

1 **Quantitative definition of neurobehavior, vision, hearing and brain volumes in macaques**
2 **congenitally exposed to Zika virus**

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39

40 **Abstract**

41 Congenital Zika virus (ZIKV) exposure results in a spectrum of disease ranging from severe
42 birth defects to delayed onset neurodevelopmental deficits. ZIKV-related neuropathogenesis,
43 predictors of birth defects, and neurodevelopmental deficits are not well defined in people. Here
44 we assess the methodological and statistical feasibility of a congenital ZIKV exposure macaque
45 model for identifying infant neurobehavior and brain abnormalities that may underlie
46 neurodevelopmental deficits. We inoculated five pregnant macaques with ZIKV and mock-
47 inoculated one macaque in the first trimester. Following birth, growth, ocular structure/function,
48 brain structure, hearing, histopathology, and neurobehavior were quantitatively assessed during
49 the first week of life. We identified the typical pregnancy outcomes of congenital ZIKV infection,
50 with fetal demise and placental abnormalities. We estimated sample sizes needed to define
51 differences between groups and demonstrated that future studies quantifying brain region
52 volumes, retinal structure, hearing, and visual pathway function require a sample size of 14
53 animals per group (14 ZIKV, 14 control) to detect statistically significant differences in at least
54 half of the infant exam parameters. Establishing the parameters for future studies of
55 neurodevelopmental outcomes following congenital ZIKV exposure in macaques is essential for
56 robust and rigorous experimental design.

57

58 **Introduction**

59 A spectrum of abnormalities result from in utero ZIKV exposure and includes birth defects,
60 termed congenital Zika syndrome, and neurodevelopmental deficits. Approximately 10% of
61 infants have defects apparent at birth, including ocular anomalies, brain anomalies, cranial
62 dysmorphologies, congenital contractures and hearing loss (1). Twenty-eight percent of ZIKV-
63 exposed children are asymptomatic at birth and present with neurodevelopmental deficits in
64 early childhood (1-4). These neurodevelopmental abnormalities include delays in gross motor,
65 fine motor, and problem-solving skills (3, 5, 6) along with diminished mobility, communication,
66 and social cognition (4, 5). There are currently no tools to distinguish the infants that will
67 develop neurodevelopmental deficiencies from those who will remain asymptomatic, as the
68 long-term outcomes in children who were born during the 2015-2016 ZIKV epidemic remain to
69 be fully defined (3, 4, 6-8).

70

71 Translational models of ZIKV infection during pregnancy and subsequent infant
72 neurodevelopment are necessary to define the neuropathogenesis and early neural predictors
73 of deficits. Different fetal exposure times during gestation, ZIKV strains, and genetic and
74 socioeconomic backgrounds all confound our ability to understand the neuropathogenesis of in
75 utero ZIKV infection in human studies. Furthermore, in human studies, we are unable to
76 correlate histopathology with functional outcomes. Therefore, translational animal models must
77 be used to define neuropathogenesis and predictors of deficits, with the end goal of identifying
78 targets for intervention and therapy (9-11).

79

80 Currently, there is no established nonhuman primate model for defining the neuropathogenesis
81 of the most common phenotype of congenital ZIKV infection: children who develop
82 neurodevelopmental deficits but lack the birth defects found in congenital Zika syndrome (12).

83 Early macaque studies have provided insight into in utero ZIKV infection and defined fetal
84 neuropathology of gestational ZIKV infection (11, 13, 14), placental pathology (13), fetal tissue
85 viral distribution (14-17), and birth defects in neonates (18). None of these studies have defined
86 long-term neurodevelopmental deficits or outlined a clear study design for how to evaluate long-
87 term neurodevelopment in congenital ZIKV-exposed infant macaques. Such a study design
88 needs to be well planned, with proven quantitative neurodevelopmental outcomes and sufficient
89 sample sizes.

90

91 Before long-term studies defining the pathogenesis of neurodevelopmental deficits in ZIKV-
92 exposed macaques are undertaken, we must determine whether tests defining
93 neurodevelopmental outcomes, such as quantitative structural brain imaging, ocular
94 examinations and hearing tests, are feasible in infant macaques. This feasibility examination
95 includes translating appropriate human quantitative clinical exams to an infant macaque
96 population and determining what sample sizes are required for statistically defining differences
97 between control and ZIKV-exposed infants. These short-term macaque feasibility studies would
98 be analogous to what is required in human clinical trial work (19, 20).

99

100 This study aims to demonstrate the feasibility of quantitatively defining developmental outcomes
101 and viral tissue tropism in a macaque model of congenital ZIKV exposure by concentrating
102 infant exams and tissue viral RNA (vRNA) analyses in the first week of life. We performed the
103 same qualitative clinical exams that human infants receive to assess for birth defects (21). We
104 developed a panel of quantitative infant exams to define subtle abnormalities in structural brain
105 volumes, visual pathway structure and function, hearing and neurobehavior. We defined the
106 number of infants needed detect significant differences in these quantitative infant exam
107 parameters in post-hoc power analyses. Tissue viral loads and histopathology were also
108 assessed in the infant macaques. Our results demonstrate that ZIKV vRNA is not identified in all

109 ZIKV-exposed infants and it is feasible to quantitatively define infant neurodevelopment with
110 moderately sized studies.

111 **Materials and Methods**

112 *Study Design*

113 Indian-origin rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) were inoculated with ZIKV or phosphate
114 buffered saline (PBS) during the first trimester (term is 165±10 days) (Table 1). All dams were
115 part of the Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) colony at the Wisconsin National Primate Research
116 Center (WNPRC) and were free of *Macacine alphaherpesvirus 1* (Herpes B), simian retrovirus
117 type D (SRV), simian T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (STLV), and simian immunodeficiency virus
118 (SIV).

119

120 **Table 1. Characteristics of the dams inoculated with ZIKV or PBS.**

	Dam identification numbers					PBS* inoculation
	ZIKV inoculation					
	664184	484880	795784	918724	730267	020101
Maternal age at conception (years)	4	11	16	14	13	8
Number of prior pregnancies	0	5	4	7	6	3
Gestational age at ZIKV inoculation (days)	46	43	41	50	44	47

121 *Phosphate buffered saline (PBS).

122

123 *Ethics Statement*

124 All monkeys are cared for by the staff at the WNPRC in accordance with the regulations and
125 guidelines outlined in the Animal Welfare Act and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory
126 Animals, the recommendations of the Weatherall report ([https://royalsociety.org/topics-](https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2006/weatherall-report)
127 [policy/publications/2006/weatherall-report](https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2006/weatherall-report)), and the principles described in the National

128 Research Council's Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The University of
129 Wisconsin - Madison Institutional Biosafety Committee approved this work under protocol
130 number B00000117. See study approval section below for animal protocol details.

131

132 *Care & Use of Macaques*

133 All animals were housed in enclosures with required floor space and fed using a nutritional plan
134 based on recommendations published by the National Research Council. Dams were fed a fixed
135 formula, extruded dry diet with adequate carbohydrate, energy, fat, fiber, mineral, protein, and
136 vitamin content. Macaque dry diets were supplemented with fruits, vegetables, and other edible
137 objects (e.g., nuts, cereals, seed mixtures, yogurt, peanut butter, popcorn, marshmallows, etc.)
138 to provide variety to the diet and to inspire species-specific behaviors such as foraging. Infants
139 were fed 5% dextrose for the first 24 hours of life and liquid formula subsequently. To further
140 promote psychological well-being, animals were provided with food enrichment, structural
141 enrichment, and/or manipulanda. Environmental enrichment objects were selected to minimize
142 chances of pathogen transmission from one animal to another and from animals to care staff.
143 While on study, all animals were evaluated by trained animal care staff at least twice each day
144 for signs of pain, distress, and illness by observing appetite, stool quality, activity level, and
145 physical condition. Animals exhibiting abnormal presentation for any of these clinical parameters
146 were provided appropriate care by certified veterinarians. Prior to all minor/brief experimental
147 procedures, macaques were sedated using ketamine anesthesia and monitored regularly until
148 fully recovered from sedation.

149

150 For breeding, the female macaques were co-housed with a compatible male and observed daily
151 for menses and breeding. Pregnancy was detected by ultrasound examination of the uterus at
152 approximately 20-24 gestation days (gd) following the predicted day of ovulation. The gd was
153 estimated (+/- 2 days) based on the dam's menstrual cycle, observation of copulation, and the

154 greatest length of the fetus at initial ultrasound examination which was compared to normative
155 growth data in this species (22). For physical examinations, virus inoculations, some ultrasound
156 examinations, and blood and swab collections, the dam was anesthetized with an intramuscular
157 dose of ketamine (10 mg/kg). Blood samples from the femoral or saphenous vein were obtained
158 using a vacutainer system or needle and syringe. Pregnant macaques were monitored daily
159 prior to and after viral inoculation for any clinical signs of infection (e.g., diarrhea, inappetence,
160 inactivity, fever and atypical behaviors).

161

162 *Inoculation and monitoring*

163 Macaques were inoculated subcutaneously with 1×10^4 PFU Zika virus/*H.sapiens-*
164 *tc/PUR/2015/PRVABC59_v3c2* (PRVABC59, GenBank: KU501215). This virus was originally
165 isolated from a traveler to Puerto Rico and passaged three times on Vero cells (American Type
166 Culture Collection (ATCC): CCL-81). The seed stock was obtained from Brandy Russell (CDC,
167 Ft. Collins, CO). Virus stocks were prepared by inoculation onto a confluent monolayer of C6/36
168 cells (*Aedes albopictus* mosquito larval cells; ATCC: CCL-1660) with two rounds of
169 amplification. The animals were anesthetized as described above, and 1 mL of inoculum at $1 \times$
170 10^4 PFU dilution in PBS was administered subcutaneously over the cranial dorsum. Post-
171 inoculation, the animals were closely monitored by veterinary and animal care staff for adverse
172 reactions or any signs of disease.

173

174 *Pregnancy monitoring and fetal measurements*

175 Weekly ultrasounds were conducted to observe the health of the fetus and to obtain
176 measurements including fetal femur length (FL), biparietal diameter (BPD), head circumference
177 (HC), abdominal circumference (AC) and heart rate as previously described (16). Growth curves
178 were developed for FL, BPD, and HC using mean measurements and standard deviations from

179 Tarantal et al. (22) and the ultrasound measurements were plotted against this normative data.

180 Doppler ultrasounds to measure fetal heart rate were performed biweekly.

181

182 *vRNA isolation from body fluids and tissues and qRT-PCR*

183 RNA was extracted from 300 μ l of plasma using the Viral Total Nucleic Acid Purification kit
184 (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) on a Maxwell 16 MDx instrument. qRT-PCR was performed as
185 previously described (23). The limit of quantification for the assay is 100 copies/mL for qRT-
186 PCR from plasma. Fetal and maternal-fetal interface tissues were preserved with RNAlater®
187 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) immediately following collection. RNA was isolated from maternal
188 and fetal tissues using the Trizol Plus RNA Purification kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) following
189 the manufacturer's instructions or a similar method described by Hansen et al. (24). In the latter
190 method, RNA was recovered from up to 200 mg of tissue disrupted in TRIzol (Life Technologies,
191 Waltham, MA) with 2 x 5 mm stainless steel beads using the TissueLyser (Qiagen, Hilden,
192 Germany) for 3 minutes at 25 r/s twice. Following homogenization, samples in TRIzol were
193 separated using Bromo-chloro-propane (Sigma). The aqueous phase was collected and
194 glycogen was added as a carrier. The samples were precipitated in isopropanol and washed
195 in 70% ethanol. RNA was fully re-suspended in 5 mM tris pH 8.0.

