with Naltrexone and Atipamezole may be performed at the end of the procedure, but will affect subsequent sedations performed same day
    - Plan to reverse if there are no additional sedations planned for the same day
    - Consider not reversing if there are additional sedations planned for the same day
      - Residual effects of the reversal agents will impact subsequent sedations performed during the same day, resulting in higher doses and/or additional supplements being required to achieve a working plane of sedation
**Light Sedation in Adult Asian Elephant**

It may be necessary to sedate the dam or other adult herd mates, so they are not stressed during calf treatments. Drugs may be hand injected, pole syringed, or darted into the animal with ideal placement being in a large muscle belly, such as just above the stifle in the caudal aspect of the rear limb.

Effects are seen by about 15-20 minutes post-drug administration and should achieve a light, relaxed plane of sedation for approximately 60-90 minutes. The adult should be calm and may want to eat during this period. A keeper should stay with this adult to monitor the animal to provide food items and reassurance. Ropes may be placed on the limbs to secure animal to bollards.

The Houston Zoo has performed multiple calf treatments both with and without lightly sedating the dam or other herd mates. The decision to sedate an adult should be made between the husbandry and veterinary staff prior to sedating the calf.

Standing sedation protocols have been published for African elephants in the literature and may be a useful reference (Neiffer et al. 2005).

**Drug dosages for Asian elephant adult cow:**
- **Induction**
  - Butorphanol 20-50 mg/cow IM
    - i. Average starting dose is 20 mg/cow IM
    - ii. Higher dose of 50 mg/cow IM has been used without adverse effects
  - Detomidine 10-50 mg/kg IM
    - i. Average starting dosage is 10 mg/cow IM
    - ii. Higher dose of 15 mg/cow IM has been used without adverse effects
  - Initial doses of Butorphanol and Detomidine lasts about 60-90 minutes, then supplemented as needed
- **Supplements**
  - Supplements of Butorphanol and/or Detomidine may be given IV or IM
  - Start low and titrate up to effect
- **Reversal**
  - Naltrexone reverses Butorphanol at 2.5–5 times the Butorphanol dose
  - Atipamezole reverses Detomidine at 5 times the Detomidine dose
  - Reversal with Naltrexone and Atipamezole may or may not be performed at the end of the procedure
Anesthesia Support and Monitoring for Standing Sedation

During a standing sedation, there should be a dedicated veterinarian or veterinary technician designated to monitor and record vital parameters, anesthetic effects, and treatments. Likewise, there should be at least one dedicated elephant keeper monitoring the animal’s behavior and depth, as well as for human safety.

- Support
  - Nasal oxygen should be provided via nasal cannula if possible, at 2-4 L/m, as tolerated
    - Supplemental oxygen may not be tolerated based on depth of animal

- Monitoring
  - Manual temperature, pulse, respirations (TPR), and anesthetic depth should be monitored routinely throughout the procedure
    - Temperature may be challenging to monitor as fecal boluses are not usually available due to rectal treatments and fluids
    - Pulse can usually be palpated over an aural artery
    - Respiratory rate may be obtained visually
    - Anesthetic depth may be assessed by the following
      - Body position (sawhorse stance or movement)
      - Trunk relaxation
      - Relaxation or dropping of the vulva or penis
      - Eyelid drooping (palpebral reflex will usually be retained)
      - Relaxation of the lower lip
  - Multiparameter monitors and/or portable monitors should be used to facilitate monitoring when possible and practical
    - Blood pressure
      - Cuff on tail
    - Oxygen Saturation (SPO2)
      - Probe may be used on any mucosal surface including on nasal frenulum, rectum, vulva etc.
    - EKG
      - Clips or sticky pads may be used, references on placement and interpretation are available in the literature (Bartlett et al. 2009, Chai et al. 2016)
  - Documentation
- Vital parameters, exam events, drug administration, and other notes should be recorded on an anesthesia sheet by the dedicated recorder

**Physical Exam**

A physical exam should be performed by a veterinarian at least once daily and during every sedation during an active EEHV case. During sedations, the exam may be performed at the same time as IV catheter placement and other initial treatments.

Photos of any abnormalities should be taken for documentation purposes.

The physical exam should include, but not be limited, to the following:
- Body weight (should be obtained by keeper prior to sedation, if possible)
- TPR and blood pressure
- Evaluation of mucous membranes (tongue, oral mucosa, palpebrae, sclera, vulva)
- Evaluation of head, limbs, ventrum for edema
- Evaluation of any prior injection or venipunctures sites for swelling or phlebitis
- Evaluation of fecal quality
- Ultrasound of heart to look for pericardial effusion
- Ultrasound of abdomen (transabdominal) to look for free abdominal fluid
  - Transrectal ultrasound may be performed, but should not interfere with or significantly delay rectal famciclovir or fluid therapy

**Intravenous (IV) Catheter Placement and Maintenance**

Placement of a temporary IV catheter is one of the first tasks to be performed after a calf is sedated. An ear vein is generally selected and attempts to use a peripheral vessel (vs. a central vessel) is advised to preserve the health and integrity of the aural vasculature should a hematoma form or an ischemic event occur. Recording which vessels have been used and having a plan to rotate which are to be used next, if available, is also advised. Furthermore, blood for diagnostic tests may be obtained from a secure IV catheter prior to treatments to reduce punctures to other ear veins that may be needed later. This is particularly important as a case progresses and as vascular options become more limited. In certain cases, IV catheters may be placed in both ears. Rear leg veins may also be utilized.

Venous access is normally achieved using the vasculature on the caudal aspect of the ear or rear limb. If using an ear vein, a dedicated keeper should hold the ear perpendicular to the body during IV catheter placement and throughout treatment to provide as much stability as possible. The skin should be prepped with chlorhexidine
scrub and alcohol using standard aseptic procedures. Although there will be variations in gauge and length, in general, a 10-20 ga, 3” intravenous catheter should be placed and stabilized with tape and skin staples. The largest gauge IV catheter possible is preferred and catheter type is as veterinary discretion.

Milacath (Mila International) catheters have been suggested when longer term placement is needed, when blood pressure is low, or when vasculature has been damaged due to prior treatment.

Once placed and secure, the IVC may have a t-set placed or be attached directly to fluid lines. Heparin-locking (hep-locking) the catheter may be useful while getting set up.

Elephants in an intensive care environment can be subject to secondary infections, such as MRSA (Janssen et al. 2009). Attention to hygiene and biosecurity is very important in elephants being treated for EEHV, particularly due to their immuno-compromised status. Frequent hand washing, prompt removal of waste products, and regular sanitizing of equipment are recommended. Any handling of the intravenous catheter or associated fluid lines should be done with clean hands, gloves, and aseptic technique.

When a catheter is ready to be removed, it may be done following routine procedures with care to hold off the vessel completely to prevent hematoma formation.

**Intravenous Fluid Therapy**

Elephant plasma is hypo-osmotic relative to standard crystalloid intravenous fluids, hence, standard intravenous fluids given to elephants work like hyperosmotic or hypertonic saline most frequently used in large animal medicine.

Fluids can be given through a small or large animal IV line, using a fluid pump or fluid bag under pressure to speed delivery. It is helpful to use at least one extension set between the fluid’s administration line and the catheter to facilitate changing fluids and administration of medications along with the IV fluids.

**Crystalloid Fluids**

Intravenous fluids are recommended to support circulation and hydration. An initial bolus of crystalloid IV fluids (0.3 to 4 ml/kg in a calf) can be given to a dehydrated or shocky elephant as a resuscitative measure; this bolus could be repeated up to three times with re-evaluation of the patient and vital signs after each bolus. However, as most IV fluid therapy is performed under a single sedation event, repeated IV fluid boluses may not be possible, so a total volume to be delivered should be determined at the onset of the procedure.
Asian elephants have very low serum osmolarity and are hyponatremic and hypochloremic compared to other species. African elephants have similarly low serum osmolarity. The normal osmolality of Asian elephants ranges from 252-270 mOsm/L. Therefore, even a relatively small volume of fluids can make a difference to the elephant’s response. Minimally one liter/450 kg seems to give visible results.

Commercial fluids such as Plasmalyte or Norm-R are actually hypertonic for elephants. It is recommended to use crystalloid fluids in elephants as actual hypertonic solutions would be used in other species; in other words, very small amounts (1 L fluids/450 kg) are given through an IV catheter and followed afterwards with large volumes of rectal fluids.

Rectal fluids must always be given in conjunction with IV crystalloid fluids.

**Crystalloid fluid osmolality:**
- 5% Dextrose: 252 mOsm/L
- Lactated Ringers Solution: 273 mOsm/L
- Normosol-R, Plasma-Lyte: 294 mOsm/L
- 0.9% Sterile Saline: 308 mOsm/L

**Crystalloid dosage:**
- Crystalloid fluid bolus 0.3-4 ml/kg IV

**Synthetic Colloid Fluids: Hetastarch**

Synthetic colloids, such as Hetastarch (6% Hetastarch in 0.9% Sodium Chloride), when used at low dosages (0.25 – 0.5 ml/kg IV), may be more effective for volume expansion in viremic or seriously ill animals compared to plain crystalloids. The larger molecules in these fluids do not leak out of capillaries as easily, increase plasma volume rapidly, and may help to reduce edema. It is possible in other species, that Hetastarch may cause coagulation abnormalities or renal injury, but usually only when recommended dosages are exceeded. These effects have not been recognized in elephants, but should be monitored for.

Hetastarch is not a replacement for crystalloid fluid, plasma or blood therapy.

Rectal fluids must always be given in conjunction with IV synthetic colloid fluids.

**Hetastarch osmolarity:**
- Hetastarch: 308 mOsmol/L
Hetastarch dosage:
  - Hetastarch fluid bolus 0.25-0.5 ml/kg IV

Natural Colloid Fluids: Whole Blood and Plasma
Natural colloids, such as whole blood and fresh or frozen plasma, are often more effective than crystalloid fluids for volume expansion in viremic or seriously ill animals. Like synthetic colloids, the larger molecules in these fluids do not leak out of capillaries as easily, increase plasma volume, and help to reduce edema.

Additionally, natural colloids have several advantages beyond providing oncotic support making them a critical component of EEHV-HD treatment.

First, fresh whole blood and fresh plasma have essential clotting factors that are important for calves bleeding from EEHV-HD. Plasma and whole blood are considered “fresh” if administered or processed within 8 hours of collection. After 8 hours, labile clotting factors deteriorate. Plasma that was processed and frozen within 8 hours of collection is considered “fresh frozen” plasma. Plasma that was processed and frozen after 8 hours of collection is just considered “frozen” plasma.

Second, fresh whole blood contains red blood cells that are important for increasing the oxygen carrying capacity in anemic animals bleeding from EEHV-HD. This is essential to preserve oxygenation to all parts of the body.

Third, animals with active infection are not expected to have antibody to the virus making them sick. If it is available, a whole blood or plasma transfusion from a donor with high antibody titers to EEHV may be of benefit.

At the Houston Zoo, whole blood, fresh plasma, fresh frozen, and frozen plasma have been administered alone and in combination without adverse effect. Moreover, famciclovir fortified whole blood and fresh plasma have been administered (see more information below).

