Encephalitis is an acute inflammation of the brain that can be caused by an arbovirus. In Wisconsin, several types of mosquitoborne arboviruses can cause encephalitis, with two main California serogroup viruses: La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) and Jamestown Canyon (JC). These serogroups are part of the viral family Bunyaviridae. LAC is most likely to be the cause of an encephalitis-related case, compared to other serogroups.

The Facts

- Arboviral encephalitis is swelling of the brain caused by severe symptoms from California serogroup viruses such as La Crosse and Jamestown Canyon viruses.
- A total of 51 California serogroup cases occurred in Wisconsin during 2008-2014.
- LAC: It was first case was identified in a Minnesota resident that was treated and died in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Subsequently, it was first identified in Wisconsin residents in 1963 in children from La Crosse, Wisconsin. A total of 68 cases with an average of 10 cases per year occurred from 2002 to 2008.
- JC: 19 confirmed cases from 2011-2014.

Clinical Signs

The incubation period is 5-15 days. Some people may have no apparent symptoms. Symptoms may include:

**Acute Symptoms**
- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Tiredness

**Severe Symptoms:**
- Encephalitis
- Seizures
- Coma
- Paralysis
- Meningoencephalitis

Treatment

- There is no commercial test for viral detection of LAC or JC virus, but they can be tested at the CDC.
- No vaccine is available.
- Hospitalization: Supportive treatment should be provided.