196

197 *Plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT)*

198 Macaque serum samples were screened for ZIKV neutralizing antibodies using a plaque
199 reduction neutralization test (PRNT). Endpoint titrations of reactive sera, using a 90% cutoff
200 (PRNT90), were performed as described (25) against ZIKV strain PRVABC59. Briefly, ZIKV was
201 mixed with serial 2-fold dilutions of serum for 1 hour at 37°C prior to being added to Vero cells
202 and neutralization curves were generated using GraphPad Prism software (La Jolla, CA). The
203 resulting data were analyzed by nonlinear regression to estimate the dilution of serum required
204 to inhibit 90% of infection.

205

206 *Whole virion ZIKV-specific binding antibody ELISA*

207 High-binding 96-well ELISA plates (Greiner; Monroe, NC) were coated with 40 ng/well of 4G2
208 monoclonal antibody, which was produced in a mouse hybridoma cell line (D1-4G2-4-15, ATCC;
209 Manassas, VA), diluted to 0.8 ng/uL in 0.1M carbonate buffer (pH 9.6) and incubated overnight
210 at 4°C. Plates were blocked with 1X Tris-buffered saline containing 0.05% Tween-20 and 5%
211 normal goat serum (cat.# G6767, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) or 1 hour at 37°C, followed by
212 incubation with 1.15×10^5 focus-forming units (ffu)/well Zika virus (PRVABC59, BEI; Manassas,
213 VA) for 1 hour at 37°C. Serum samples were tested at a dilution of 1:12.5-204,800 in serial 4-
214 fold dilutions and incubated for 1 hour at 37°C, along with a ZIKV-specific monoclonal antibody,
215 H24 (10 ug/mL), isolated from a ZIKV-infected rhesus macaque. Horseradish peroxidase
216 (HRP)-conjugated mouse anti-monkey IgG secondary antibody (Southern BioTech;
217 Birmingham, AL) was used at a 1:4,000 dilution and incubated at 37°C for 1 hour, followed by
218 the addition of SureBlue Reserve TMB Substrate (KPL; Gaithersburg, MD). Reactions were
219 terminated by Stop Solution (KPL; Gaithersburg, MD) after a 7-minute incubation per plate in
220 the dark. Optical density (OD) was detected at 450 nm on a Victor X Multilabel plate reader
221 (PerkinElmer; Waltham, MA). Binding was considered detectable if the sample OD value at the
222 lowest dilution was greater than that of the background OD, defined as the OD value of the
223 negative control at the lowest dilution plus 2 standard deviations (SD). For samples considered
224 positive, their OD values for the serial dilution were entered into Prism v8 (GraphPad Software;
225 San Diego, CA) to determine the 50% effective dilution (ED_{50}). Briefly, the ED_{50} was calculated
226 by transforming the fold dilution into \log_{10} . The transformed data was then analyzed using a
227 sigmoidal dose-response nonlinear regression model. Any sample considered negative was
228 assigned an ED_{50} of 12.5, the lowest dilution tested, because ED_{50} cannot be accurately
229 calculated below the lowest dilution tested. The \log_{10} 50% effective dilutions (ED_{50}) were

230 calculated for IgG binding responses against the whole virion and compared between 0, 7, 14
231 and 28 dpi time points.

232

233 *ZIKV IgM enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)*

234 Infant macaque serum samples were screened for anti-ZIKV IgM antibodies using commercial
235 human anti-ZIKV IgM ELISA assays targeting ZIKV nonstructural protein 1 (NS1) antigen. We
236 utilized a sandwich ELISA (cat# ab213327, Abcam, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA) and an
237 indirect ELISA (cat# e126689601M, Euroimmun, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, USA), following
238 manufacturer instructions. Controls included manufacturer-provided human serum samples and
239 rhesus macaque serum collected at 0 and 14 days post-infection with PRVABC59 from an adult
240 rhesus macaque (animal ID 244667). Infant serum samples were run in triplicate. All samples
241 and controls were read on a Synergy HTX plate reader at 450 nm. Sample values were reported
242 in "Abcam units" (Abcam) or "ratio" (Euroimmun), which are the ratio of sample serum
243 absorbance to the absorbance of a manufacturer-provided solution containing the upper limit of
244 the reference range of non-infected biological sample ("cutoff" (Abcam) or "calibrator"
245 (Euroimmun)). This method of reporting results is recommended by the manufacturers to control
246 for inter-assay variability.

247

248 *Cesarean delivery and maternal necropsy*

249 All infants were delivered by cesarean section at approximately 155 gestational days (gd),
250 except for the single fetal demise at 133 gd. Infants were delivered approximately 10 days
251 before the typical gestational age of a natural birth at the WNPRC (166 gd) to ensure that the
252 placenta could be collected for evaluation. Amniotic fluid was collected just prior to infant
253 delivery via aspiration with a syringe and needle inserted through the chorioamniotic
254 membranes. Sterile instruments were used for the dissection and collection of all maternal and
255 maternal-fetal interface tissues during the gross post-mortem examination. Each tissue was

256 collected with a unique set of sterile instruments and placed in a separate sterile petri dish
257 before transfer to RNAlater for ZIKV qRT-PCR or fixed for histology to prevent cross-
258 contamination.

259

260 *Infant care*

261 After delivery, infants were dried, stimulated and received respiratory support as necessary, and
262 placed in a warmed incubator. All liveborn infants were transferred to the nursery where they
263 remained until euthanasia and necropsy on day of life 7-8. Infants were reared in the nursery to
264 enable continuous access to the infants for testing and to prevent confounding of maternal
265 rearing differences on neurobehavior. During this period, multiple examinations were completed
266 as described in Figure 1. Infant weights from day of life (DOL) 0 to DOL 8 were recorded daily
267 by the nursery staff. The volumes of 5% dextrose and liquid formula consumed by each infant
268 were recorded.

269

270 **Figure 1. Infant examination schedule.** Infants were evaluated by the Schneider Neonatal
271 Assessment for Primates (SNAP), ophthalmic exam (OP), optical coherence tomography
272 (OCT), auditory brainstem response (ABR), visual electrophysiology (EP) and brain MRI prior to
273 euthanasia and necropsy (NX). Urine (*) and blood (#) were collected at the indicated times.
274 Symbols are under the collection line for an individual animal.

275

276 *Neurobehavioral assessments*

277 We evaluated neonatal macaque neurobehavior with a well-validated assessment developed for
278 rhesus macaques less than 1 month of age, termed the Schneider Neonatal Assessment for
279 Primates (SNAP) (26-30), which is based on the Brazelton Newborn Behavioral Assessment
280 Scale (NBAS) (31). The Schneider Neonatal Assessment for Primates (SNAP) (29), a 20 minute
281 battery of developmental tests, was administered at 1, 3-5, and 6-7 DOL, with the day of birth

282 considered DOL 0 (summarized in S1 table). This assessment captures detailed developmental
283 behaviors in macaques less than 1 month of age. The SNAP assesses neonatal neurobehavior
284 using 68 individually scored test items in four constructs (i.e. domains): motor maturity and
285 activity, orientation, sensory, and state control (S2 table). Testing occurred midway between
286 feedings at approximately the same time each day. Ratings were based on a five-point Likert
287 scale ranging from 0 to 2, with a higher value representing higher performance. An average
288 score was calculated for each of the four constructs. Examiners were trained in standardized
289 administration and scoring procedures by the SNAP developer, M. Schneider, requiring a
290 check-out protocol prior to administration. Two examiners (M. Schneider and K. Ausderau)
291 performed the neurobehavioral testing and scoring to ensure test administration reliability
292 (>95%).

293

294 *Ophthalmic exam*

295 Infants were anesthetized as described in S3 table for eye exams performed by a human
296 ophthalmologist with retinal fellowship training (M. Nork). Pupillary reactivity was assessed, and
297 intraocular pressures were obtained prior to eye dilation with ophthalmic drops (0.05%
298 proparacaine, tropicamide, phenylephrine). Slit-lamp biomicroscopy and indirect
299 ophthalmoscopy were performed after pupillary dilation.

300

301 *Optical coherence tomography*

302 Spectral-domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT) uses non-invasive light waves to
303 evaluate the anterior segment of the eye (i.e. the ocular structures anterior to the vitreous) and
304 the retina. Scans of the retina and anterior segment were carried out in both eyes of most
305 infants using a Heidelberg™ Spectralis HRA + OCT (Heidelberg™ Engineering, Heidelberg,
306 Germany) instrument. Segmentation and determination of corneal and retinal layer thickness
307 was performed using combined manual and automatic segmentation algorithms from both

308 Heidelberg and EXCELSIOR (32). EXCELSIOR Preclinical's functionalities for retinal
309 segmentation (EdgeSelect™) and automated image analysis were used to calculate mean
310 thicknesses for retinal layers.

311

312 *Visual electrophysiology*

313 To objectively evaluate visual function in ZIKV-exposed neonatal rhesus macaques, a clinically
314 trained visual electrophysiologist (J. Ver Hoeve) performed standard visual electrodiagnostic
315 procedures including a full-field electroretinogram (ERG) and the cortical-derived visual evoked
316 potential (VEP) (33). The light-adapted (LA) full-field flash ERG, recorded on a rod-saturating
317 background, measures the electrical activity generated predominantly by cone photoreceptor
318 and bipolar cells, which are found in high density in the primate macula and are primarily
319 responsible for light-adapted, high acuity and color vision. The ERG is used clinically to assess
320 generalized retinal function under light-adapted (focused on cone photoreceptors) and dark-
321 adapted (focused on rod photoreceptors) conditions (33) and has been used to characterize
322 maculopathy in acute ZIKV infection (34). The VEP reflects the function of the entire visual
323 pathway from the retina via the optic nerve to the visual cortex of the brain (33). We performed
324 standard LA ERGs to measure how the cone photoreceptors function.

325

326 Photopic full-field ERGs to a series of flash strengths and photopic flash visual-evoked
327 potentials were recorded in that order. Measurements were recorded using a BigShot™
328 electrodiagnostic system (LKC Technologies™, Gaithersburg, MD). When isoflurane was used
329 during an earlier procedure in the same sedation event, a washout period was allowed before
330 visual electrophysiology studies to minimize isoflurane suppression of cortical activity (35).
331 Corneas were anesthetized with topical 0.5% proparacaine prior to application of ERG-149 jet™
332 (Universo™, Switzerland) contact lens electrodes and a conductive wetting solution. Reference
333 electrodes were subdermal stainless-steel needle electrodes inserted near the ipsilateral outer

334 canthus of each eye. Visual evoked potentials were recorded from two active subdermal
335 electrodes situated approximately 1 cm superior to the occipital ridge and 1 cm lateral to the
336 midline; VEP reference electrodes were situated adjacent to one another along the midline at
337 the vertex. Replicates (2-4) of 80 flashes each were performed on each macaque. ERG and
338 VEP waveforms were processed off-line and machine scored using software written in Matlab™
339 (Nattick, MA). Photopic flash VEPs were quantified as the root-mean-square of the response
340 from 50-150 msec post flash. Supplemental Figure 1 illustrates the waveform characteristics
341 quantified with the ERGs and VEPs.

