

# Dengue

**Shobha Rani Hiremath**

Principal & H.O.D. (Department of Pharmacy Practice), Al-Ameen College of Pharmacy, Bangalore, Karnataka, INDIA.

Bangalore city is in the grip of a dengue fever. So, must be the case in other cities too. On an average, the number of affected people ranges between 80 and 100 a month in some hospitals. Everyday there are at least 10 dengue cases in the out-patient departments of some hospitals. It is reported that in Government hospitals, 75% of the beds are occupied by patients suffering from dengue. A big cause for concern is that children and the elderly are vulnerable to dengue and are the most affected. The immune system in children is not fully developed and the elderly are usually suffering with multiple diseases. The chances of their cases getting complicated are most probable.

Platelet count of many patients are being dipped to as low as 6,000 (normal is between 1.4 lakh to 4.5 lakh). It is alarming and very saddening to see children as young as 3yrs to 9 yrs dying in hospitals due to Dengue. It's obvious that parents especially of the lower mid-

dle classes are not aware of the seriousness of Dengue.

Low platelet count also affects the gall bladder and the liver. Patient should be saved through platelet transfusion which can be very expensive for a common man.

We pharmacists should identify areas that are at high risk and try to conduct camps and bring about awareness to people especially in the slums through our Pharm.D. students.

We must prepare and distribute pamphlets explain in detail about Dengue and what steps should be taken when a person gets high fever, visual communication in the form of hoardings / videos would be more effective.

I think it's the need of the hour for us Pharmacists to join hands with the health care set up and save people. Pharmacist intervened education will improve patient's knowledge, attitude and practice on dengue fever and this in turn can lead to better adoption of measurements for prevention of dengue fever.

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**Address for correspondence:**  
*Dr. Shobha Rani Hiremath,*  
 Principal & H.O.D. (Department of Pharmacy Practice), Al-Ameen College of Pharmacy, Bangalore, Karnataka, INDIA.  
 E-mail: shobha24@yahoo.com

