

West Nile virus claims first victim in Kosovo

19 September 2012

A woman had died of the mosquito-borne West Nile virus in Kosovo as two more patients were suspected of being infected with the disease, a health official said on Wednesday.

The two suspected cases were being treated in hospital, said Naser Ramadani, head of Kosovo's Public Health Institute.

Earlier this month, three people died in the first ever outbreak of the [West Nile virus](#) in neighbouring Serbia, in which 35 contracted the disease.

First discovered in Uganda in 1937, the virus is carried by birds and spread to humans by mosquitoes.

It can cause symptoms similar to flu, but in extreme cases can result in fever, coma and a lethal swelling of the [brain tissue](#), known as encephalitis. It can also cause meningitis.

There is no known cure for the disease but 80 percent of those infected will not develop any symptoms at all.

(c) 2012 AFP

APA citation: West Nile virus claims first victim in Kosovo (2012, September 19) retrieved 12 October 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-09-west-nile-virus-victim-kosovo.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.