342

343 *Auditory brainstem response testing*

344 Hearing, or auditory brainstem function, was assessed with auditory brainstem response
345 audiometry, which measures brainstem evoked potentials generated by a brief click.
346 Examinations were performed by a human audiologist with pediatric training (A. Hartman).
347 Auditory brainstem response (ABR) thresholds were obtained for auditory (click) stimuli, as
348 described in (36), using the Biologic Navigator Pro system. Ambient noise level was minimized.
349 For the ABR, needle electrodes were placed at the brow ridge (positive input) and behind the
350 right pinna (negative input) for channel 1 and from the brow ridge (positive input) and behind the
351 left pinna (negative input) for channel 2. An electrode was placed below the brow ridge on the
352 forehead for the ground. Electrode impedances were below 10 kohm for all electrodes.
353 Physiological filters were set to pass 100–3000 Hz. The stimuli were clicks with rarefaction and
354 condensation alternating polarity and a Blackman window with 2-ms rise-fall and 1 ms plateau
355 times. Insert earphones (Etymotic ER-3A) were used to obtain the click thresholds. Signal levels
356 were presented at 70, 50, and 30 dB nHL and wave IV was observed at each presentation level.

357

358 *Brain MRI*

359 *Data acquisition*

360 Neuroimaging data were collected using a 3T MRI scanner (GE750, GE Healthcare, Waukesha,
361 WI) with a Tx/Rx 8-channel volume coil. Data were acquired in a single session with the
362 parameters: repetition time (TR) = 9272 ms, echo time (TE) = 4064 ms, $\theta = 12^\circ$, field of view
363 (FOV) = 100 × 100 mm, slice thickness = 0.8 mm. Animals were scanned in the supine position
364 in the same orientation, achieved by placement and immobilization of the head in a custom-
365 made head holder via ear bars. Scans were collected under anesthesia described in S3 table.
366 End-tidal CO₂, inhaled CO₂, O₂ saturation, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure and body
367 temperature were monitored continuously and maintained during each MRI session.

368

369 Data processing

370 For structural MRI data processing and analysis, we used the AutoSeg_3.3.2 pipeline,
371 developed at the Neuro Image Research and Analysis Laboratories (NIRAL) of the University of
372 North Carolina at Chapel Hill and publicly available on the NITRC website, at
373 <http://www.nitrc.org/projects/autoseg>. This software pipeline employs BatchMake pipeline
374 scripts that call tools within the AutoSeg toolset, based on the Insight Tool Kit (ITK). T1w
375 DICOMs were initially imported in 3D Slicer (<http://www.slicer.org>) and saved to NRRD format,
376 and orientation and obliquity of each dataset checked and corrected to LPI (neurological)
377 orientation using the ANTS software (37). Image processing in AutoSeg proceeded using the
378 step as described in supplemental figure 2. The first step was to perform an intensity
379 inhomogeneity correction using the N4 algorithm (38). The second step was to perform rigid-
380 body registration of the subject MRI to the 2-week old UNC-Emory infant rhesus macaque atlas
381 (39) using the 3D BRAINSFit (40) tool within 3D Slicer. The third step was tissue segmentation
382 and skull stripping separating the brain tissues [gray matter (GM), white matter (WM) and
383 cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)] from non-brain image. AutoSeg uses the Atlas Based Classification
384 (ABC) tool (41-43) to perform tissue segmentation as well as skull-stripping integrated into a
385 single method. The fourth step was registration of the atlas to the subject's brain to generate

386 cortical parcellations (affine followed by deformable ANTS registration) (37) to register each
387 skull-stripped atlas image to the skull-stripped subject image using a cross-correlation similarity
388 metric and a symmetric diffeomorphic deformation model that preserves anatomical topology
389 even with large deformation (Figure S2B and S2C). Previous studies have shown that the cross-
390 correlation metric offers enhanced reliability and accuracy as the image registration metric
391 within ANTS (44). This analysis outputs volumes of brain WM and GM, CSF, and cortical
392 (temporal, prefrontal, frontal, parietal, occipital lobes, and cerebellum) and subcortical
393 (hippocampus, amygdala, caudate, and putamen) regions, which has been previously described
394 (39, 44).

395

396 *Infant or fetus necropsy*

397 Infants were sedated and euthanized on DOL 7 or 8. Fetus 416597 was stillborn prematurely
398 and was submitted to necropsy immediately after delivery. Sterile instruments were used for the
399 dissection and collection of all tissues during gross post-mortem examinations. Each tissue was
400 collected with a unique set of sterile instruments and placed in a separate sterile petri dish
401 before transfer to RNAlater for ZIKV qRT-PCR or 4% paraformaldehyde for histology. Ten slices
402 of the fetal/infant cerebrum (~5 mm in thickness) were prepared in the coronal plane with
403 section 1 located most anteriorly and section 10 located most posteriorly, and three slices of the
404 cerebellum were prepared in the sagittal plane with section 1 located most medially and section
405 3 most laterally; alternate sections were taken for qRT-PCR to analyze vRNA and for histology.

406

407 *Histology*

408 Tissues were fixed in 4% PFA other than cerebrum, cerebellum and one eye for histology which
409 were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin. Tissues were sectioned (~5 mm), routinely
410 processed and embedded in paraffin. Paraffin sections (5 μ m and 8 μ m for the brain) were
411 stained with HE or Gram stain using standard methods. The pathologists were blinded to vRNA

412 findings when evaluating and describing tissue sections and assigning morphologic diagnoses.
413 Photomicrographs were obtained using brightfield microscopes Olympus BX43 and Olympus
414 BX46 (Olympus Inc., Center Valley, PA) with attached Olympus DP72 digital camera (Olympus
415 Inc.) and Spot Flex 152 64 Mp camera (Spot Imaging, Sterling Heights, MI), and captured using
416 commercially available image-analysis software (cellSens DimensionR, Olympus Inc. and Spot
417 5.3 Software). The ear diagram used to describe where ear sections were obtained from is a
418 composite of multiple histologic sections of infant 020501 with the addition of an external pinna
419 based on gross images.

420

421 *In situ hybridization*

422 In situ hybridization (ISH) was conducted either in brain tissues post-fixed in neutral buffered
423 formalin or in non-brain tissues post-fixed in 4% PFA for 24 hours, alcohol processed and
424 paraffin embedded. ISH probes against ZIKV genome were purchased commercially (Advanced
425 Cell Diagnostics, Cat No. 468361, Newark, California, USA). ISH was performed using the
426 RNAscope® Red 2.5 Kit (Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Cat No. 322350) according to the
427 manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, after deparaffinization with xylene, a series of ethanol
428 washes, and peroxidase blocking, sections were heated in antigen retrieval buffer and then
429 digested by proteinase. Sections were exposed to ISH target probe and incubated at 40°C in a
430 hybridization oven for 2 h. After rinsing, ISH signal was amplified using company-provided Pre-
431 amplifier followed by the Amplifier containing labelled probe binding sites and developed with a
432 Fast Red chromogenic substrate for 10 min at room temperature. Sections were then stained
433 with hematoxylin, air-dried, and mounted. Positive control probes for endogenous rhesus
434 macaque mRNA (Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Cat No. 457711, Newark, California, USA) and
435 negative control probes for bacterial mRNA (Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Cat No. 310043,
436 Newark, California, USA) were used as process controls to verify ISH labelling procedure was

437 successful. Mouse brain tissue served as a positive control for ZIKV ISH in brain tissues and
438 mouse spleen served as a positive control for ZIKV ISH in non-brain tissues.

439

440 *Statistics*

441 Standardized differences, i.e., effect size d 's (45), were calculated for quantifying the differences
442 between ZIKV-exposed and control neonates in specific quantitative infant exam parameters.
443 Effect sizes d of 0.2 were considered as small, 0.5 as moderate and >0.8 as large (45). Due to
444 the small sample sizes of the current study, detecting statistically significant differences in the
445 quantitative infant exam parameters was not anticipated. However, the current study provided
446 data to evaluate the distribution of effect sizes for comparing differences ZIKV-exposed and
447 control neonates in quantitative infant exam parameters. We conducted in depth post-hoc power
448 and sample size calculations to define the sample sizes required to discern differences between
449 ZIKV-exposed and control neonates in quantitative infant exam parameters which might be
450 useful for the planning of future studies. These specific quantitative infant parameters included:
451 scores for each time point and construct in the neonatal neurobehavior assay (SNAP), each
452 ocular layer thickness (OCT), each wave characteristic in the visual electrophysiology assays
453 (ERG and VEP), infant weight gain trajectory, infant cumulative feeding volume, and each brain
454 region volume (structural MRI). Sample size estimates were performed to detect observed effect
455 sizes with 80% power at the two-sided 0.05 significance level and were based on a two-sample
456 t-test with equal variances and assuming either 1:1 or 2:1 sample size allocations between the
457 ZIKV-exposed and control groups. Both sample size allocations were selected (1:1 and 2:1)
458 because some study designs have more ZIKV-exposed infants than control infants. The post-
459 hoc power analysis was conducted using SAS (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, version 9.4) (S1
460 Appendix) and histograms were generated using R statistical language (R Development Core
461 Team 2019), version 3.6.3.

462

463 *Data availability*

464 Primary data that support the findings of this study are available at the Zika Open-Research
465 Portal (<https://go.wisc.edu/0n9g6o>). Zika virus/H.sapiens-tc/PUR/2015/PRVABC59-v3c2
466 sequence data have been deposited in the Sequence Read Archive (SRA) with accession code
467 SRX2975259. All other data supporting the findings of this study are available within the article
468 and its supplementary information files.

469

470 *Study approval*

471 The University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Letters and Science and Vice Chancellor for
472 Research and Graduate Education Centers Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
473 approved the nonhuman primate research covered under protocol number G005401-R01.

474 **Results**

475 *ZIKV inoculation during pregnancy*

476 Five dams were inoculated with ZIKV and one dam was inoculated with PBS in the first
477 trimester (41-50 gestational days (gd)), as described in Table 1 above. No dams had fever,
478 rash, or inappetence following inoculation. One dam had a stillbirth at gestational day 133 and
479 the fetus was found partially delivered. The remaining infants were delivered by cesarean
480 delivery at 154-155 gd (term = 166.5 gd) (45) (Figure 2) to ensure collection of maternal-fetal
481 interface (MFI) tissues. Maternal plasma viremia peaked 3-5 days post inoculation, and 4 of 5
482 animals had extended plasma viremia for at least 28 days (S3A figure). The dams also
483 developed the expected immune response to the virus: ZIKV-specific neutralizing and binding
484 antibodies were detected at 28 dpi and persisted until the last time point measured at necropsy
485 (S3B and C figure, S4 figure).

486

487 **Figure 2. Pregnancy experimental design, maternal plasma vRNA loads and maternal**
488 **antibody responses.** Pregnant macaques were inoculated with ZIKV-PR (all colors) or PBS
489 (grey color) in the first trimester. One female had a stillbirth at 133 gestational days (gd).
490 Maternal blood was obtained at the times indicated for each animal (vertical lines on each
491 animal's timeline) and ultrasound analyses of the fetus and placenta were performed weekly
492 (black vertical lines).

493

494 Pregnancy course and fetal ultrasonography

495 None of the fetuses had microcephaly (defined as less than 2 SD below the mean) in the
496 ultrasound immediately prior to delivery, even though there was variability in head
497 circumference compared with the normative mean throughout gestation (Figure 3). The fetuses
498 also did not have a femur length or abdominal circumference that was greater than 2 SD below
499 the mean just prior to delivery (S5A and B figure). The single fetal demise (664184) was
500 identified by an absent fetal heart rate, and this was preceded by decreasing fetal heart rate
501 (bradycardia) from gd85 until stillbirth at gd133 when the fetus (416597) was found partially
502 delivered (S5C figure). The remaining four fetuses had no life-threatening events in utero.