Additionally, there is on-going research and development in alternative forms of blood products, including freeze dried platelets and packed red blood cells. These may be highly useful therapies in the future. For further information on this, please contact Dr. Jennifer Kishbaugh (JKishbaugh@bodevet.com).

Prior to Whole Blood or Plasma Transfusion
Blood products should only be administered intravenously after crossmatching donor and recipient blood samples to assure compatibility. A minor crossmatch is needed for a plasma donation and a major crossmatch is needed for a whole blood donation. Ideally, cross matching should be performed well in advance of a clinical illness. Animals that received repeated transfusions should be re-crossmatched to ensure continued compatibility.

If an animal is seriously ill, is a first-time recipient, and time cannot be spared to crossmatch the animal emergently, administer diphenhydramine 0.5 mg/kg IM prior to transfusion and monitor for adverse effects.

If an animal has received multiple transfusions, diphenhydramine 0.5 mg/kg IM may be elected in an abundance of caution prior to additional transfusions, even with acceptable crossmatching results.

Any donor animal should meet the following requirements for donation:
1. Be clinically healthy and in good condition
2. Have a normal CBC and Chemistry
3. Be free of EEHV viremia on whole blood qPCR at the time of donation
4. Be an acceptable donor on minor and/or major crossmatch for the recipient

Whole Blood or Plasma Administration and Adverse Reactions
Whole blood and plasma should be administered through an appropriately sized blood filter to remove fibrin clots. Terfusion Blood Administration Sets, 20 drops/ml, B type (manufactured by Terumo Medical Corporation, Somerset NJ) have been used successfully as filters in the past.

The first 100 ml should be given slowly, and heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature should be monitored. In domestic animals, parameters are generally measured prior to the transfusion and then every 15 – 30 minutes throughout the process. However, because elephants are often sedated for treatment, the rate of transfusion is more rapid and monitoring frequency should be adjusted to the projected duration of time to complete the transfusion.

Possible transfusion reactions include fever, rash, or anaphylaxis. Mild signs can be treated with antipyretics or antihistamines and by decreasing the rate of transfusion. More severe reactions should be addressed by stopping the transfusion. If no reaction is seen, the transfusion rate can be increased.
In most cases, fresh plasma will be the preferred natural colloid; however, whole blood transfusions may also be needed. The amount of blood needed to transfuse in elephants is unknown. Overall small volumes of blood products are very low compared to transfusion recommendations for other species, but seems to yield positive clinical effects. Clinical benefits have been seen even with administration of less than 1 L whole blood for clinically ill calves.

In the literature, it is recommended that if hematocrit (HCT) falls below 14%, blood transfusion should be considered (Fowler and Mikota eds. 2006). However, consideration for a blood transfusion should be given well before this extremely low HCT. In EEHV-HD, indications for a whole blood transfusion include, but are not limited to, anemia, hypoproteinemia, and hypalbuminemia or downward trending HCT, total proteins, and albumin.

**Blood Product Administration Examples**

In a case at the Houston Zoo, a 1000 kg calf with clinical EEHV-HD demonstrated a daily precipitously decreasing packed cell volume (PCV), from 31% to 27%, which was mirrored by low and decreasing total protein and albumin, indicating active bleeding. Whole blood transfusions (1-1.5 units; total 450-675 ml/1000 kg calf) from 2 different donors were given daily for 3 days without adverse effects. This was in addition to 17 units of fresh and frozen plasma from 2 different donors over 5 days. Diphenhydramine was not given prior to the first plasma transfusion, but diphenhydramine 0.5 mg/kg IM was given prior to every subsequent transfusion event, even though donors had acceptable major and minor crossmatches to the recipient and to each other. Several days into treatment, the calf began to feel warm to the touch, which was the only possibly associated adverse effect noted and strengthened the justification to give diphenhydramine. The diphenhydramine was given approximately 30 minutes prior to blood product administration at the onset of the sedation prior to IV catheter placement.

In a different 1,500 kg calf at the Houston Zoo, two units of plasma (approximately 650 ml total) were administered IV over the course of 30 to 45 minutes, on multiple occasions with no ill effects. In elephants, very small amounts of plasma (2-4 liters/elephant) have been quite beneficial for sick elephants. At the Houston Zoo, clinical improvement was seen at a plasma dose of 0.5 ml/kg in this 1,500 kg elephant.

**Blood Product dosage:**
- Whole blood 0.5-2 ml/kg IV
- Plasma 0.5-2 ml/kg IV
**Famciclovir Fortified Natural Colloid Fluids: Whole Blood and Plasma**

It has been anecdotally reported in several EEHV-HD cases to administer famciclovir fortified blood products to an ill calf. The theory is that a dose of famciclovir is administered PO or per rectum to a healthy donor and blood is collected about 1 hour later when the famciclovir is converted to the active form of penciclovir at peak plasma concentrations. Then, the blood product containing penciclovir is administered IV to the recipient. No adverse effects to the donor or recipient have been reported.

At the Houston Zoo, multiple units of both famciclovir fortified whole blood and famciclovir fortified fresh plasma from 2 different donors have been administered to a 1000 kg calf without adverse effect noted in either the donors or recipient. One donor animal received three famciclovir doses at 30 mg/kg over the course of 5 days without adverse effect.

It is also anecdotally reported that famciclovir on the cusp of expiration has been administered to donors to in order to collect for famciclovir fortified frozen plasma.

**Famciclovir dosage for donor:**
- Famciclovir 30 mg/kg PO or per rectum, then collect blood ~ 1 hour later

**Famciclovir Fortified Blood Product dosage for recipient:**
- Whole blood 0.5-2 ml/kg IV
- Plasma 0.5-2 ml/kg IV

**Supportive Therapies**

**Oxygen Therapy**

Supplemental oxygen therapy should be administered, when possible, to all patients undergoing treatment for EEHV. Oxygen can be administered at 2-4 L/m via a flexible plastic tube passed into one side of the trunk as tolerated.

**Oxygen dosage:**
- Oxygen 2-4 L/m nasally

**Antibiotics**

Antibiotics have no effect in treating EEHV directly. However, the animal’s immune system will be severely compromised, and the clinical situation could be complicated by secondary opportunistic infections. Therefore, antibiotic therapy should be considered, and dosages of potential antibiotic treatments are listed below. Initial doses should be administered IV for immediate effect, if possible, and should be given
through an IV catheter to spare the vasculature. When appropriate, route of administration may be changed to PO, IM, or SQ as indicated by the antibiotic itself and animal’s clinical condition. Gastrointestinal dysbiosis resulting in diarrhea is a potential sequela to antibiotic therapy in an elephant, therefore antibiotics should be used after considering risks and benefits.

For EEHV-HD cases without overt diarrhea or specifically known secondary infection, Houston Zoo treats for secondary infections prophylactically with ceftiofur sodium (Naxcel) IV and ceftiofur crystalline free acid (Excede) IM both administered on the first day of treatment. Excede does not have instantaneous action in the body but lasts for approximately 7 days (Adkesson et al. 2012), which is why Naxcel is given IV, in order to provide immediate antibiotic coverage.

Clostridial Co-infections
Specific co-infections with EEHV-HD and Clostridium spp have been reported in the literature (Boonsri et al 2018) and may become a secondary infection in any sick elephant. A Clostridium spp infection may manifest as diarrhea, hematochezia, colic, dehydration, etc. Fecal cytology, fecal culture, fecal occult blood, and fecal molecular testing may be useful in diagnosis. Treatments used at the Houston Zoo for possible Clostridial spp infection include injectable penicillin for a week over the course of EEHV-HD treatment, in conjunction with other supportive therapies. Diagnostics did not confirm a Clostridial spp co-infection in this case, but penicillin was elected in an abundance of caution when the animal presented with scant feces to diarrhea while combating EEHV-HD.

It is advised to be highly vigilant for any signs of a Clostridial co-infection during EEHV cases.

Moreover, if a calf does develop diarrhea, allowing opportunities for the calf to transfaunate or consume feces from a healthy adult with normal stool is important. It is also thought that calves will eat feces when experiencing any sort of gastrointestinal distress. EEHV replicates well in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and bleeding throughout the GI tract should be presumed in EEHV-HD cases.

Antibiotic dosages:
- Amikacin 3-5 mg/kg IV, IM SID
- Ampicillin 8 mg/kg IV, PO BID - TID
- Ceftiofur sodium (Naxcel) 1.1-2.2 mg/kg IV SID or give single dose concurrently with Excede on the first day of treatment
- Ceftiofur crystalline free acid (CCFA, Excede) 6.6 mg/kg IM q 7 days
- Enrofloxacin 2.5 mg/kg PO SID
- Penicillin (Dual-Pen) 2275-4545 IU/kg IM SID

**Analgesia and Anti-inflammatory Treatments**

**Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatories**

Although EEHV is thought to be a vasculopathy as opposed to a vasculitis, anti-inflammatories are indicated as part of the analgesic regime as well as reducing secondary inflammation resulting from peripheral edema and hemorrhage. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (nSAIDs) may play a useful role in early management of the disease. However, it should be noted that in human medicine nSAIDs are contraindicated in cases where peripheral edema or hemorrhagic diathesis is present due to the decreased glomerular filtration rate and the effects on coagulation seen when using nSAIDs. The analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects of these drugs should be weighed against these side effects. Flunixin meglumine, meloxicam, or other nSAIDS should be administered only to patients that appear hydrated or are receiving rectal and/or IV fluids.

At the Houston Zoo, low (anti-endotoxemic) doses of flunixin meglumine (0.15-0.5 mg/kg) have been used both IM and IV in multiple EEHV-HD cases. In an EEHV-HD case with persistent azotemia, nSAIDs were stopped completely after initial treatments with low dose flunixin meglumine. After a 1 day wash out, meloxicam at a low dose 0.03 mg/kg IV was given to help decrease inflammation. Meloxicam is a more selective nSAID than flunixin meglumine and is a safer choice in azotemic or significantly compromised EEHV-HD cases.

**Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory dosages:**
- Flunixin meglumine (Banamine) 0.15-0.5 mg/kg IM SID-BID, use lower dosage for endotoxemia
- Meloxicam (Metacam) 0.03-0.06 mg/kg IV, IM, PO

**Opioids**

Opioids are also a useful adjunct to provide pain relief and, in some cases, mild sedation to assist in the management of animals being treated. Butorphanol has been the main opioid used for analgesia in elephants. There is the possibility of behavioral changes in the elephant when using opioids and trained behaviors may well be lost or less responsive. Opioids may be a preferred to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics in azotemic animals in order to avoid adverse effects on the urinary system.
Moreover, high dosages of opioids may result in ileus manifested by colic, decreased fecal production, and anorexia.

If an animal is being sedated with butorphanol, an additional dose of this drug will cause deeper or longer duration of sedation. Moreover, if an animal has received naltrexone butorphanol following a sedation, any butorphanol dosed within a few hours for analgesia will be less effective.

In a 1,400 kg Asian elephant treated at the Houston Zoo (for signs of colic during EEHV viremia), 9 mg (0.006 mg/kg) seemed to cause more sedation than desired. Based on that experience, it was recommended to start with 7 mg (0.005 mg/kg) IM for future cases, up to BID.

