Public Enemy #1989

**Virus Name:** Guanarito Virus  
**Code Name:** GV

**Family:** Arenaviridae

**Genomic Information:** single stranded, *ambisense* RNA but behaves like negative RNA virus. Two segments.

**Appearance/guises:** Helical, envelope present, *pleomorphic* in shape.

**Power:** GV is the causative agent for Venezuelen Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF). It is endemic to the Portuguesa and Barinas states of Venezuela. VHF shows some cyclic behavior with a relatively low infection rate between epidemics (every 4-5 years).

**Offenses:**

**Attack:** GV is a zoonosis contracted by humans through contact with the excreta of Zygodontomys brevicauda. Infection may happen through direct contact with damaged skin, ingestion, or inhalation of the virus particles. Human-to-human transmission is rare.

**Outcome:** Persons attacked by GV acquire VHF, characterized by fever, headache, soar throat, weakness, mylagia, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. In serious cases, it causes hemorrhagic manifestations and convulsions with a mortality rate near 30%.

**Speed:** The incubation period of GV ranges from 6 to 14 days. After infection there is acute onset of signs and symptoms which may persist in nonfatal cases for 10-14 days.

**Defenses**

**Vaccines:** None

**Behavioral:** Stay away from contact with rodent-infested areas. Extermination of the natural hosts may be used to shrink the animal reservoir. Strict sanitary measures should be used when dealing with persons infected with GV.

**Treatment:** GV is highly sensitive to Ribavirin *in vitro*, but studies have not yet provided good evidence for effectiveness in humans. Supportive therapy (management of bleeding and hydration) is important for patients with VHF.

**Game action:** Minus 50 ₤ for Guanarito Virus infection…and clean up that bloody mess!

**One-liner:** Guanarito: “you’ll know if I infect you ‘cause I don’t go incognito.”