503

504 **Figure 3. Fetal head growth during pregnancy.** Fetal ultrasonography depicting head
505 circumference (A) and biparietal diameter (B) during gestation. The growth curve standard
506 deviation (SD) was calculated from normative fetal rhesus macaque measurements (22).

507 Maternal-fetal interface vRNA tissue distribution and histopathology

508 Histologic evaluation of maternal-fetal interface (MFI) tissues revealed minimal to moderate
509 inflammation in the ZIKV-infected pregnancies (Figure 4 and S4 table), whereas the control
510 pregnancy had none. The ZIKV-inoculated and control dams revealed some degree of maternal

511 vascular malperfusion, a common finding in the macaque placenta (46, 47). One dam, 664184,
512 had a large uterine diverticulum (outpouching of the uterine wall) with severe segmental uterine
513 infarction, necrosuppurative inflammation, and ischemic necrosis, confounding interpretation of
514 the stillbirth.

515

516 **Figure 4. Placental bed and placental villous pathology.** (A-F) Uterine placental bed
517 histology reveals minimal to severe lymphoplasmacytic myometritis or neutrophilic to
518 lymphoplasmacytic endometritis (caret symbol) in 4 of 5 ZIKV-exposed dams (A, B, C, E) but
519 not in one of the ZIKV-exposed dams (D) or control decidua (F). (G-L) Within the placenta, 3 of
520 the 5 ZIKV-exposed pregnancies have villitis (arrow heads) (H, I, J) but not in 2 of the ZIKV-
521 exposed dams (G, K) or a control placental villi (L). Colors of macaques in each image
522 represent individual animals as depicted at the top of the figure. Scale bar is 100 μ m.

523

524 Two of the five ZIKV-exposed animals had detectable RNA (by qRT-PCR or ISH) in the
525 maternal-fetal interface tissues at the time of delivery (Figure 5). The decidua of ZIKV-exposed
526 dam 795784 had ZIKV RNA of 56 copies/mg detected by qRT-PCR. ZIKV-exposed dam 644184
527 had ZIKV RNA detected by ISH in the decidua and amniotic/chorionic membrane. However,
528 ZIKV RNA was not detected in the uterine placental bed, uterus, vagina, placental discs,
529 umbilical cord or amniotic fluid.

530

531 **Figure 5. Viral loads and ISH in the maternal-fetal interface.** (A) Viral loads were assessed
532 in female reproductive and fetal extraembryonic tissues by qRT-PCR at delivery and sections of
533 some of these tissues were assessed by ISH. (B) Positive ZIKV ISH in the decidua of dam
534 664184. (C) Positive ISH staining in the amniotic/chorionic membrane of fetus 416597. ND = not
535 detected (below the limit of detection), NT = not tested, NC = not collected, NA = not applicable.

536 Infant clinical courses

537 Four of the five ZIKV-exposed and control infants required noninvasive respiratory support
538 during resuscitation efforts after delivery (S5 table); it is unclear whether the need for respiratory
539 support at this premature gestational age is unusual because there is not a large cohort of
540 infants delivered before gd165 by cesarean section at WNPRC available for comparison. One
541 infant had significant respiratory disease (499874), requiring noninvasive respiratory support for
542 almost a day after delivery, and then again following sedated exams. No clinical etiology of for
543 the respiratory symptoms were identified as the chest x-ray was unremarkable. Following
544 placement in the nursery, all infants underwent a rigorous schedule of qualitative and
545 quantitative assessments as described in Figure 1.

546 Infant viral loads and antibody responses

547 We did not identify a ZIKV-specific IgM response in the ZIKV-exposed infants (S6A and B
548 figure). Plasma, urine and CSF viral loads were also negative in the ZIKV-exposed infants (S6C
549 figure). Neutralizing antibody concentrations in infants are comprised of vertically transmitted
550 maternal IgG antibodies and some fetal-derived IgG (48). The neutralizing antibody
551 concentration in the infants was lower than the maternal neutralizing antibody concentration in
552 all the ZIKV-exposed infants (S6D figure, with infant neutralizing antibody dilution curves in S7
553 figure).

554 Infant growth and feeding volume sample size estimation

555 Infant weight gain and formula consumption were monitored closely to evaluate for secondary
556 effects of dysphagia, or difficulty swallowing, which affects some children with congenital Zika
557 syndrome (49). We demonstrate that all the infants gained weight and had increasing
558 cumulative feeding volumes during their first week of life (Figure 6A & 6B). In order to determine
559 whether our study was powered to detect differences in weight gain and feeding volume

560 trajectories between groups, we conducted post-hoc power and sample size calculations based
561 on observed effect sizes. Large effects sizes were observed for both weight gain trajectory
562 ($d=1.23$) and cumulative feeding volumes ($d=0.9$). We demonstrate that the sample size
563 required to define differences between the weight gain trajectories in ZIKV-exposed and control
564 infants is 12 infants per group (Figure 6C). A larger group of infants ($n=21$ per group) is required
565 to define significant differences between cumulative feeding volumes (Figure 6C).

566

567 **Figure 6. Infant weight gain, cumulative feeding volumes, and sample size estimates.**

568 Cumulative feeding volumes (A) and weights (B) were measured during their first week of life.
569 Observed effect sizes and sample size requirements (C) for detecting observed effect sizes for
570 weight gain and feeding volume trajectory with 80% power at the two-sided 0.05 significance
571 level, assuming a sample size allocation of 1:1 and 1:2 ZIKV to control animals.

572 Infant neurobehavioral development

573 The ZIKV-exposed infants had similar trending scores as the control infant in multiple domains
574 of neonatal neurobehavior, including orientation, motor maturity and activity, sensory and state
575 control (Figure 7). The only domain in which the ZIKV-exposed infants had a lower trending
576 score than the control infant was in one of the time points of the orientation construct (Figure
577 7A), which assesses both visual and auditory orientation skills. We did not statistically define
578 differences between ZIKV-exposed and control groups because of our small sample size and
579 because published normative data for neonatal neurobehavior do not match our infant
580 population closely enough to be useful as a comparator due to the early delivery in our sample
581 (29, 30). To determine what sample size will be necessary in future studies to statistically define
582 differences between ZIKV-exposed and control groups, we calculated effect sizes and
583 performed sample size assessments for each construct and time point, resulting in 12 effect and
584 sample size calculations (S6 table). We developed a histogram showing the distribution of the

585 effect sizes (Figure 7E). The histogram demonstrates that 25% of the effect sizes are >1.5
586 (Figure 7E), which corresponds to a sample size of 8 infants or less per group required to
587 statistically define differences between ZIKV-exposed and control infants (S6 table). The
588 constructs with the most difference between groups, i.e. effect size > 1.5, included time points in
589 the motor maturity and activity construct, and the orientation construct (S6 table). This means
590 that sample sizes of at least 8 animals per group are needed to statistically define differences in
591 25% of neonatal neurobehavioral parameters.

592

593 **Figure 7. Neurobehavioral assessment.** The (A) Orientation construct, (B) Motor Maturity and
594 Activity construct, (C) Sensory construct and (D) State Control construct were assessed on
595 three separate days (Trials 1-3) during the infants' 8 days of life before necropsy, as described
596 in S2 table. Test items are scored from 0-2, with 0 representing no response or performance
597 and 2 representing a higher performance of the measured behaviors. (E) A histogram illustrates
598 the distribution of effect sizes for all four constructs at each of the three time points.

599 Infant vision evaluation

600 Two of the ZIKV-exposed infants had minor ocular defects similar to defects observed in human
601 infants with congenital ZIKV infection, a corneal defect and retinal pigmented epithelium mottling
602 (S7 table). No other ocular birth defects associated with congenital Zika syndrome were
603 identified (50), including no optic nerve hypoplasia, choroidal lesions, lens abnormalities or
604 vitreous opacities. We next quantified the thickness of each ocular layer in the anterior and
605 posterior segments of the eye by ocular coherence tomography (Figure 8A) because subtle
606 ocular defects that impact vision may not be apparent on ophthalmic exam. Full thickness ocular
607 layers (choroid, cornea and retina) did not display much variability between ZIKV-exposed and
608 control animals (Figure 8B). In contrast, there is more variation in the thickness of individual
609 retinal layers between animals (Figure 8C). We did not define differences between groups

610 because of our small sample size, and instead estimated effect and sample sizes needed to
611 define differences for future studies. An effect size of >1.5 corresponds to a sample size of 8
612 infants or less per group required to statistically define differences between ZIKV-exposed and
613 control infants (S8 table). Of the 10 ocular layer thicknesses we measured in the anterior and
614 posterior segment, 4 of the 10 layers had an effect size of >1.5 as shown in a histogram in
615 Figure 8D. The layers with the largest effect sizes are the ganglion cell layer (GCL), inner
616 plexiform layer (IPL), outer nuclear layer (ONL) and photoreceptor outer segment layer (S8
617 table). This means that sample sizes of at least 8 animals per group are needed to statistically
618 define differences in 4 of the 10 ocular layer parameters. When considering all 10 ocular layer
619 thicknesses together, the total number of animals needed to define differences in 50% of the
620 parameters is 13 animals per group, with an observed effect size of 1.16.

621

622 **Figure 8. Ocular and retinal layer thicknesses measured by optical coherence**

623 **tomography.** (A) Retinal layer segmentation was performed using EXCELSIOR Preclinical, and
624 layers are marked as an example from infant 424847. (B) Thicknesses of the retina, central
625 cornea and choroid were measured in the ZIKV-exposed and control infants with the designated
626 color scheme. Values from the left and right eyes are demonstrated with a circle and a square,
627 respectively. (C) Retinal layer thicknesses were measured using the segmentation
628 demonstrated in part A for ZIKV exposed and control infants. Both the right and left eyes were
629 measured in all animals except for animal 499874 whose left eye was not able to be measured
630 due to anesthesia limitations. (D) A histogram illustrates the distribution of effect sizes for all
631 ocular layer thicknesses.

632

633 Visual function may be altered in structurally normal eyes, so we assessed retinal function using
634 electroretinography and visual evoked potentials to assess the cortical visual pathway (Figure
635 1). The ZIKV-exposed and control infants demonstrated no apparent trends of the retinal

636 function or cortical visual function in electroretinography (Figure 9A) or visual evoked potential
637 (Figure 9B) studies, respectively. As with the other quantitative neonatal assessments, we
638 defined effect and sample sizes needed to statistically define differences in future studies. An
639 effect size of >1.5 corresponds to sample size estimates of 8 animals needed per group to
640 statistically define differences between ZIKV-exposed and control infants with 80% power at the
641 two-sided 0.05 significance level (S9 table). Two of the 18 visual pathway parameters assessed
642 had effect sizes of >1.5 (Figure 9C). The visual pathway parameters with an effect size >1.5 are
643 the A wave amplitude and latency. When considering all 18 electroretinography and visual
644 evoked potential parameters together, the total number of animals needed to define differences
645 in 50% of the parameters is 22 animals per group, with an observed effect size of 0.87.

646

647 **Figure 9. Visual function measured by electroretinography and visual evoked potentials.**

648 (A) Light-adapted ERGs were performed for each infant and the amplitude and latency of the A
649 and B waves were recorded. Right and left eye values were graphed separately with a square
650 or circle, respectively. (B) Visual evoked potentials (VEP) were performed on an uncovered right
651 or left eye, and the amplitude, latency and root-mean-square (RMS) of the N2 and P2 waves
652 were recorded. (D) A histogram illustrates the distribution of effect sizes for each ERG, VEP,
653 and RMS value.