Opioid analgesia dosages:
- Butorphanol 0.005-0.14 mg/kg IV, IM SID-BID

Steroids
The anti-inflammatory properties of steroids have been used in multiple cases reported in the literature; however, use remains controversial due to immunosuppressive potential. Dexamethasone 0.05 mg/kg IM daily during treatment has been used previously (Wissink Argilaga et al. 2019). Steroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications should not be given simultaneously due to potentially harmful effects.

Gastroprotectants
During EEHV-HD, it is common for the animal to experience bleeding within the gastrointestinal tract, even in the absence of frank blood or melena in the stool. Fecal occult blood tests may be used diagnostically, but results may be false negative due to the elephant’s very absorptive colon. Therefore, gastroprotectants should be considered in EEHV-HD cases. Omeprazole and famotidine are medication options, but encouraging the calf to eat and nurse, as well as providing opportunities for transfaunation are also important to maintain GI health.

Omeprazole
Administration of omeprazole (Gastrogard) for gastrointestinal protection during any clinical EEHV case, but especially during EEHV-HD and during NSAID treatments should be considered. The equine dose for omeprazole is 4 mg/kg PO SID, but the dosage used in Asian elephants is much lower at 0.7 - 1.4 mg/kg PO once daily. If the animal is anorexic, the paste formulation may be placed within the oral cavity during the end of sedation events. Omeprazole is also commercially available in pill form and
is an alternative if compliance with paste is poor. Omeprazole should also be continued as clinical signs resolve for on-going protection.

Gastroprotectant dosages:
- Omeprazole 0.7-1.4 mg/kg PO SID

Famotidine
Famotidine (Pepcid) and omeprazole may be given simultaneously during EEHV-HD treatment. Famotidine has the advantage of being readily available in an injectable form that may be given by multiple parenteral routes including IV, which is preferred to avoid IM or subcutaneous injections. Oral famotidine is available in a pill form that may be an alternative gastroprotectant to be used as clinical signs resolve for on-going protection if the animal is not compliant with oral omeprazole. The dose for famotidine used at the Houston Zoo is 0.5 mg/kg IV once daily during sedations for treatment.

Gastroprotectant dosages:
- Famotidine 0.5 mg/kg IV, slow, or PO

**Vitamin Supplements**

**Vitamin B Complex**
Vitamin B Complex contains multiple water-soluble B vitamins that are important for metabolic function. B vitamins may be especially beneficial to anorexic or anemic calves. Doses are highly variable, but the Houston Zoo has elected a 5 ml/elephant dose of Vitamin B Complex IM, given every other day during EEHV-HD treatment.

**Vitamin B complex dose:**
- Vitamin B complex 5 ml/elephant calf IM q 48 hrs

**Vitamin C**
Vitamin C is a water-soluble vitamin that has anti-oxidant and immune system boosting properties. It is also becoming more widely used in human medicine to treat sepsis and may also be beneficial for microvasculature health. Houston Zoo uses the dose advocated for by Thailand’s EEHV Task Force of Vitamin C 6 mg/kg IV or PO daily during treatment (*Sripiboon et al. 2017*).

**Vitamin C dosages:**
- Vitamin C 6 mg/kg IV, PO SID

**Vitamin E**
Vitamin E is a fat-soluble vitamin that has anti-oxidant and cell membrane protective properties. The dosage range is variable. The Houston Zoo uses a vitamin E dose 10 ml/elephant IM every other day during EEHV treatment.

**Vitamin E dosages:**
- Vitamin E 10 ml/elephant IM q 48 hrs

**Clotting Aids**

**Aminocaproic Acid**

Aminocaproic Acid (EACA) is an anti-fibrinolytic drug that is most often used in hemorrhagic diseases of humans and domestic animals, but may be of some benefit in severe EEHV-HD cases. It has been studied *in vitro* in elephant models (*Kaye et al. 2016*). This drug is a protein that helps the body make blood clots properly, but should be used with caution in patients with renal insufficiency. Ideally, this drug would be given when thromboelastography (TEG) profiles can be monitored and compared to normal parameters to best direct treatment (*Perrin et al. 2018*). If TEGs are not available, microscopic evaluation of blood cells should be done to roughly evaluate agglutination or clumpiness. There is much to be learned about using this drug in vivo in elephants. Its use should be limited to severe clinical cases of EEHV only and then be used with caution.

The Houston Zoo has used this drug at 15 mg/kg, diluted into 1 L LRS IV once daily for 4 days without ill effect in a calf with severe clinical disease. The drug was stopped when the calf started to show signs of hypercoagulability on TEG and increased blood cell clumpiness on major and minor crossmatching.

**Aminocaproic Acid dosages:**
- Aminocaproic Acid 15 mg/kg IV diluted in 1 L crystalloid fluid, given slowly and monitor for hypercoagulability

**Stem Cells**

Stem cells are an emerging therapy for EEHV due to their antimicrobial potential and ability to decrease cytokine storms and inflammation, which may help to improve clinical outcomes. Stem cells have been safely administered to both African and Asian elephants, including calves with EEHV with no apparent ill-effect. Adverse effects in other species include a transient tachycardia, tachypnea, fever, lethargy, and anorexia. Treatment for adverse effects include fluids, antibiotics (in case of stem cell bacterial contamination), and supportive care.
Although stem cells do not have an immediate effect, they likely support the body during the recovery phase. Stem cells do not need to be autogenous and can be from any same-species donor. Crossmatching does not need to be done prior to a stem cell treatment. Developing antibodies to allogenic stem cells may occur over time, but in general anaphylaxis has not been an issue.

In general, the younger the donor, the better the stem cells. Stem cells may be obtained from the umbilical cord at the time of a calf birth or may be derived from whole blood.

Stem cells from the umbilical cord have been processed by Ingeneron, Inc. (8205 El Rio, Houston, TX USA 77054, (713) 440-9900, www.ingeneron.com) for the Houston Zoo herd. There are very specific steps to take for umbilical cord sampling and the sampling must be expedited after the placenta is passed. Stem cells collected by this method take several weeks to grow and may be frozen once grown for future use. There is a 24-hour long process to prepare frozen stem cells prior to administration. Administration also has specific administration techniques that must be followed as well. It is strongly recommended, that Ingeneron, Inc. be contacted well in advance of an elephant birth to plan for umbilical stem cell collection.

Stem cells from whole blood have been processed by Dr. Valerie Johnson (Colorado State University, Valerie.Johnson@colostate.edu). Stem cells may be grown from a minimum of 40 ml whole blood in EDTA (purple top) tubes, which are then shipped overnight to Dr. Johnson. Stem cells collected by this method take several weeks to grow. There are specific processing and administration techniques to follow as well. It is strongly recommended, that Dr. Johnson be contacted by any institution with at risk calves well in advance of a clinical illness.

There may be other companies or institutions, such as a university, that may be able to process and provide stem cells. It is strongly recommended that any institution with at risk calves seek a source of stem cells prior to clinical illness. Having locally available stem cells is advantageous.

At the Houston Zoo, a single severe case of EEHV-HD was treated with umbilical cord derived stem cells at a dose of 21.28 million cells IV from a half-sibling donor cord without ill effect. Ideally, a dosage of 1 million cells/kg would be given, but it is rarely possible to grow that volume of cells, so a dose of 100 – 500 million cells (or the more the better) would be ideal according to current research (Dr. Johnson, personal communication).

EEHV Advisory Group Website
Up to date information on EEHV background, history, diagnostics, monitoring, and treatment can be found at www.eehvinfo.org. Each individual person who wishes to have full access to the website needs to sign up for an individual password. If there are questions regarding this, contact Erin Latimer (LatimerE@si.edu).

The EEHV Advisory Group has a Veterinary and Management Subcommittee that maintains current EEHV Advisory Group recommendations in a downloadable document. This committee may be contacted should any clinical needs arise. Subcommittee chairperson: Dr. Noha Abou-Madi (na24@cornell.edu).

References


Janssen et al. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus skin infection from an elephant calf. MMWR 2009. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5808a3.htm


Wissink-Argilaga et al. Using in-house hematology to direct decision-making in the successful treatment and monitoring of a clinical and subsequently subclinical case of elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus 1B. JZWM 2019.
**Elephant Calf Training, Foundation is Everything**

Daryl Hoffman  
Houston Zoo

**Abstract**

A strong training foundation could be the difference between life and death of a young elephant, especially when EEHV is involved. A lot goes into treating and saving an elephant infected with EEHVHD and a solid training foundation is vital to maximizing preparedness and minimizing stress during these life threatening events. A trained elephant is more cooperative for routine blood collection, more participatory in treatments, and more quickly to recover behavioral compliance after a lengthy treatment.

Solid training foundations are based on an expanded version of the AZA behavioral components that all elephants in AZA facilities are required to know. The foundation is constructed and strengthened through daily practice and repetition. This presentation will briefly outline these behaviors which the Houston Zoo has made a priority to train all baby elephants by the time they reach one year of age. These behaviors have played an important role in the Houston Zoo success with early detection and treatment of EEHV HD.
Acute Hemorrhagic Disease due to EEHV-3 Infection in Five Captive African elephants (Loxodonta africana)

Melissa A. Fayette, DVM & Jill Sampson

Case #1: Day 1
- Presenting clinical signs
  - Acute lethargy
  - Anorexia
  - Abdominal discomfort
  - Loose stool
- Initial blood work
  - Elevated Hematocrit (50%)
- Treatment
  - Flunixin meglumine (1.1 mg/kg IM)
  - Butorphanol (0.02 mg/kg IM)

NYAH 6.5 year old female

Case #1: Day 2
- Clinical signs
  - Continued lethargy and anorexia
  - Hematuria
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Tremors
  - Scleral hyperemia
  - Skin ulcerations
- Blood work
  - Elevated Hematocrit (63%)
  - Band neutrophilia (4%)
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - Acetemia
- Treatment
  - IV and rectal fluids
  - Excede (6.6 mg/kg SQ)
  - Banamine (1.1 mg/kg IM)

Case #1: Day 3
- Clinical signs
  - Severe depression
  - Dyspnea
  - Marked abdominal distension
  - Subcutaneous edema in the head and forelimbs
- Blood work
  - Elevated hematocrit (58%)
  - Band neutrophilia (2%)
  - Monocytosis
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - Worsening Anemia
  - ↑AST, ↑GGT, ↑CK
  - Hyperbilirubinemia
  - Hypoproteinemia
- Treatment
  - Furosemide (1 mg/kg IV)
  - Ceftiofur sodium (2.2 mg/kg IV)
- Outcome
  - Death in <72 hrs. from the onset of clinical signs

Case #1: Necropsy Findings

- Skin ulcerations
- Vulva
- Heart
- Lungs
- Stomach
- Intestine

Case #1: Necropsy Findings

- Spleen
- Kidney
- Mesentery
- Bladder
- Muscle
Histopathology

- Disseminated vascular necrosis with edema, hemorrhage, and endothelial cell intranuclear inclusions within the liver, kidney, spleen, and ovary
- Severe renal tubular necrosis
- Mild rhabdomyolysis

EEHV Testing

- Quantitative PCR (performed postmortem on banked whole blood samples)
  - Day 1: 2,000,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  - Day 2: 3,000,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)