654 Infant hearing evaluation

655 We assessed hearing quantitatively with auditory brainstem response testing (Figure 1)
656 because hearing loss is one of the findings in congenital Zika syndrome (51). One ZIKV-
657 exposed and one control infant demonstrate a similar trend of auditory brainstem evoked
658 potential generated by click stimuli, as demonstrated by the wave IV latency (Figure 10A).
659 These one week old infants display wave IV latencies similar to other neonatal macaques (52),
660 suggesting that they had normal hearing. Only two infants underwent auditory brainstem

661 response testing because of equipment availability and group differences were not statistically
662 defined. Instead, we defined the number of animals that will be needed in future studies to
663 statistically define differences between ZIKV-exposed and control groups in each of the 6
664 parameters (3 click intensities on the left and right sides). All of the hearing parameters had an
665 effect size of 1.41, given the small number of infants, which corresponds to a sample size
666 estimate of 9 animals needed per group to statistically define differences between ZIKV-
667 exposed and control infants with the observed effect sizes.

668

669 **Figure 10. Hearing measured by auditory brainstem response testing.** (A) Auditory
670 brainstem response testing Wave IV thresholds to click stimuli. (B) Effect sizes and sample size
671 requirements for detecting the observed effect sizes with 80% power at the two-sided 0.05
672 significance level, assuming a sample size allocation of 1:1 and 1:2 ZIKV to control animals.

673

674 Infant brain imaging

675 We found no severe brain abnormalities consistent with congenital Zika syndrome (53) in our
676 ZIKV-exposed or control infants, including subcortical calcifications, ventriculomegaly, cortical
677 thinning, gyral pattern anomalies, cerebellar hypoplasia or corpus callosum anomalies on
678 qualitative neuroradiological interpretation. Next, we evaluated for subtle changes that would not
679 be apparent on qualitative neuroradiological interpretation by defining structural brain region
680 volumes of the cortical and subcortical regions (Figure 2B & 2C). A total of 40 brain region
681 volumes were quantified, including the total volume of regions (cortical, subcortical, CSF)
682 relative to total brain volume (TBV) or intracranial volume (ICV) to take into account the infant's
683 brain and head size, respectively (S10 table). The single control infant had the largest total
684 brain, CSF and lateral ventricle volume of all the infants (Figure 11A), even though it was the
685 youngest infant at the time of the MRI (020501 was 159 corrected gestational days, whereas the

686 ZIKV-exposed infants were 161-163 corrected gestational days old) (S1 table). The control
687 infant also had the largest relative total white matter volume as corrected for total brain volume,
688 and the smallest grey matter volume (Figure 11B). Volumetric brain analyses at this young
689 neonatal age are challenging because the grey to white matter contrast is limited, and future
690 studies could improve the imaging results by acquiring and averaging multiple runs of T1w and
691 T2w images. The biological significance of these volume differences cannot be determined in
692 this pilot study; longer term studies are being pursued to evaluate these findings.

693

694 To define how many infants will be required in future studies to detect differences between
695 ZIKV-exposed and control groups, we calculated effect sizes and conducted post-hoc sample
696 size calculations. Ten of 40 brain region volumes quantified (total volumes and TBV corrected)
697 had effect sizes of >1.5 (Figure 11C), which corresponds to a sample size of 8 infants per group
698 required to sufficiently define differences between ZIKV-exposed and control infants (S10 table).
699 The brain regions with the largest effect sizes included the total brain volume and relative white
700 matter, gray matter, right temporal auditory region and right temporal visual region corrected by
701 total brain volume (S10 table). The intracranial volume correction shows similar results as the
702 total brain volume correction, with 10 of 40 brain regions demonstrating effect sizes of >1.0 (S10
703 table). In summary, this feasibility study demonstrates that sample sizes of at least 8 infants per
704 group are sufficient to define differences in 25% of the brain region volumes.

705

706 **Figure 11. Volumetric brain analysis and effect sizes.**

707 (A) Structural MRI measurements in cubic millimeters for total brain volume (TBV), lateral
708 ventricles and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). (B) Grey matter and white matter specific areas
709 corrected for TBV in all infants. (C) A histogram illustrates the distribution of effect for entire
710 brain regions and regions corrected by TBV (tissue type, cortical regions, subcortical regions).

711 Infant tissue vRNA distribution and histopathology

712 No ZIKV vRNA was identified by qRT-PCR in over 45 tissues and body fluids examined per
713 infant/fetus at necropsy (S11 table), including multiple brain sections. Brain sections were also
714 examined by in situ hybridization (ISH) for ZIKV RNA, and there was no positive staining in any
715 of the fetus/infant brain sections evaluated (S8 figure). We also searched for ZIKV RNA by ISH
716 of the infant/fetus lung tissue, as this tissue had high viral loads in our previous studies (15), and
717 in the cochlea, because of the clinical findings of sensorineural hearing loss in human
718 congenital ZIKV infection, however no fetal/infant lung or cochlea section had positive ZIKV ISH.
719 The control and ZIKV-exposed infants had similar morphometric measurements at necropsy
720 (S12 table).

721

722 Histopathology demonstrated two key findings in the ZIKV-exposed infants but not control
723 infant: neutrophilic otitis media (i.e. middle ear inflammation) in 3 of 5 ZIKV-exposed
724 fetuses/infants (Figure 12) and bronchopneumonia in 2 of 5 ZIKV-exposed infants (Figure 13),
725 summarized in S13 table. The infant who had respiratory distress after birth and with each
726 sedation event (499874) had an unremarkable chest x-ray, but bronchopneumonia was
727 identified histologically. The other infant with histological bronchopneumonia (226691) had no
728 respiratory symptoms. Together, this means that 4 of the 5 ZIKV-exposed infants either had
729 neutrophilic otitis media or bronchopneumonia, and only one of these infants displayed signs of
730 illness. There were no lesions identified by hematoxylin and eosin (HE) staining in the eye,
731 brainstem or CNS tissues of any of the ZIKV-exposed infants or in the control infant;
732 additionally, no remaining tissues had lesions that affected more than one fetus/infant (all tissue
733 histopathology described in Table S14). HE stained brains had no significant histologic lesions;
734 quantitative analyses are in progress.

735

736 **Figure 12. Fetus/Infant tissue histopathology of the ear.** Neutrophilic otitis media (40x inset)
737 is present in 3 of 5 ZIKV-exposed fetus/infants (A, C, D) and not in a control infant (F) or two
738 ZIKV-exposed infants (B, E). Arrowheads denote the location of the neutrophilic inflammation.
739 (G) Ear diagram depicting where tissue sections were obtained for the 2x and 40x
740 magnifications. Macaque colors represent animals as depicted at the top of the figure. Scale bar
741 is 100 μm .

742

743 **Figure 13. Fetus/Infant tissue histopathology of the lung.**

744 (A-F) Diffuse bronchopneumonia is present in 2 of 5 ZIKV-exposed infants (C, E) but not in a
745 control infant (F) or 3 of the ZIKV-exposed infants (A, B, D) (images with bronchopneumonia are
746 denoted with an asterisk). The lung in the stillborn macaque (A) is atelectatic (uninflated) due to
747 stillbirth. Macaque colors represent individual animals as depicted at the top of the figure. Scale
748 bar is 100 μm .

749

750 Quantitative infant exam sample size estimations

751 Comprehensively defining infant neurodevelopment and underlying abnormalities requires
752 understanding how many infants will be needed to define differences between ZIKV-exposed
753 and control groups. When all the quantitative infant exams are combined, a total of 76 individual
754 parameters were quantified (S15 table). A sample size of 8 animals per group is adequate for
755 defining statistically significant differences in 22% of all the quantitative infant exam parameters,
756 assuming similar observed effect sizes to our population. If the sample sizes increases to 14
757 animals per group, 51% of the exam parameters will have adequate sample sizes to define
758 statistically significant differences.

759

760 **Discussion**

761 Our results indicate that it is feasible to define infant development quantitatively with moderately
762 sized studies. These quantitative infant exam results generate testable hypotheses about visual
763 pathway abnormalities in congenitally ZIKV-exposed infants, which can be assessed in future
764 appropriately powered studies. We also demonstrate that ZIKV vRNA is not identified in all
765 ZIKV-exposed infants and identify a novel pathological finding in ZIKV-exposed infants:
766 neutrophilic acute otitis media and bronchopneumonia. This battery of quantitative infant
767 macaque-adapted exams complemented by histopathological analyses may be useful for
768 defining early predictors of abnormal development in congenital ZIKV infection and other
769 congenital infections, such as cytomegalovirus.

770

771 This model of congenital ZIKV exposure is similar to human clinical studies where maternal
772 infection is confirmed and no ZIKV vRNA or IgM is detected in the infants (21, 54-56). The lack
773 of ZIKV vRNA or IgM in infants may occur if fetuses clear the infection before delivery and/or
774 clear an early IgM response before delivery. Another reason may be a lower inoculation dose
775 and earlier inoculation compared with the only other macaque model that has isolated ZIKV
776 vRNA in liveborn macaque (18). We identified ZIKV vRNA in the maternal-fetal interface of 2 of
777 the 5 dams at delivery, a similar pattern to other macaque studies (15-17, 57, 58),
778 demonstrating vRNA persistence in some compartments for a long duration. The lack of vRNA
779 and IgM in infant body fluids occurs commonly in human infants exposed to ZIKV in utero (59-
780 61). This is why human clinical trials do not require evidence of ZIKV RNA in infant body fluids
781 or ZIKV-specific IgM to enroll infants into studies characterizing the long term outcomes of
782 children born to women with documented or suspected ZIKV infection during pregnancy. The
783 challenge in confirming infant infection following documented maternal infection, especially in

784 cases where ZIKV vRNA is present in the maternal-interface at the time of delivery, indicates
785 that better tools to diagnose infant exposure/infection need to be developed.
786
787 This is the first time that sample size estimates have been reported for quantitative
788 examinations in infant macaques, although there are limitations to our sample size estimates. A
789 limitation of our sample size calculations is that they are based on measurements from only five
790 infants (4 ZIKV-exposed and 1 control) and were performed only in the early neonatal period.
791 We concentrated our exams in this early period because we wanted to define ZIKV vRNA tissue
792 tropism in neonates before infection was cleared and wanted to associate viral tropism with the
793 development of birth defects. Given that we did not identify any ZIKV vRNA in the infants and
794 did not identify any severe birth defects, we felt it was a better use of precious resources to
795 assign future pregnant animals to studies of long-term neurodevelopment, rather than include
796 additional control animals in this short-term study. Studies of long-term neurodevelopment are
797 better suited for macaque studies because the incidence of congenital ZIKV-associated
798 developmental deficits is more common than congenital ZIKV syndrome-associated birth
799 defects (1-4). The variance seen in infant exam parameters in the neonatal period may not
800 represent the variance present later in infancy, so researchers should confirm their own effect
801 sizes from their own study animals when defining significant differences between ZIKV-exposed
802 and control animals. Even with our small sample size and the resulting sample size estimation
803 limitations, these estimations are useful as a starting point for study design and bring the
804 discussion of effect sizes in congenital infection macaque studies to the forefront.
805
806 The quantitative infant exam results generate testable hypotheses about specific visual pathway
807 abnormalities in congenitally ZIKV-exposed infants. We hypothesized that the visual pathway
808 may be affected in our ZIKV-exposed infants because it is affected in human infants with
809 congenital ZIKV infection (62). We wanted to see which parts of the visual pathway may have

810 abnormalities, so we looked for biological connections between quantitative infant exam
811 parameters with similar large effect sizes. Quantitative measurements may be functionally
812 related if they have a similar size of difference between groups, i.e. effect size. We identified
813 multiple parameters with large effect sizes (>1.5) functionally related to visual function. These
814 infant exam parameters include the photoreceptor outer segment layer thickness,
815 electroretinography A wave latency, temporal visual region volume and SNAP orientation at the
816 middle time point. These parameters are functionally related: photoreceptor layer thickness
817 corresponds to photoreceptor function, as measured by the A wave (63), and overall visual
818 function, as assessed by visual orientation tasks in the SNAP orientation construct (30). Visual
819 function is also impacted by the organization of the temporal visual region, which is involved in
820 object, face and scene perception (64) and alterations in this function may impact visual
821 orientation skills assessed in the SNAP orientation construct. Based on their similar effect sizes
822 and functional relatedness, we hypothesize that a thinner photoreceptor layer results in
823 decreased photoreceptor function, smaller visual temporal visual region, and decreased visual
824 orientation skills. Our hypothesis aligns with the finding that some human children with
825 congenital ZIKV exposure have a thinned photoreceptor (65). Abnormalities downstream of the
826 thinned photoreceptor layer remain to be defined in human children, so macaque studies should
827 fill this void by defining specific visual pathway abnormalities in appropriately powered studies.
828 Identification of specific structural abnormalities in young infants that are associated with visual
829 function deficits in childhood could provide a pathway for early diagnosis of neurodevelopmental
830 deficits.

831
832 We identified neutrophilic otitis media and bronchopneumonia in ZIKV exposed macaque
833 infants, which is the first time that these acute inflammatory findings have been identified in this
834 model. Congenital ZIKV infection has not been associated with neutrophilic otitis media before,
835 although it is associated with sensorineural hearing loss and rarely with conductive hearing loss

836 (66). It is unclear whether the otitis media may be within the range of normal findings on
837 histopathologic evaluation of neonatal macaques because the prevalence of otitis media in
838 infant rhesus macaques is unknown. We presume it is a rare finding in macaques because
839 otitis media is found in only 4% of human neonates less than 2 weeks old (67). We do not know
840 whether the infants with otitis media in our study had hearing loss because the infants with
841 histologic changes did not have ABR testing due to lack of equipment early in our study.
842 Pneumonia is a common cause of death in human infants with congenital ZIKV infection, likely
843 secondary to dysphagia and reflux (68). The etiology of this acute inflammation may be a
844 bacterial infection, but this cannot be confirmed in all animals because we only obtained
845 bacterial cultures on the lung tissue of the symptomatic infant who had respiratory distress. The
846 functional outcomes of these pathologies included the respiratory distress in one infant; the
847 remaining infant had no respiratory symptoms. Future long-term neurodevelopmental studies of
848 congenital ZIKV exposed macaque infants should include sequential hearing tests on all infants
849 and consider videofluoroscopic swallow studies to better understand the impact of micro
850 aspiration on pulmonary function.

851
852 In summary, we demonstrate that moderately size macaque studies are statistically sufficient to
853 define visual, hearing and brain abnormalities, complementing the qualitative clinical and
854 histopathological assessments commonly conducted in ours and other macaque models of
855 prenatal ZIKV exposure (18). Longitudinal studies of macaque development based on this
856 feasibility study will complement human studies by filling critical knowledge gaps: identification
857 of early neural predictors of neurodevelopmental deficits and pathogenesis of these deficits.
858 Early identification of neurodevelopmental deficits is critical to improving long-term functional
859 outcomes of affected children because early intervention is the only evidence-based
860 intervention that improves outcomes in children with neurodevelopmental deficits (69).

861

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864

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1059 **Supporting Information Captions**

1060 **S1 figure. Scoring of representative ERG and VEP waveforms.** These ERG and VEP

1061 waveforms were recorded simultaneously from control infant r18076. Red solid arrows:

1062 amplitude of labelled waveform features. ERG A- and VEP N2-wave amplitudes are measured

1063 relative to pre-flash voltage; ERG B-and VEP P2-wave amplitude measured from preceding A-

1064 and N2-waves, respectively (horizontal dotted line). Red dashed arrows: latency-to-peak, all

1065 measured from the onset of the flash stimulus (vertical dotted line). The neonatal rhesus

1066 photopic ERG contains a prominent short-latency wave (*) prior to the B-wave that decreases in

1067 prominence with age and was not quantified for this study.

1068 **S2 figure. Cortical and subcortical volumetric analysis work flow and parcellations.** (A)

1069 AutoSeg grey matter parcellation with axial (left), sagittal (middle) and coronal (right) views. (B)

1070 AutoSeg subcortical structure parcellation with axial (left), sagittal (middle) and coronal (right)

1071 views. Parcellations are overlaid on the subject T1w image, registered to the Emory-Cross 2

1072 week infant template.

1073 **S3 Figure. Maternal viremia and antibody response.** (A) Maternal plasma vRNA loads were

1074 measured by qRT-PCR. (B) Estimated EC90 values for serum neutralization of ZIKV assessed

1075 prior to infection, 7 dpi, 28 dpi and at maternal necropsy. (C) Estimated EC50 values for serum

1076 ZIKV IgG titers obtained prior to infection, 7 dpi, 28 dpi and at maternal necropsy. The dashed

1077 line indicates the limit of detection.

1078 **S4 figure. PRNT and whole virion ELISA dose response curves.**

1079 **S5 figure. Fetal abdominal circumference, femur length and heart rate measurements.**

1080 **S6 figure. Infant IgM titers, body fluid viral loads and PRNTs.** Sera from ZIKV-exposed

1081 infants were evaluated for the presence of ZIKV-specific IgM by two commercial assays: Abcam

1082 (A) and Euroimmun (B). The manufacturer provided positive and negative human IgM controls

1083 are shown in grey. Pre and post-ZIKV infection serum collected from an adult rhesus macaque

1084 (244667) was used as a species-specific positive and negative control (shown in black). The
1085 dashed line indicates the positive cutoff value for each assay. (C) Infant body fluids (plasma,
1086 urine, CSF) were assessed for the presence of ZIKV RNA by qRT-PCR at the days indicated
1087 and were negative. NA, not applicable (because no samples were available from the stillborn
1088 fetus). (D) PRNTs were performed on infant serum from day of life (DOL) 2-5 from liveborn
1089 infants and ED90 values were reported in comparison with maternal PRNT ED90 values from
1090 necropsy.

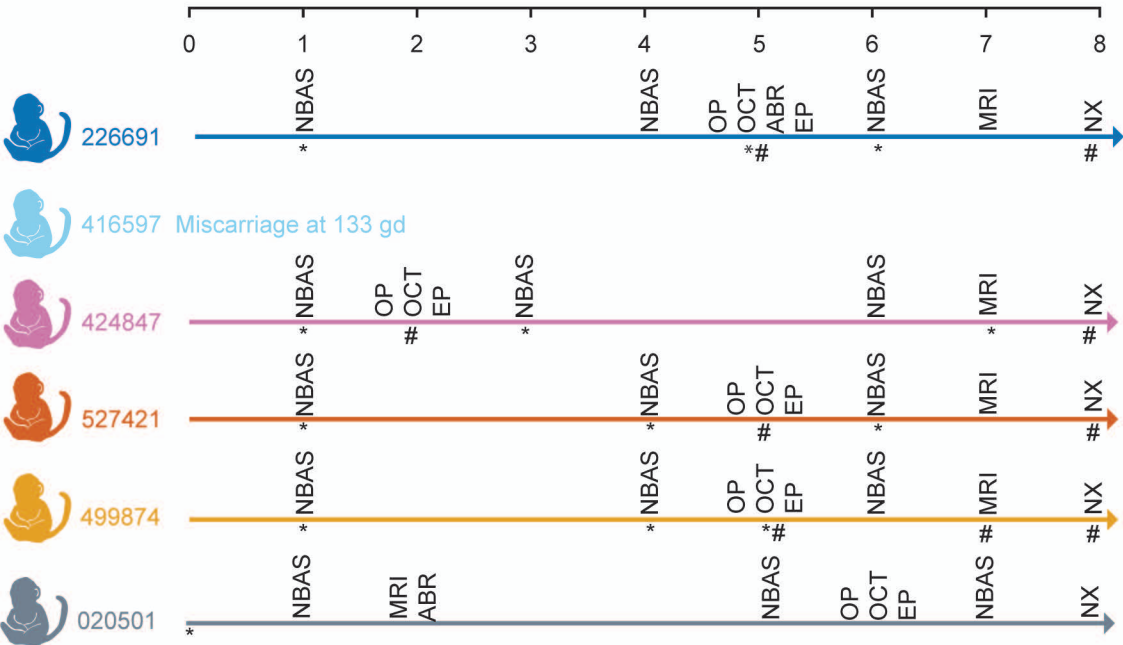
1091 **S7 figure. Infant PRNT dose response curves.** Infant serum was collected at the day of life
1092 (DOL) indicated.

1093 **S8 figure. Localization of ZIKV RNA by ISH in brain tissues from ZIKV-exposed infants.**

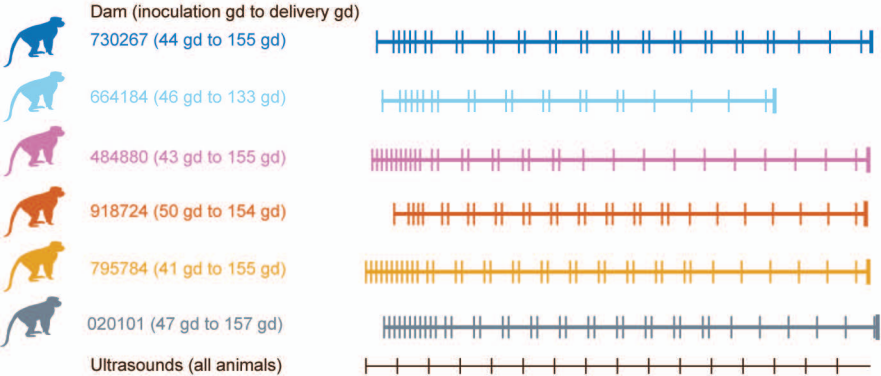
1094 (A) ZIKV genomic RNA (red dots) in a ZIKV-exposed murine lateral geniculate brain section
1095 (20x). ZIKV-exposed fetus/infant brain sections exposed to ZIKV RNA probe (10x) (B) 527421
1096 cerebral cortex (rostral to LGN), (C) 499874 cerebral cortex, (D) 226691 cerebral cortex, (E)
1097 424847 cerebrum containing the lateral geniculate nucleus, (F) 416597 cerebellar brain section.