- Whole genome sequencing
  - Performed on frozen lung tissue
  - Strain identified as EEHV3A

Case #2: Day 1

- Presenting clinical signs
  - Loose stool
  - Hematuria

- Initial blood work
  - Band neutrophilia (1%)
  - Monocytopenia
  - Thrombocytopenia

- Treatment
  - Famciclovir (12 mg/kg PO q 8 hr)
  - Butorphanol (0.02 mg/kg IM q 8 hr)
  - Ceftiofur sodium (2.2 mg/kg IM q 24 hr)
  - Rectal fluids (q 6 hr)

Case #2: Day 2

- Clinical signs
  - Lethargy
  - Anorexia
  - Stiff gait
  - Abdominal pain
  - Frank hemorrhage in urine

- Blood work
  - Band neutrophilia (2%)
  - Monocytosis (89%)
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - Hypalbuminemia
  - AST and ALT
  - Hypernatremia

- Treatment
  - Famciclovir (12 mg/kg PO q 8 hr)
  - Butorphanol (0.02 mg/kg IM q 8 hr)
  - Ceftiofur sodium (2.2 mg/kg IM q 24 hr)
  - Rectal fluids (q 6 hr)

Case #2: Day 3

- Clinical signs
  - Depression
  - Edema along ventrum and in hind limbs
  - Tremoring of the trunk
  - Diarrhea

- Blood work
  - Band neutrophilia (1%)
  - Thrombocytopenia (18,496/µL)
  - AST and CK
  - Anemia
  - Hypoalbuminemia
  - Hypoproteinemia
  - Hyperglycemia

- Treatment
  - Dexamethasone SP (0.25 mg/kg IV)
  - IV fluids (crystalloids + Hetastarch)
  - 2L of plasma collected from dam
  - Famciclovir (12 mg/kg PO q 8 hr)
  - Butorphanol (0.02 mg/kg IM q 8 hr)
  - Ceftiofur sodium (2.2 mg/kg IV)
  - Rectal fluids (q 6 hr)
**Case #2: Day 4**

- **Clinical signs**
  - Rectal hemorrhage
  - Tachypnea
  - Tachycardia

- **Blood work**
  - Band neutrophilia (4%)
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - ↑AST and CK
  - Worsening Azotemia
  - Hypoproteinemia
  - Hyperglycemia

- **Outcome**
  - Death in <72 hrs. from the onset of clinical signs

**EEHV Testing**

- **Quantitative PCR performed on whole blood**
  - Day 1: 1,000,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  - Day 2: 3,700,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  - Day 3: 1,600,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  - Day 4 (antemortem): 920,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  - Day 4 (postmortem): 2,300,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)

**Preparation For Future Cases**

- Creation of a plasma bank
- Blood cross-matching for all elephants in the collection to identify donor compatibility
- Acquisition of anti-viral medication to keep in stock (3 day supply of oral famciclovir for each of our younger elephants and 1 dose of intravenous ganciclovir per elephant)
- Establishment of normal reference ranges for blood parameters for each individual elephant

**Indianapolis Zoo EEHV Surveillance Program**

**Equipment Purchases**

- IDEXX ProCyte DX for automated CBCs: $22,500
- J-15R Centrifuge, Tube sealer, and Separator stand for processing plasma: $14,900
- Ultra-low freezer for sample storage: $9520
- Blood refrigerator and Plasma freezer: $21,750
Case #3

• Presenting clinical signs
  o Loose stool
  o Lethargy

• Initial blood work
  o Mild anemia
  o Monocytopenia
  o Thrombocytopenia
  o ↑ Acute phase proteins (SAA, haptoglobin)

• EEHV qPCR
  o Day 1: 5000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  o Day 2: 17,250 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  o Day 3: 115,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
  o Day 4: 265,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)

Case #3: Treatment Summary

• Transfusions
  o Plasma (~2 L) on Days 2 and 3
  o Whole blood (2-3 L) one or two times/day on Days 4-7 (Total of 6 transfusions)

• Antibiotics
  o Cefuroxime sodium (2.2 mg/kg IM q 24 hr) Days 2-9

• Anti-inflammatory
  o Flunixin meglumine (0.3 mg/kg IM q 24 hr) Days 2-7
  o Meloxicam (0.03 mg/kg PO q 24 hr) Days 8-10

• Gastroprotectant
  o Omeprazole (1 mg/kg PO q 24 hr) Days 4-11

• Anti-viral
  o Famciclovir (15 mg/kg PO or rectally q 8 hr) Days 2-25

• Fluids
  o Rectally q 6 hrs. Days 2-10
  o IV crystalloids on Day 3 with plasma transfusion
  o Hetastarch (2L with each whole blood transfusion)

• Other
  o Vitamin C (6 mg/kg IV) on Day 3
  o Stem cells (100 x 10⁶ in 10 ml) IV on Day 7

Blood Collection From Donor Elephant

• Standing position on tethers
• Place multiple catheters if possible
• May take 2-3 hrs. to collect a large volume!

Preparing Kedar for Transfusion

• Standing sedation with butorphanol (0.025 mg/kg IM) in ETOH
• Placed 14-gauge catheter in auricular vein

Plasma & Whole Blood Transfusions

Plasma rate: ~2L/hr.
Whole blood rate: First unit slowly over ~30 mins (while monitoring TPR), then 1.5-2L/hr.
Total time for transfusion (including prep): 2-4 hours

Treatment
Case #3: Outcome

- Day 4: Viral load peaked at 265,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
- Day 6: Most severe changes in blood work seen
- Day 7: Clinical improvement and platelet number starting to increase
- Day 10: Behaviorally normal
- Day 12: All blood parameters within the normal range
- Day 12: Viral load decreased to <1000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
- Day 16: EEHV-3/4 qPCR was negative
- Day 17 to Present: Intermittent low level viremia (<1000 vge/ml) of EEHV-2, 3/4, 6
- Day 25: Treatment discontinued, but monitoring blood work daily
- Day 36: Resumed routine blood work monitoring (2 times per week)

Case #4: Treatment Summary

- Transfusions
  - Plasma (1.5-2.6L) on Days 3, 6, and 7
  - Whole blood (3.8L) twice daily on Days 4-6
- Antibiotics
  - Ceftiofur sodium (2.2 mg/kg IM q 24 hr) Days 3-10
  - Marbofloxacin (2 mg/kg PO q 24 hr) Days 6-17
- Anti-inflammatory
  - Flunixin meglumine (0.3 mg/kg IM q 24 hr) Days 3-6
- Gastroprotectant
  - Omeprazole (1 mg/kg q 24 hr) Days 3-10
- Anti-viral
  - Famciclovir (15 mg/kg PO q 8 hr) Days 3-25
- Fluids
  - Rectally (q 6 hr) Days 3-10
  - Hetastarch (2L with whole blood)

Outcome

- Day 5: Viral load peaked at 1,100,000 vge/ml (EEHV-3/4)
- Day 6: Most severe changes in blood work seen
- Day 8: Clinically normal and blood work starting to improve
- Day 14: All blood parameters returned to normal
- Day 20: Viral load <1,000 vge/ml
- Day 23: EEHV-3/4 q PCR negative
- Day 25: Treatment was discontinued
- Day 37: Resumed routine monitoring (2X per week)
Case #5: “Ivory”

- 37 yr old female
- Presenting clinical signs
  - Moving slower than normal
- Blood work
  - 40% reduction in platelets initially
  - Marked elevation in SAA
  - EEHV-3/4 qPCR: 3,200 vge/ml
- Treatment
  - Famciclovir (15 mg/kg PO q 8 hr) x 11 days
  - Naxcel (2.2 mg/kg IM q 24 hr) x 5 days
  - Omeprazole (1 mg/kg PO q 24 hr) x 4 days
  - Flunixin meglumine (1.1 mg/kg IM) x 4 days
  - Rectal fluids (q 6 hr)
- Outcome
  - Viral load peaked at 12,000 vge/ml on Day 3
  - Platelets decreased by 63% on Day 3, returned to normal by Day 5
  - Viral load undetectable by Day 10
  - SAA gradually returned to baseline by Day 13
Take Home Points

• Surveillance is the key!
• Clinical signs may be absent or subtle
• Establish normal reference ranges for blood parameters for each individual elephant
• Be prepared to provide early and aggressive treatment
• Training of staff and elephants is essential

Kedar & Zahara
EEHV Survivors 2019

QUESTIONS???
Elephant Endothelial Herpes Virus at Fresno Chaffee Zoo 2019

SHANNON NODOLF, DVM
VERNON PRESLEY
Prior to 2019...

- Herd of 1.3 *African* elephants all over the age of 10 years
- Guess how much we though about EEHV???
Miss Bets

- 11 year old female African Elephant
- Born at Riddle’s Elephant & Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dam ‘Amy’ was wild caught as juvenile in Zimbabwe
- Miss Bets was index case for EEHV6 when at Riddle’s
- Arrived with Amy to Fresno in May 2015
February 8, 2019

- Miss Bets appeared uncomfortable with hunched abdomen and slow choppy gait
- Eating produce during training but refusing hay
- Subtle shaking present intermittently
- Treated for suspected colic/gi discomfort
  - Omeprazole
  - Ranitidine
  - Banamine
- Seemed improved by afternoon
- Limited historical blood work for normal values but initial bloodwork considered unremarkable at the time
February 9, 2019

- AM still off but willing to train for blood collection which showed static chemistry values
- Clinical picture began to rapidly decline throughout the morning
  - Developed shaking/tremors
  - Facial grimacing
  - Erratic trunk swinging
  - Disoriented mentation
  - Intermittent aggression
  - Progressive ataxia
Animal stopped participating in training but did willingly go into ERD
- Administered diazepam due to suspected focal seizure activity
  - Continued agitation, muscle fasiculations, and she removed all attempts at catheterization
- Elected to sedate with butorphanol 35mg, detomidine 35 mg and midazolam 26 mg IM
- Bets calmed down significantly and allowed for rectal fluid enema
- Placed catheter in coccygeal vein and started IV fluids (even with sedation she removed all other catheters)
- Diagnostics collected for: Encephalitidies, Sarcocystis, Neospora, Toxoplasma, Coccidiodes, EEHV, EMC, Lepto, Heavy Metals
- Bets remained calm in ERD and started playing with food and eating some hay
- ~2 hours later she went down in the ERD, arrested and died.
- Remains packed on ice (~2 tons) while awaiting coordination with pathologist for necropsy
## Bloodwork Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bets Normal</th>
<th>2/9/19</th>
<th>2/9 compared to a healthy Bets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RBC x10^3/µL</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCT</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC x10^3/µL</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>21% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutrophil x10^3/µL</td>
<td>3.1; 32.5%</td>
<td>5.0; 68%</td>
<td>35% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monocyte x10^3/µL</td>
<td>2.8; 32%</td>
<td>1.4; 19%</td>
<td>13% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocyte x10^3/µL</td>
<td>3.5; 35%</td>
<td>0.89; 12%</td>
<td>23% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eosinophil</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.074; 1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Platelets x10^3</strong></td>
<td><strong>1300</strong></td>
<td><strong>173</strong></td>
<td><strong>86% ↓</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monocyte:neutrophil</td>
<td>32:32.5</td>
<td>19:68</td>
<td>80% ↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Miss Bets