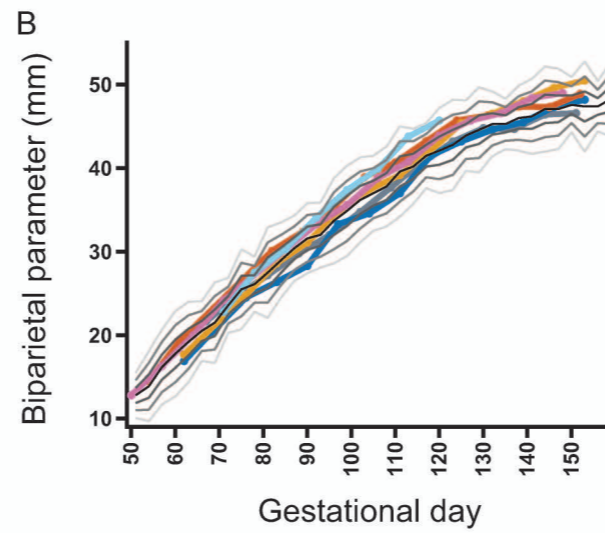
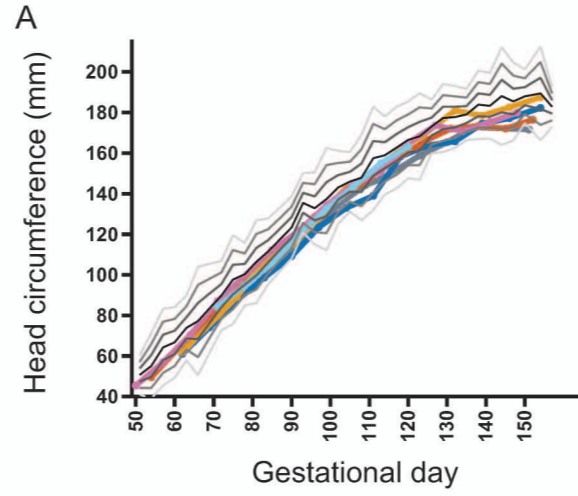
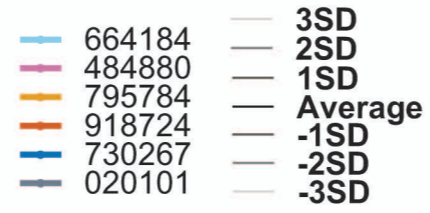
1098 **S1 appendix.** Effect size and post-hoc sample size calculations SAS code.

Infant age (days)



Gestational age (days)



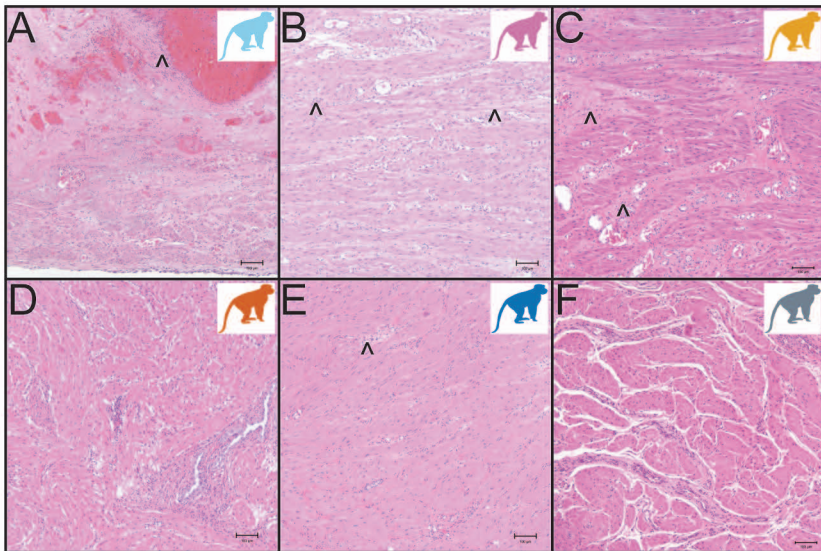


ZIKV-infected

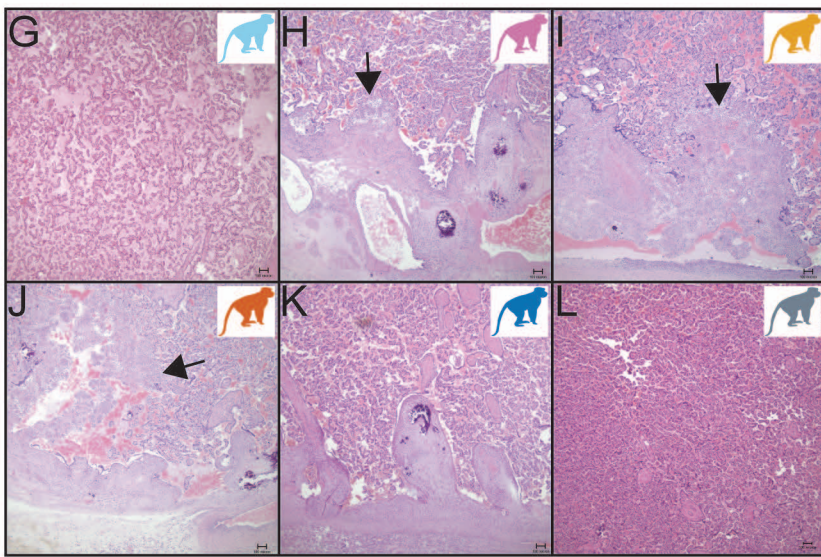
Control



Uterus placental bed



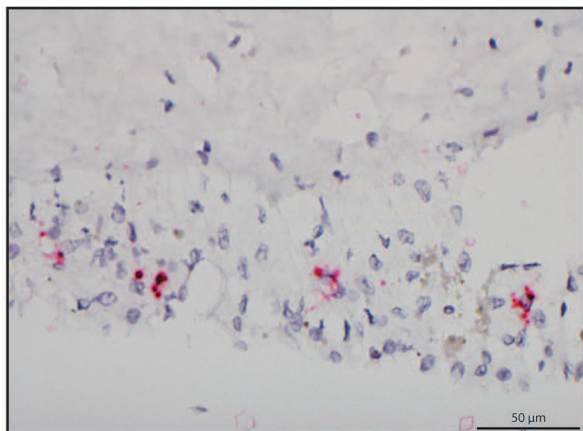
Placental villi



A

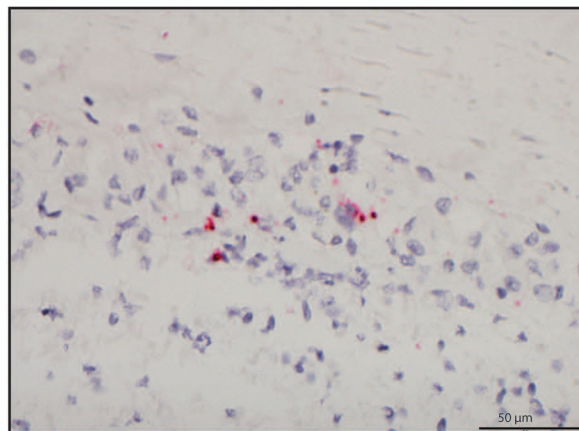
Tissue Source	Tissue Name	Animal ID (dam ID/fetus-infant ID)									
		664184/416597		484880/424847		795784/499874		918724/527421		730267/226691	
		qRT-PCR	ISH	qRT-PCR	ISH	qRT-PCR	ISH	qRT-PCR	ISH	qRT-PCR	ISH
Maternal tissues	Decidua	ND	positive	ND	negative	56 copies vRNA/mg	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative
	Placental bed	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT
	Uterus	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT
	Vagina	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT
Fetal extraembryonic tissues	Amniotic/chorionic membrane	ND	positive	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative
	Placental disc 1	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative
	Placental disc 2	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative	ND	negative
	Umbilical cord	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT	ND	NT
	Amniotic fluid	NC	NA	ND	NA	NC	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA

B



Decidua

C



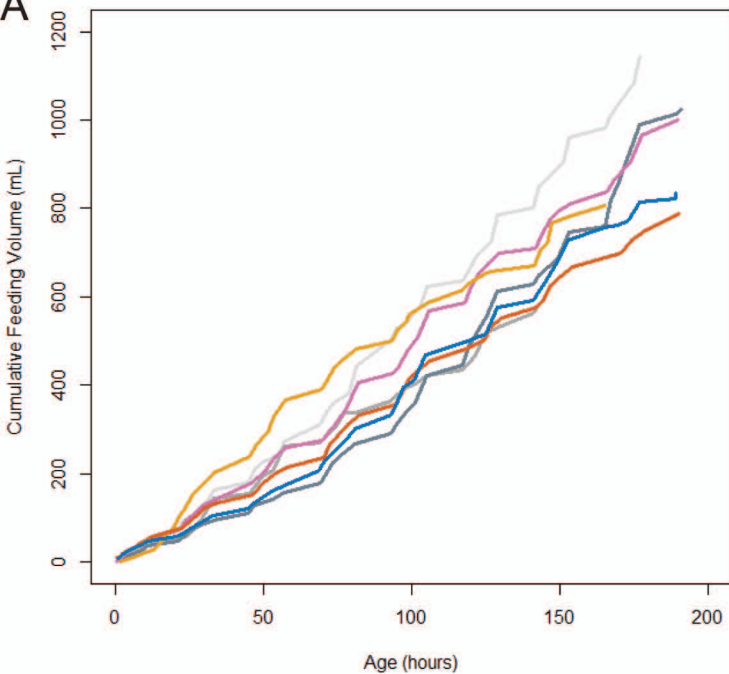
Amniotic/chorionic membrane

ZIKV-exposed

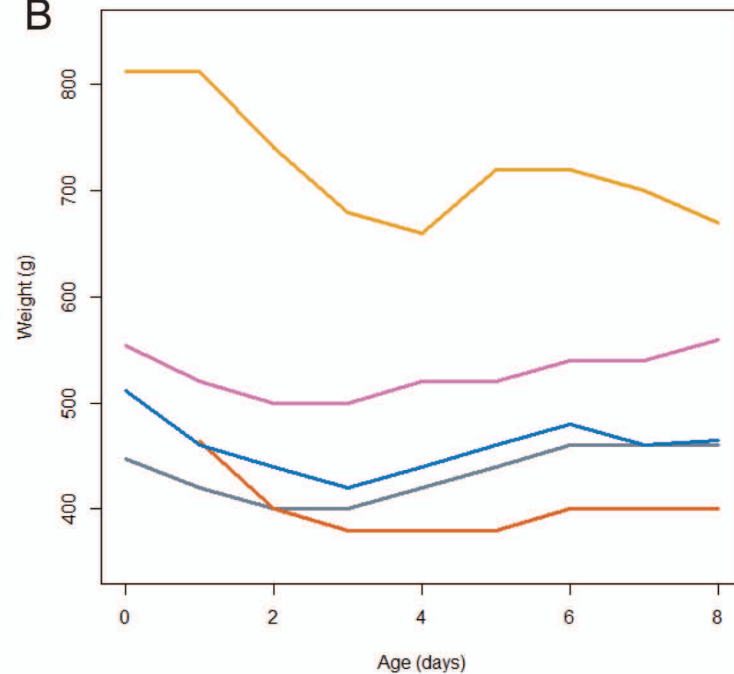
Control



A



B



C

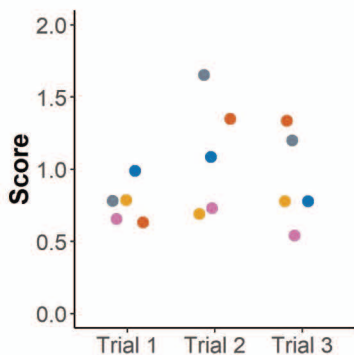
Outcome	Observed effect size	Sample Size Allocation 1:1			Sample Size Allocation 2:1		
		N: ZIKV	N: Ctr	Total N	N: ZIKV	N: Ctr	Total N
Weight Gain Trajectory	1.23	12	12	24	18	9	27
Feeding Volume Trajectory	0.9	21	21	42	31	16	47