- Necropsy performed at UC Davis extension: California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory

- Antemortem diagnostic results
  - 0 gross hemorrhage or petechiation
  - Marked inflammation of colon and distal GI tract: Cultures came back growing bacteria Clostridium sordelli and C. perfringes
  - Toxin and Infectious disease testing all initially negative
  - No EEHV inclusions identified histologically
Miss Bets confounders

- Samples submitted to the National Elephant Herpesvirus Laboratory for EEHV testing prior to death initially tested 0 vge/ml.
- Tissues submitted at necropsy for additional EEHV testing came back markedly positive:
  - Liver:
    - EEHV 3-4: 100,000 vge/rxn
  - Lung:
    - EEHV 3-4: 300,000 vge/rxn
- Retested initial serum and WB that was pulled prior to death
  - EEHV 3-4 EDTA WB: 14,000,000 vge/ml
  - Serum: 200,000 vge/ml
  - Sent additional whole blood to Baylor College of Medicine which confirmed EEHV 3-4 positive
Second cutting histology slides sent to Dr. Jaime Landolfi with University of Illinois:

“widespread endothelial cell hypertrophy, rare endothelial cell necrosis and several **intranuclear inclusions**”

“appreciated the acute inflammation and erosion in the sections of rectum, however, I did not think these lesions were of sufficient severity to have accounted for clinical course and death. Mucosal inflammation and damage were limited to the rectum in sections I examined. The large intestine and, to a lesser extent, small intestine did have mural edema and some hemorrhage, but I believe these lesions could be attributed to EEHV3-mediated endothelial damage. I think the Gram positive bacilli noted in the large intestinal and rectal glands represented postmortem colonization/overgrowth, or at most, opportunistic infection. C. sordelli, like most Clostridium sp., is a common postmortem invader. I think EEHV was the primary contributor to clinical course and death in this case.”
Amahle

- Part of a Swaziland cull rescue in 2016
- Arrived with her mother Nolwazi to Fresno from Dallas in Oct 2018
- Estimated to be 11 years old
During afternoon training session noted to be slower in her movements compared to her normal.

When asked for front foot present she had difficulty reaching the same heights she normally does for her stretches.

Heightened sensitivity due to similar clinical signs mentioned by other facilities with EEHV calves.

Infectious and toxin screening tests sent out.

In-house bloodwork fairly unremarkable compared to limited historical normal.

Started contacting folks for advice and asking all of you experts to weigh in as we anxiously waited for EEHV results to return.

Elected to start her on antiviral therapy famciclovir 30,000mg PO TID, meloxicam 120mg PO SID.
April 30, 2019

- ~20 hours after first symptoms observed initial EEHV results showed that despite her relatively stable lab work we were unfortunately correct in our fears and Amahle was EEHV 3-4 positive with 80,000 vge/ml of whole blood

- Amahle continues to be BAR, eating/drinking and generally behaving totally normally aside from slight stiffness/decreased leg extension.

- Despite clinical appearance elected for aggressive medical management
Medical Management

- 24 hour monitoring
- TID Visual exams-scouring for petechiation or evidence of hemorrhage
- TID antivirals- Famciclovir
- Daily sedation for administering IV and rectal fluids
- Cross matching Amahle to our other elephants for blood and plasma transfusions
- Famciclovir loading plasma donor prior to collecting and administering donor plasma
- Continued meloxicam for anti-inflammatory analgesia
- Twice daily assessment of blood and urine
- Vit C
- Administration of stem cells kindly donated from two different sources.
- Continued recruitment from colleagues for additional potential plasma donors, medications – ganciclovir, additional advice and support
Medical Management

- 5 days after initiation of supportive care Amahle declined to participate in restraint behaviors
- Viral load down to 500 vge/ml
- Platelet count maintaining over 1,000,000 cells/µL
- Elected to discontinue daily sedation for enema administration
- 10 days after initial EEHV 3-4 detected, low levels of EEHV 2: 400 VGE/ml detected
- 22 Days after initial EEHV detection and 10 days of EEHV below 1000vge/ml elected to discontinue famciclovir
Monocyte: Heterophil ratio

- Early in viremia monocyte:heterophil ratio dropped <1, during recovery ratio increases to >2.
- Average juvenile elephant ratio: 2.37 based on Wissink-Argilaga reference to Molenaar unpublished data.
- Amhale healthy avg 1.6
What does this mean for elephants at Fresno Chaffee Zoo?

- Officially joined the EEHV Consortium at the National Elephant Herpesvirus Laboratory - Gold Members
- Knowledge that our herd intermittently sheds EEHV2, 3-4, and 6.
- Updated our EEHV protocols (and by update I mean we pilfered most of yours to create ours thanks all!!).
  - Blood testing:
    - **Calves 0-7yr & Juveniles 8-15 yrs**
      - EEHV 2, 3, 4, and 6 PCR weekly
      - CBC weekly
      - Serum biochemistries monthly
    - **Adults 16yrs and older**
      - EEHV 2, 3, 4, and 6 PCR as indicated
      - CBC monthly
      - Serum biochemistries monthly
- In the event of an active EEHV case; non clinical herd mates:
  - **Calves 0-7yr & Juveniles 8-15yrs**
    - EEHV 2, 3, 4, and 6 PCR twice weekly
    - CBC twice weekly
    - Serum biochemistries weekly
  - Adults screened for potential donors and active EEHV shedding
  - Behavioral training
EEHV!
I thought that was an Asian elephant thing?
Amahle

Keys to success

Early Detection

Training

Elephant Community
Training

3 main behaviors that allowed us to be successful

• Oral medication

• Blood draws

• Restraints
Oral Medication

- Awful tasting stuff, could not hide it
- Trained to swallow pills
Oral Medication
Oral Medication
Oral Medication
Oral Medication
Oral Medication
Blood Draws

• Critical for the vets to gather information
  • Viral counts
  • Normal blood chemistry
Restraints

• Amahle had not completed her ERD training
• Went to “restraint school” real fast
• Used what she knew
• Practiced over and over
Restraints
Restraints
Take Home Messages

TRAIN YOUR ELEPHANTS!!!!!!

Monitor blood
Look for subtle signs
Use your elephant community
Thank You Elephant Community!!

- FCZ elephant keepers
  - FCZ hospital team
    - Dallas Zoo
    - San Diego Zoo
    - Oakland Zoo
    - Houston Zoo
    - Oklahoma City Zoo
    - CAHFS-Tulare
- Erin Latimer
- Daryl Hoffman
- Jill Sampson
- Dr. Ellen Wiedner
- Dr. Lauren Howard
- Dr. Paul Ling
- VetStem Biopharma
- Dr. Valerie Johnson
- Dr. Jaime Landolfi
The End

- Questions?
Pathology of Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV) infections in African elephants

Jaime Landolfi, DVM, PhD, DACVP
University of Illinois Zoological Pathology Program, c/o Chicago Zoological Society, 3300 Golf Road, Brookfield, Illinois 60513

Elephant endotheliotropic herpesviruses (EEHV) cause EEHV hemorrhagic disease (EEHV-HD), a significant cause of mortality in young elephants. Disease is reported in both wild and zoo animals, and in susceptible individuals, infection manifests as an acute, multisystemic, often fatal hemorrhagic syndrome (Long et al, 2016; Ossent et al, 1990; Richman et al, 1999, Zachariah et al, 2013). EEHVs are ubiquitous in healthy adult elephants; Asian elephants harbor EEHV1A, 1B, 4, and 5, and African elephants have EEHV2, 3, 6, and 7. EEHVs are endotheliotropic with infection resulting in endothelial cell damage, vascular compromise and resultant hemorrhage, edema, and coagulopathy. The pathogenesis of endothelial cell damage has not yet been elucidated. Direct virus-mediated injury is considered the most likely mechanism; other hypotheses include induction of apoptosis, immune-mediated insult, and secondary damage associated with coagulopathy. Death results from hypovolemic shock due to cardiac and circulatory collapse. Disease is most common in 1-8 year-old Asian elephants due to infection with EEHV1A. In cases of “classic” EEHV-HD in Asian elephants, capillary endothelium, particularly in the heart, is the target of the virus. Gross lesions are manifestations of vascular damage secondary to viral endothelial cell infection and include: lingual cyanosis; widespread edema affecting the trunk, head, neck, limbs and dependent abdomen, intestinal wall, mesentery and mesenteric root, omentum, and lungs; pericardial effusion; cardiac petechial to ecchymotic hemorrhages; and visceral petechial hemorrhage (Long et al, 2016, Richman et al, 2001). Hemorrhage with intralosomal endothelial cell nuclear viral inclusions are diagnostic. In African elephants, lesions due to EEHVs are most common in clinically healthy adults and consist of incidental pulmonary and distal reproductive tract mucosal lymphoid nodules and cutaneous papillomas (Jacobsen et al, 1986; Masters et al, 2011; McCully et al 1971; Munson et al 1995; Richman et al, 1999; Richman et al, 2001; Zong et al 2016). Hemorrhagic disease has occurred less commonly, though a sharp uptick in incidence of EEHV-HD in African elephants in the past year is of grave concern. Historic cases with mortalities in African elephants have been attributed to EEHV2 and EEHV6, and lesions were similar to those in Asian elephant cases of EEHV1A. Recent African elephant cases have been due to infection with EEHV3. A few cases of EEHV-HD due to EEHV3 have previously occurred in Asian elephants, and the disease in African elephants appears comparable. Though EEHV3 still targets endothelial cells, larger caliber vessels (venules, arterioles) are involved. With EEHV3, cardiovascular manifestations are noted, however, additional hemorrhagic lesions in the urinary, gastrointestinal and lymphoid systems are more prevalent than with other EEHVs. Lesions in cases of African elephant EEHV-HD appear dependent on the EEHV type; no host species-specific variations have been noted.

References:


TRANSFUSION MEDICINE AND EEHV-HD: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS

Jennifer Kishbaugh
BodeVet, Inc.
African Elephant EEHV Workshop
Indianapolis, IN

SMALL ANIMAL TRANSFUSION MEDICINE DEVELOPMENTS

- Component therapy administration and availability
- Rapid growth of private blood banks
- Lymphoblastoma in alpacas
- Lymphoblastoma in pandas and platypus
- Advances in technology
  - Therapeutic apheresis
  - CAR-T cancer research
- Influx of research and discussion extrapolating from human medicine

RESOURCES FOR THE SMALL ANIMAL PRACTITIONER

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ELEPHANTS??

EEHV AND TRANSFUSIONS

- Congnitive, hypothermic, hemorhagic, hemostatically unstable animals
- Thrombocytopenia, edema, vasculitis
  - Lymphadenopathy, adenopathy, vasculitis
- Internal hemorrhages with severe lesions often reported at necropsy
- Indications for fresh plasma, platelets, or whole blood
- Only a few published reports of plasma transfusions given and a wide range of dosages

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

- Optimize collection and storage
  - Best collection methods from adult donor elephants
  - How to choose your donors
  - Accurate lifespan of stored blood products
  - Zoo preparedness for necessary equipment

- Goals
  - Patient population
  - Component therapy
  - Focus on banking or including emergency collections
DONOR SELECTION AND COLLECTION

- Regular training for animals and staff is VITAL
- Technical comfort for staff
- Removes stress from the animal
- Optimizes collection method
- Allows for banking of blood products
- Know the collection systems available
- Try various sites and methods for collecting from each animal

BLOOD COLLECTION SYSTEMS

- Standard 450mL, with nutrient solution
  - PROS: pre-filled with anti-coagulant, satellite bag attachments for component processing, centrifuge to separate plasma easily
  - CONS: Limits size of volume collected with each draw

- 1 to 5 L bag without nutrient solution
  - PROS: Able to collect larger blood volumes in a single collection event
  - CONS: Have to add nutrient solution, may be more technically demanding to utilize, can only separate via refrigerated gravity method

- Apheresis
  - PROS: Collect and process large volumes storage, minimal long-term animal impact
  - CONS: Require advanced training and facility willingness to explore novel collection technique

WHY PURSUE APHERESIS?

- Large volume collection and patient-side separation of components
- Provides a large volume of healthy platelets and plasma
- With funding available, can generate elephant lyophilized blood products for use on demand
- Requires facility interest, willingness to explore novel collection methods, prior intravenous catheterization for long-term (45 minute or longer) collection

BLOOD PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

- Crossmatch supplies
- Blood collection bags and well-trained donor animals
- Refrigerated centrifuge to provide thermal control during friction-related heat generation
- Press to separate plasma from red cells
- Refrigerator/freezer to store products

ONGOING RESEARCH ENDEAVORS AT BODEVET

- Asian elephant blood typing – completing final analysis and preparing for publication
- African elephant blood typing – sourcing resources and interested participants
- Elephant lyophilized platelet product manufacture – sourcing resources and interested donor facilities
- Elephant lyophilized plasma – exploring the potential based on ongoing canine research
- Facility transfusion survey – pending co-researcher review and distribution to interested facilities

BODEVET PROJECT UPDATES: ASIAN ELEPHANT CROSSMATCHING

- OVER 40 SAMPLES SUBMITTED!
- Manuscript in preparation for publication

- Interesting facts:
  - Premise: platelet donations = no antibody generation
  - High degree of plasma in stored samples: always +1 / +2

- For future studies:
  - Interested in evaluating animals requiring other blood products
  - African elephant project in development
WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

- Zoo veterinarian participation is VITAL to helping gather information for the community
- Suggesting additional areas that need research attention
- Blood sample submissions
- Whole blood donations
- Medical record data and case reviews
- Answering questions
- Funding source recommendations
- Grant collaborations

COMING SOON, TO A ZOO NEAR YOU:

- Updated transfusion guidelines
- Survey of transfusion practices in elephant care facilities
- Cross-matching and compatibility study
- Updated EEHV treatment projects
- Exploring objective scoring systems
- Providing freeze-dried blood products to the elephant community
- Evaluating antiviral activity of platelet therapy and antiviral-impregnated lyophilized blood products

THANK YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [http://www.avhtm.org/](http://www.avhtm.org/) - Transfusion and hematology resources
  - ($35 membership! Totally worth it!)

- johfishbaugh@bodevet.com — Research projects for elephant transfusions, blood collection and banking guidance for zoological species

- ahale@bodevet.com — Facilities interested in discussing schemes, ideas for funding support, general transfusion inquiries
Managing a Crisis
Public Relations

What constitutes a crisis
PR first steps
Your role in a crisis
Review of PR during EEHV crisis

Managing a Crisis

Today's Presentation:

- What constitutes a crisis
- PR first steps
- Your role in a crisis
- Review of PR during EEHV crisis

What is a Crisis

Anything that can damage a zoo’s image, credibility or reputation.

- Death or injury
- Mismanagement
- Natural disaster
- Animal escape
- Protests
- Environmental
- Disgruntled employee
- Active shooter/violence
- Technology failure
- Issue at another zoo/aquarium can damage your reputation

What do we have the most control over?

Accurate information is the key

- PR is the hub for information gathering and dissemination
- Gathering facts (who, what, when, where, why and how) – 3 main points
- Preparing statements, releases, social media copy and responses
- Assuring the public in a timely manner especially when safety is a concern
- Communicating to stakeholders including board members, staff, donors, members, volunteers and public
- Answering media questions and follow up
- Identifying the best Zoo representative to talk (people who have been trained)
- Deciding the approach for information release (written statement, interview, press conference)
- Conducting follow up responses in the following hours, days and weeks
- Being truthful and calm throughout the crisis
- If we don’t tell our story, it forces media to seek information from other sources

What are the first steps during a crisis?

Accurate information is the key

- When you safely can, do:
  - Report what you know to your assigned leader according to your crisis plan
  - Never speculate
  - If you can, write down the times and actions that took place
  - Stay calm when talking with guests, volunteers and other staff members during a crisis
  - Inform PR if you are hearing inaccurate details either from guests, media or social media, etc

What is your role in support of PR during a crisis?

The message!

We are:

- Assuming that all major facts will become public knowledge, but avoiding sending media in a direction they wouldn’t have taken
- Understanding that people will believe what they hear
- Responding to misinformation
- Responding to media in a timely and honest manner
- Assuring public safety
- Not speculating
- Monitoring all social channels
- Owning our own story
How Branding Relates to the Zoo

Consistency in messaging is key
- PR should provide talking points
- You may be asked to help with facts for those talking points
- In the days and weeks following a crisis, you are the one with direct access to the public so make sure to let PR know if you are getting unusual questions.
- Continue to not speculate
- If you can’t answer a question, that’s ok — refer to PR
- Don’t get bored with the talking points — keep to the message
- Stay calm if the public questioning borders on humorous — this can be emotionally tough if they are joking about something happening where an animal was involved

What is your role in support of PR after a crisis?

- Ways to deflect/extricate yourself when you should not be commenting:
  - Watch out for an ambush -- a reporter may easily come on grounds without identifying themselves and seem like a guest.
  - Watch what you say -- never speculate
  - After the crisis is over, you should have approved talking points provided by PR
  - It’s ok to politely excuse yourself if the conversation is becoming uncomfortable or inappropriate.
  - If you are approached by a reporter, let them know you would be happy to get them in touch with PR.
  - Be aware of off-hours questioning — in informal settings, you might be discussing a situation and you can later be quoted as an “inside source”
  - Watch what you post on social media

The time to plan for a crisis is before it occurs!

Your team should have a plan, have a process, and practice
- Decide on what crisis response model to use -- Incident Command, IAAPA
- Phone numbers programmed ahead of time, list updated regularly, laminated card
- First responsibility is to safety — of guests, animals, volunteers and staff
- Identified all possible crisis situations
- Understand that mobile phones turn anyone into a citizen journalist -- you should always assume you are being recorded or possibly live on social media
- Always be honest in your communications to the media. Sometimes there are proprietary details that we can’t discuss.

Understanding and learning from what went right — what went wrong

- Once the immediate crisis has passed, a post incident review with all involved can be helpful
- Remember, you are all part of one big team -- support each other and remain as positive as possible

Elephant Nyah’s Illness

- March 17 – Nyah started showing signs of discomfort and veterinarians started immediate care.
  - Temperature seemed like normal core, she was drinking and eating -- the thought was colic or salmonella -- antibiotics being used
  - Veterinarians and animal care team stayed with Nyah overnight Sunday and Monday.
  - (note our knowledge base at the time: EEHV not known to strike African Elephants)
- March 18 -- PR was communicated to about the issue
  - Elephant history was gathered into one place
  - Talking points formulated in preparation of a possible death -- outside PR firm & AZA notified
- Photos were organized
- March 19 -- Nyah died late morning.
  - By 2pm a note to the Board of Trustees was approved (reviewed by Collections & Vet)
  - Communication tree went into place: Staff, donors, volunteers, members, media
  - Decided to stay with same statement to put on Facebook.
  - All local media responded using that statement and photos. PR did interviews
  - National and international media and social media took continued PR time

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Elephant Kalina’s Illness

• March 23 – Kalina started to show symptoms similar to Nyah’s.
• PR was notified, preparations began on talking points, photos, etc
• EEHV suspected as Nyah tested with high levels of EEHV
• PR researching EEHV, working with Houston Zoo, Chester and Smithsonian
• PR had to start working on messaging for the worst-case
• Outside PR firms notified again (and AZA) and talks began on communication plan
  • Transparency, explain EEHV, quick action by staff, African elephant lack of EEHV, public safe, devastating to staff, no vaccine, explain daily testing of other elephants and changing protocols, no understanding of why it becomes active, affects elephants in the wild and in human care
• March 26 – Kalina died
  • Communication:
    • Board, staff, donors, volunteers, members, media
    • Press Conference
      • Dr. Rob Shumaker – written statement and then took questions
      • Local, national and international media and social media coverage for days

Elephant Kedar tests positive for EEHV

• March 27 – EEHV Learning session in Houston
  • Zoo sent veterinarian to Houston for the EEHV session. Houston Zoo PR was prepared to help our staff if approached by media.
• May 6 – Kedar tests positive for EEHV and aggressive treatment begins
• May 9 – Communication plan set into motion – no interviews for media
  • Transparency and including the community was essential
  • Timeline:
    1:30pm Board (Dr. Rob send)
    1:35 Staff (Judy send)
    1:40 Volunteers, Donors (Kristin send)
    1:45 Media (Judy send)
    1:50 Social Media (Carla send)

Elephant Kedar tests positive for EEHV

Note to News Media:

We felt it was important to keep the community informed and updated on any new development with our elephant herd in connection with Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV). Blood test results reveal a third elephant, Kedar, has EEHV. Zoo veterinarians already had antiviral medication on hand and started aggressive treatment immediately. Kedar is a 13-year-old male and had until this week, tested negative for the virus. Following the EEHV deaths of elephants Nyah and Kalina in March, we started testing all of our elephants twice a week for the virus. We conducted a blood test on Kedar on Thursday, May 2, and the results came back negative on Friday, May 3. We tested Kedar again on Monday, May 6, and the results came back positive for EEHV.

Please click on this link for our free file share where you can find photos, video, press release, and that question & answer sheet. We will not be doing any media interviews at this point. I will keep you up to date if I receive any new information on Kedar’s health.

Elephant Zahara tests positive for EEHV

The New Normal

• May 18 – Blood test taken on Zahara
• May 20 – Zahara blood platelets drop and staff starts immediate antivirals
• May 21 – Zahara’s blood test came back positive for EEHV. She has a quick recovery
• We never discussed her case with media as it became our new normal.

Questions about the PR Process

Questions?
Elephant endotheliotropic herpesviruses (EEHVs) can cause hemorrhagic disease (HD), particularly in captive juvenile Asian elephants between the ages of 2-8. Recent cases of EEHV HD in African elephants have raised the concern for EEHV in this species too. Understanding antibody responses towards EEHV in elephants, especially to the different types of EEHVs, could provide information about the prior history of infections with these viruses in individual animals. Moreover, robust anti-EEHV serology assays will be needed to evaluate potential EEHV vaccines, which our laboratory is working to develop. Evidence will be presented that we have developed a first generation EEHV serology assay that can distinguish whether an elephant has already been infected with EEHV1A or 1B versus 4 and/or 5. In addition, we have recently determined the complete genomic sequence EEHV3A, which was associated with some recent African elephant EEHV HD cases. We have used this knowledge (along with the EEHV4 genome sequence) to begin generating serology assays for the GC-rich branch EEHVs; EEHV3A in African elephants and EEHV4 in Asian elephants. The implications for how the serology assay might provide useful knowledge for herd management and vaccine development and evaluation will be reviewed.
EEHV IN AFRICAN ELEPHANTS (*Loxodonta africana*)
Erin Latimer

*Wildlife Health Sciences, Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park, Washington DC 20008, USA*

Please direct correspondence to Erin Latimer (latimere@si.edu)

Abstract

Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV) is most known for causing an acute hemorrhagic disease (EEHV HD) in mostly young Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*), but it has also been implicated in morbidity and mortality in older Asian elephants and in African elephants. There has been increased interest in EEHV in the African elephant community because of recent deaths and disease due to EEHV in African elephants in the US. This report will review what is known about EEHV in African elephants, including saliva, lung, and skin nodules in otherwise healthy animals in human care and in the wild, the historical deaths and illness due to EEHV2, 3, and 6, and will briefly touch on the 2019 EEHV cases. Over the past year, EEHV shedding in trunk secretions and detection of low levels of EEHV2, 3-4, and 6 in blood and necropsy samples have been common; comparisons to EEHV in Asian elephants will be made.

Routine monitoring of young elephants, both Asian and African, is recommended by the EEHV Advisory Group. Weekly/twice weekly polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of blood can provide early detection of viremia; testing of herd trunk secretions might provide information on viral types circulating in the herd.

Recent capacity-building and opportunities for research projects in African range countries will be discussed.
Update on African EEHV Working Group and our work at San Diego Zoo Global

Lauren L. Howard, DVM, Dipl. ACZM
Director of Veterinary Services, San Diego Zoo Safari Park
San Diego Zoo Global
Steering Committee, North American EEHV Advisory Group

-120 Participants
  - Africa
  - Asia
  - US
  - UK
  - Europe

EEHV Survey Results of Wildlife Health Professionals Working in Africa

Responders:
WDA Africa and Middle East Section and Wildlife Vetnet Listservs
N=31 (Aug-Sep 2019)

In which region of Africa do you primarily do your wildlife health work?

- North Africa: N=9
- West Africa: N=1
- East Africa: N=1
- Southern Africa: N=20

Are you aware that herpesviruses can cause morbidity and mortality in wild Asian elephants?

- Yes: N=28
- No: N=3
Are you concerned about herpesvirus in African elephants?

- Yes: 18 responses
- No: 13 responses

Have you observed skin lesions in an African elephant that you thought could be attributed to herpesvirus?

- Yes: 12 responses
- No: 17 responses
- Not sure: 4 responses
- Not applicable: 3 responses

Have you observed post mortem lesions such as internal fluid and hemorrhage and/or visceral hemorrhage and edema in an African elephant that could be attributed to herpesvirus?

- Yes: 22 responses
- No: 1 response
- Not sure: 3 responses
- Not applicable: 5 responses

Do you think it is important to learn more about the impact of herpesvirus on wild and orphaned African elephants?

- Yes: 2 responses
- No: 1 response
- Not sure: 28 responses
- Not applicable: 25 responses from 10 countries
Six African Countries Represented

- Kenya
- South Africa
- Zimbabwe
- Zambia
- Namibia
- Uganda

Botswana travel fell through at last minute

Meeting Highlights

- Formed African EEHV Working Group
  - Communication group established on WhatsApp
  - Working Group led by Dr. Edgar Simulunda (Zambia)
  - Managed by Rachel Harris (Namibia)
  - African page on www.eehvinfo.org to be provided

- Biggest Need:
  - Information on what samples to collect, how to store them

- Also requested Gross Necropsy Photos of EEHV deaths

- PCR Testing Needs
  - Now: Zambia Vet School
  - Soon: Kruger, Zimbabwe
  - Needed: Kenya, Uganda, Namibia
  - Unknown: Botswana, Tanzania

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North American Elephants and EEHV 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian Elephants</th>
<th>African Elephants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elephants born or imported since 1980, with known follow-up</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephants still alive</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephants that have died</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV HD deaths</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of elephant deaths that are from EEHV</td>
<td>27/42 = 64%</td>
<td>5/100 = 5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North American Elephants and EEHV 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian Elephants</th>
<th>African Elephants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elephants born or imported since 1980, with known follow-up</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV HD Survivors</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV HD Deaths</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatality Rate of EEHV HD Cases</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of all elephants in population that have been impacted by EEHV</td>
<td>42/129 = 32%</td>
<td>10/258 = 4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Pre 2019 African Elephants & EEHV-HD**

- **EEHV2**: 2 fatalities (11 months, 13 yrs)
- **EEHV3b**: 1 survived (MD Zoo, 5 yrs)
- **EEHV6**: 1 fatality (10 yrs), 1 survived (15 mo)

### African Elephant EEHV HD Cases in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age/M/F</th>
<th>Virus</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 yo F</td>
<td>EEEV3</td>
<td>Died with clostridial enteritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 yo F</td>
<td>EEEV3</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 yo F</td>
<td>EEEV3</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 yo F</td>
<td>EEEV3</td>
<td>Survived with treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 yo M</td>
<td>EEEV3</td>
<td>Survived with treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 yo F</td>
<td>EEEV3</td>
<td>Survived with treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 yo F</td>
<td>EEEV3</td>
<td>Mild signs, survived with treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trunk Wash Results

| Collection Date | Elephant | EEEV2 | EEEV3 | -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/31/2018</td>
<td>Ingadze</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7/2018</td>
<td>Emanti</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>X-EEHV3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/11/2018</td>
<td>Emanti</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/12/2018</td>
<td>Inhlonipho</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/12/2018</td>
<td>Nokulamela</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/13/2018</td>
<td>Emanti</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/13/2018</td>
<td>Inhlonipho</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/20/2018</td>
<td>Lutsandvo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/25/2018</td>
<td>Kali</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/27/2018</td>
<td>Emanti</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### African Elephant Herd 2018

| Collection Date | Elephant | EEEV2 | EEEV3 | -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/28/2019</td>
<td>Lutsandvo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/5/2019</td>
<td>Lutsandvo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/5/2019</td>
<td>Inhlonipho</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/5/2019</td>
<td>Khosi</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/12/2019</td>
<td>Qhinisa</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/15/2019</td>
<td>Ingadze</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19/2019</td>
<td>Inhlonipho</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/21/2018</td>
<td>Lutsandvo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/25/2018</td>
<td>Kali</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EEHV found in whole blood on healthy elephants

| Collection Week | Elephant | EEEV2 | EEEV3 | -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/1/2019</td>
<td>Qhinisa</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/2019</td>
<td>Khosi</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/2019</td>
<td>Phakamile</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/2019</td>
<td>Khosi</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/2019</td>
<td>Inhlonipho</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most EEHV knowledge is based on Asian elephants.

We have a robust EEHV playbook for Africans.

We know what questions to ask.


1 year of weekly sample collection on up to 30 elephants.
Whole blood PCR & CBC  
Serum banking  
Plasma & Feces (cortisol)*  
Trunk Wash PCR  
Saliva Swabs and FTA card PCR  
Fecal Bolus and FTA card PCR  
Behavioral data collection*

* cortisol and behavior observations only on elephants at SDZG.

When do African elephants shed EEHV?  
When, how frequently, and how much is the virus shed?

How do African elephants shed EEHV?  
From which anatomic sites? Trunk, mouth, feces?  
What are the best samples to collect from our elephants?  
What are the best samples to collect from free-ranging elephants and from elephant orphans?

How will we test elephant samples in Africa?  
Elephant samples can’t leave Africa; We have partners in Africa and need an EEHV qPCR machine that can travel!

When does EEHV get into African elephant blood (viremia)?  
When, how frequently, and how much of the virus gets in the blood?

Is viremia (EEHV in the blood) detrimental to African elephant health?  
What is the significance of viremia?  
When should we worry?

How can we predict viremia and EEHV shedding in African elephants?  
What circumstances cause elephants to shed EEHV or to get it in their blood? Can we identify and manage those circumstances?

How does EEHV behave in a herd with both Asian and African elephants?  
Do African and Asian elephants share EEHVHs?  
What if younger elephants are involved?

Is viremia (EEHV in the blood) detrimental to African elephant health?  
What is the significance of viremia?  
When should we worry?

How can we predict viremia and EEHV shedding in African elephants?  
What circumstances cause elephants to shed EEHV or to get it in their blood? Can we identify and manage those circumstances?

Basic African EEHV Behavior  
African Range Countries  
Reteti Elephant Sanctuary / Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy
Reason for Rescue

- Well
- Separated or Abandoned by Dam
- FWC or Poaching
- Misc.

**Reteti Elephant Rescues and Dispositions**

- Total = 27
- Total = 15
- Total = 10
- Total to Date = 61

- 2016: Total = 9
- 2017: Total = 11
- 2018: Total = 6
- 2019: Total = 7

- 2016:
  - Nairobi: 2
  - Returned to herd: 5
  - Reteti: 2
  - Mortality: 0
  - Released to Sera: 0

- 2017:
  - Nairobi: 2
  - Returned to herd: 9
  - Reteti: 0
  - Mortality: 0
  - Released to Sera: 0

- 2018:
  - Nairobi: 1
  - Returned to herd: 4
  - Reteti: 1
  - Mortality: 0
  - Released to Sera: 0

- 2019:
  - Nairobi: 0
  - Returned to herd: 2
  - Reteti: 1
  - Mortality: 0
  - Released to Sera: 0
Pharmacokinetics of famciclovir and its metabolite penciclovir in African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)

John A. Griffioen, D.V.M.¹, Melissa A. Fayette, D.V.M.¹, Jeffry S. Proudfoot, D.V.M.¹, Mark G. Papich, D.V.M., MS, Dipl. A.C.V.P.²

*Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, IN 46222 USA; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27606 USA*

The anti-viral drug famciclovir has been used commonly in the treatment of EEHV in both Asian and African elephants. Concentrations of famciclovir and its active metabolite penciclovir have been evaluated in Asian elephants previously. However anatomic and physiologic differences, as well as known differences in metabolism of some drugs between Asian and African elephants, warrants additional research in African elephants. The purpose of this study is to evaluate pharmacokinetic parameters of famciclovir and its metabolite penciclovir in African elephants under managed care. The study aims to include at least 10 African elephants, determined to be clinically healthy via physical exam, complete blood count, serum biochemistry, and EEHV polymerase chain reaction (PCR) screening. Famiclovir will be administered (15 mg/kg) both orally and rectally in a complete crossover study design. Blood will then be collected at preselected sample points and pharmacokinetic parameters evaluated. The pharmacokinetic data obtained may influence dose and frequency of administration of famciclovir in African elephants. This may also further elucidate differences in drug absorption and metabolism between Asian and African elephants. To date, six elephants at the Indianapolis Zoo have each contributed 13 blood samples within a 24 hour period to evaluate the oral administration route with planned collection dates for rectal administration in the near future. Blood collection was possible through operant conditioning with no animals refusing to participate in any of the sampling time points thus far. The authors are seeking additional animals to contribute to the data set and are grateful for institutional collaboration.

**SUMMARY of Loxodonta africana EEHV cPCR DNA DETECTION SCREENS: (1A) RESULTS with SALIVA SWABS (SS) COLLECTED from USA ZOO ELEPHANTS**

A) At F-1, 48x weekly SS samples over a 13-month time period from each of two healthy female adults (E1, E2) gave TER positive for EEHV2 in 7x samples from E1 (early and late episodes), but not in E2; TER positive for EEHV6 in 13x E1 (middle and late episodes) and in 8x E2 (middle episode only); TER positive for EEHV5 in 6x E1 (early episode), 6x E2 (early episode) plus 5x E1 (late episode) with a total of five distinct EEHV3 variants involved. POL positive for EEHV2 in 17x samples (two episodes each with the same 2x novel variants). OBP positive for EEHV3 in 18x samples (7x E1, 11x E2). Six other adult HM tested over the final 3-month period gave 9x EEHV3 POL positives and 5x EEHV3 OBP positives. Overall, among nine adult LA tested, 6 were positive for EEHV6, 5 for EEHV3, 4 for EEHV2, 2 for EEHV3A and 1 for EEHV7A.

**SUMMARY of Loxodonta africana EEHV DNA DETECTION SCREENS IN BOTH AFRICAN SAVANNA ELEPHANTS (Loxodonta africana) and AFRICAN FOREST ELEPHANTS (Loxodonta cyclotis):**

Almost all tested Saliva Swab and Skin Nodule Biopsy samples collected from wild *Loxodonta africana* adults and juveniles with skin nodules from Kenya (13x), Botswana (14x) and South Africa (5x) were found to be low level positive by nested cPCR sequencing for multiple EEHV species and a wide variety of subtypes or strains (including EEHV2, EEHV3A, EEHV3B, EEHV6, EEHV7A and EEHV7B). SS from some mother/calf pairs were identical, but more often different. Similarly, half of 25x SS samples from *Loxodonta cyclotis* in Gabon were positive for at least one EEHV5 or EEHV7 strain, but many of these were also present as unusual rare strains in *Lox. africana*.

We interpret that these assays detect evidence of previous persistent infections rather than necessarily currently active systemic infections or shedding as would be detected at high levels in blood or trunk wash samples.

**Twenty Known Types of Elephant Herpesviruses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian (E. maximus)</th>
<th>African (L. africana)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deltaherpesvirus-Proboosvirinae</strong> genus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV1A, 1B</td>
<td>EEHV6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV5A, 5B</td>
<td>EEHV2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV4A, 4B</td>
<td>EEHV3A, 3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEHV7A, 7B</td>
<td>EEHV7A, 7B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elephant Gammaherpesvirinae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGHV1A</td>
<td>EGHV2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGHV3A</td>
<td>EGHV3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGHV5A</td>
<td>EGHV5B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUMMARY of Loxodonta africana EEHV cPCR DNA DETECTION SCREENS: (1B) RESULTS with SALIVA SWABS (SS) COLLECTED from USA ZOO ELEPHANTS**

B) At F-2, a surviving 5 yo male (Samson NAP62) with symptomatic EEHV3B viremia was positive for EEHV3 U71/gM PCR locus in 16/18 successive SS samples over 8-month period during recovery phase. One asymptomatic adult HM positive 5x with the same strain. This calf and all three tested adult HM were also positive sporadically for either three or four EGHV gamma herperviruses, sometimes two or three at the same time (including EGHV1B, 2, 3B and 4 but not 5B). ([Bronson et al, 2017](#)).

C) At F-3, 55 and TW samples from six asymptomatic adult HM over a 3-month period gave multiple positives for EEHV2 (HEL, TER) and for EEHV6 (TER, total of two strains and three variants) as well as for EEHV3 (UDG) in one HM.

**SUMMARY of Loxodonta africana EEHV DNA DETECTION SCREENS: (2) RESULTS with SKIN NOODULE BIOPSIES from WILD KENYA, BOTSWANA, RSA ELEPHANTS:**

Skin nodules were biopsied from five immobilized juveniles from Samburu Park in Kenya and eight other wild Elephants from Botswana or South Africa. These were examined at up to 12 PCR primer sets that detected known selected high GC branch EEHV3 or EEHV7 loci as well as several more generic PCR primer sets that also detected EEHV2 or EEHV6.

All were positive and mostly with multiple viruses. Overall, these assays identified four examples of EEHV2, six of EEHV3A, six of EEHV3B, seven of EEHV7A and two of EEHV7B. Nine samples also contained EGHV1B, four EEHV2, two EEHV3B, one EEHV4 and two EGHV5B. EEHV6 (as well as EEHV3, EEHV3A, EEHV7A and two EGHVs) were also detected in random necropsy lung tissue from a wild Kenyan adult.

Saliva swab samples from four of the same Kenya juveniles also detected between one and three types of EEHV3 or EEHV7 and an EGHV each, some of which matched the strains found in the skin nodules but mostly did not.
SUMMARY of *Lox africana* EHHV-PCR DNA DETECTION SCREENING:

RESULTS with SALIVA SWABS from KENYA, BOTSWANA, RSA ELEPHANTS

Saliva swabs collected from 26 wild adult and juvenile *Lox africana* from Botswana, Kenya and South Africa were tested at up to seven selected GC-rich branch cPCR loci (POL, HEL, U71/gM, ORF, TK, vGCNT1 and UDG) yielding 73 positives with unambiguous DNA sequences plus another 18 that were unresolvable mixtures. Overall 21/26 samples gave at least one positive locus, with 6x having just one, 4x 2, 4x 3, 3x 4, 1x 5, 1x 6 and 1x 7 positive loci. Among the positives there were 36x EHHV3A, 15x EHHV3B, 3x EHHV3C, 2x EHHV3D, 11x EHHV7A and 3x EHHV7B, as well as 3x EHHV2 (EHHV6 not tested).

In terms of number of distinct virus strains in individual samples, five were negative, 8x had just one strain, 8x had two strains, 3x had three strains, 1x had four strains and 1x had five different strains present. These results closely resemble previous published findings in lung nodules and necropsy lung tissue (Zong et al, 2015).

There were also at least 12x EGHV-positive samples found (7x EGHV1B, 1x EGHV2, 5x EGHV3B and 1x EGHV5B), although not all samples were tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gene Locus</th>
<th>EHHV3A</th>
<th>EHHV3B</th>
<th>EHHV3C-F</th>
<th>EHHV7A</th>
<th>EHHV7B</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL (gM)</td>
<td>16x</td>
<td>4x</td>
<td>10x</td>
<td>3x</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U73 (GRF)</td>
<td>10x</td>
<td>13x</td>
<td>6x</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>1x</td>
<td>32x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U81 (UDG-N)</td>
<td>14x</td>
<td>3x</td>
<td>3x</td>
<td>5x</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>27x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U77 (HHEL)</td>
<td>10x</td>
<td>9x</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8x</td>
<td>3x</td>
<td>30x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U71/gH</td>
<td>9x</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5x</td>
<td>3x</td>
<td>19x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4 (vGCNT1)</td>
<td>14x</td>
<td>3x</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Numbers and Strain Designations of DNA-Sequenced cPCR-Amplified EHHV3 and EHHV7 Samples from Skin Nodules and Saliva Swabs Collected from Savanna Elephants in Africa (Kenya, Botswana and South Africa):
Results of collaborative studies from the Baylor College of Medicine (Paul Ling group), the Houston Genome Center (Xiang Qin group), Johns Hopkins University (Gary Hayward group), Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia (Virginia Pearson), the Smithsonian National Zoo (Erin Latimer), Indianapolis Zoo and Fresno Zoo.

Comparative data are based on:

1) The recent compilation and annotation of the complete prototype 205-kb genome of EEHV3A(Nyah, NAP97) encoding 120 genes.

2) Additional new Sanger PCR data obtained for EEHV3B(MB3, NAP96), EEHV3B(Samson, NAP62) and EEHV3A(Hansa, NAP27) at 18 x conserved and variable gene PCR loci, including POL, TER, HEL, U71,gM, U39(g8), U46(gN), U47(gO), U48.5(TK), U51(vGPCR1), U81(UDG), U82(g), E4(vGCTN1), E6B, E9B/C, E16D(vECTL1), E20C(vOX2-N), E23B/E24B(vOX2-8) and E26A.

A) EEHV3A(Nyah) is 204,633-bp in size and has gained two new genes including E20C(vOX2-N) (= equivalent to E54(vOX2-1) in EEHV1), as well as E26A but lost one gene E6B compared to the Asian elephant viruses EEHV4A(NAP32) and EEHV4B(Baylor). Its closest relatives within the GC-rich branch of the Probosciviruses.

B) EEHV3 strains fall into two major chimeric subtype clusters similar to those previously described as EEHV1A/B, EEHV4A/B and EEHV3A/B. These differ greatly (by between 15 to 45%) in several linked but non-adjacent chimeric domains (CD-I, CD-II, CD-III and CD-V) totalling 15 to 20-kb in size, but by just 2 to 3% everywhere else. In EEHV3A strains only, parts of the CDS including vECTL, gB, gO, TK, vGPCR1, gI and UDG can instead have several other alternative highly diverged but unlinked subtype clusters (designated 3C, 3D, 3E and 3F).

C) EEHV3A(Nyah, NAP97) has typical distinctive features of a prototype EEHV3A strain at 15 out of 16 PCR loci tested, and EEHV3A(Hansa) displays almost exactly the same EEHV3A patterns at 13/16 loci, but is a different novel subtype (3E) across the three loci (gO, TK and vGPCR1) within the CD-II region.

D) EEHV3B(MB3, NAP66) has typical distinctive features of a prototype EEHV3B strain at 15 out of 16 PCR loci tested (total >10,000-bp analyzed), and EEHV3B(Samson) displays almost exactly the same EEHV3B patterns at 14 out of 16 loci tested, with just the two most left-hand side loci (including vGCTN1) having an EEHV3A-like pattern instead.
Phylogenetic Tree for *Loxodonta africana* and *Loxodonta cyclotis* (3x Gabon = *)

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**Novel CD-V Locus**

E16D = vECTL (C-type Lectin)

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**Divergence of EEHV3A/3B/3C/3D/4 E16D (vECTL) Proteins**

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**Highest Protein Level Subtype Differences Among EEHV3 Strains:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locus</th>
<th>Gene Name</th>
<th>Amino Acid Differences (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD-V</td>
<td>E16DvECTL</td>
<td>B vs A, C vs A, D vs A, E vs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-D</td>
<td>E17</td>
<td>B vs A, C vs A, D vs A, E vs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-I HS</td>
<td>U47/TK</td>
<td>B vs A, C vs A, D vs A, E vs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-I Center</td>
<td>U46/TK</td>
<td>B vs A, C vs A, D vs A, E vs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-II RHS</td>
<td>U51/TK</td>
<td>B vs A, C vs A, D vs A, E vs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-III LHS</td>
<td>U81/DDG</td>
<td>B vs A, C vs A, D vs A, E vs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-IV LHS</td>
<td>U82/PGC</td>
<td>B vs A, C vs A, D vs A, E vs A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2/19/2020

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