ZIKV-exposed

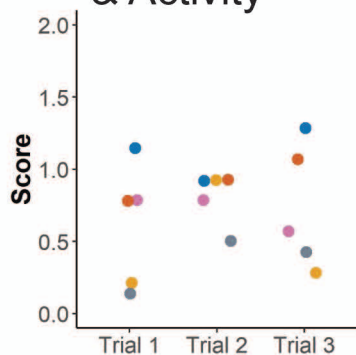
Control



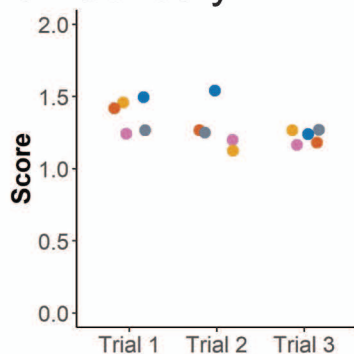
A Orientation



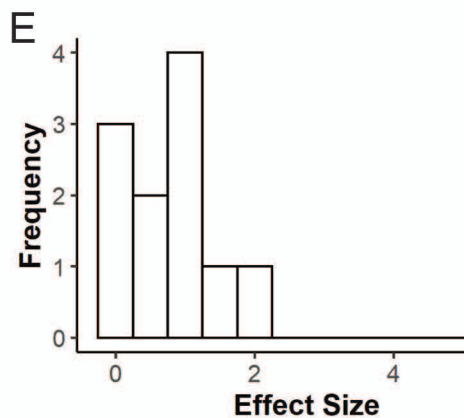
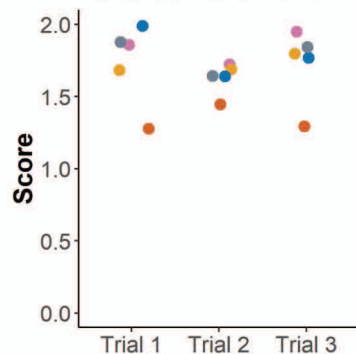
B Motor Maturity & Activity

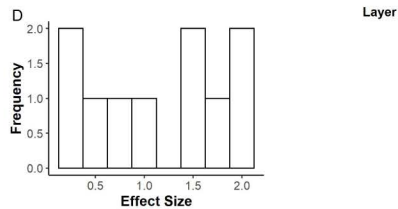
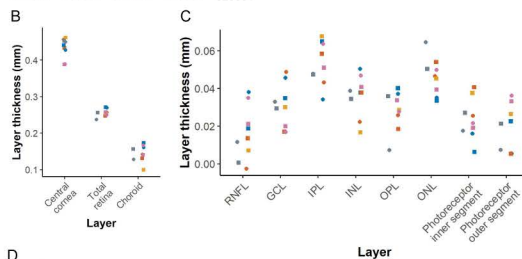
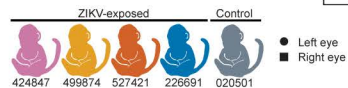
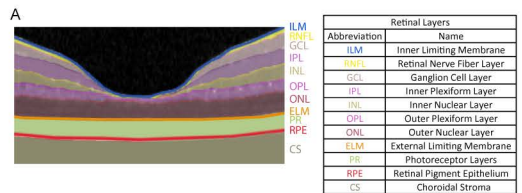


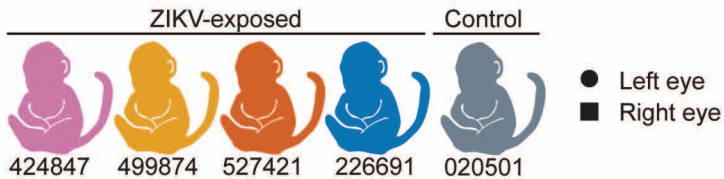
C Sensory



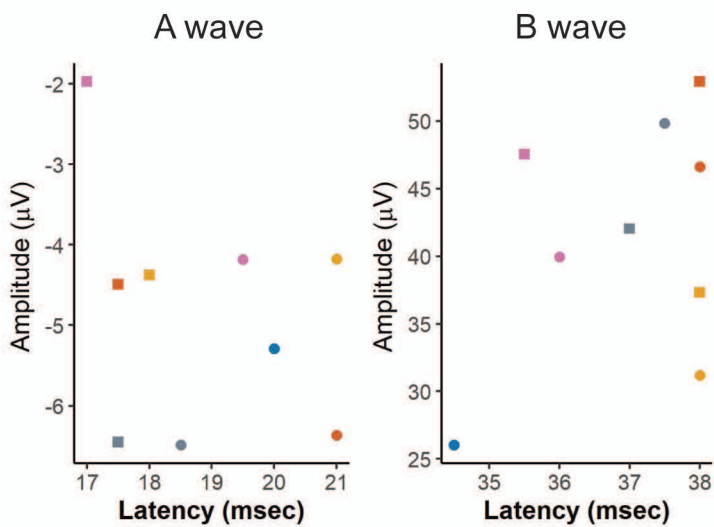
D State Control



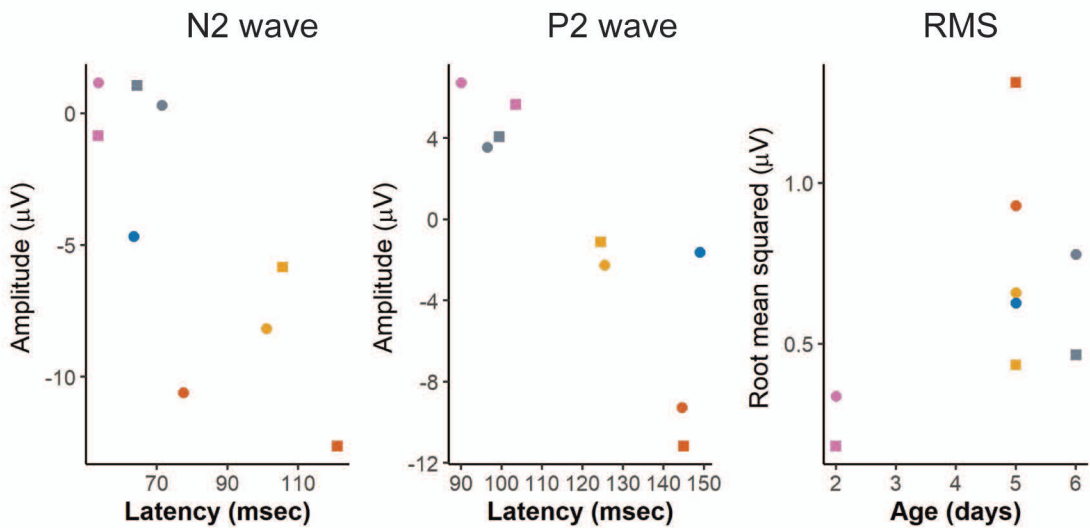




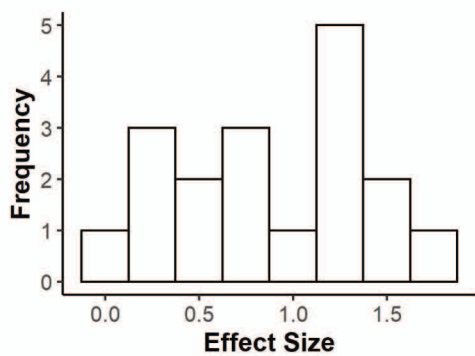
A



B



C



ZIKV-exposed

Control



226691

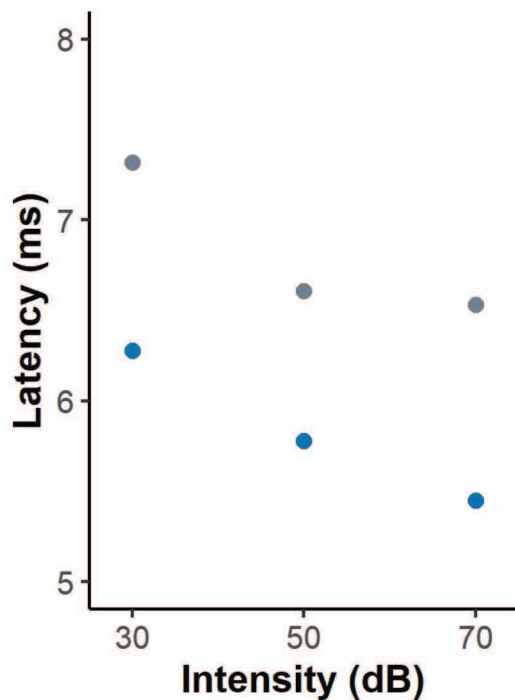
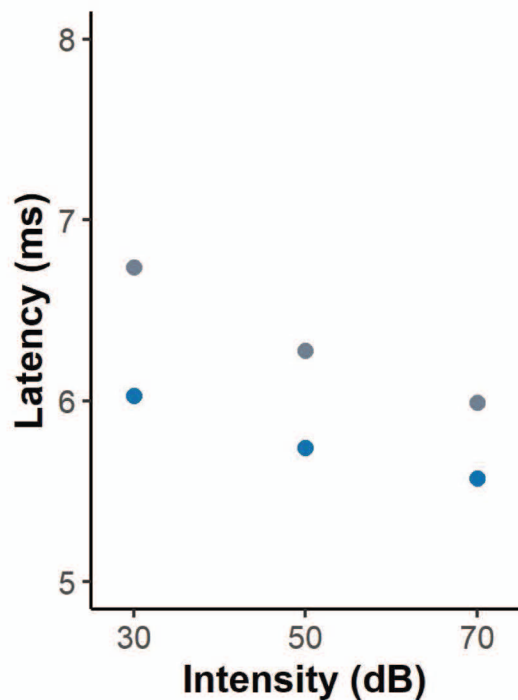


020501

A

Left ear

Right ear



B

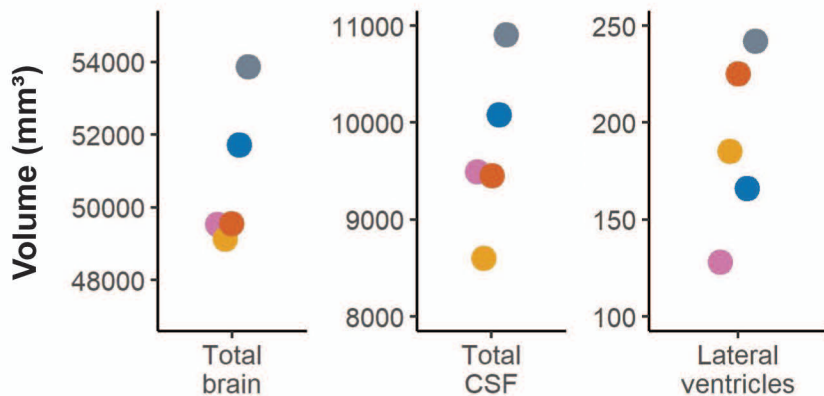
Ear side	Intensity (dB)	Observed effect size	Sample Size Allocation 1:1			Sample Size Allocation 2:1		
			N: ZIKV	N: Ctr	Total N	N: ZIKV	N: Ctr	Total N
Left	30	1.41	9	9	18	14	7	21
	50	1.41	9	9	18	14	7	21
	70	1.41	9	9	18	14	7	21
Right	30	1.41	9	9	18	14	7	21
	50	1.41	9	9	18	14	7	21
	70	1.41	9	9	18	14	7	21

ZIKV-exposed

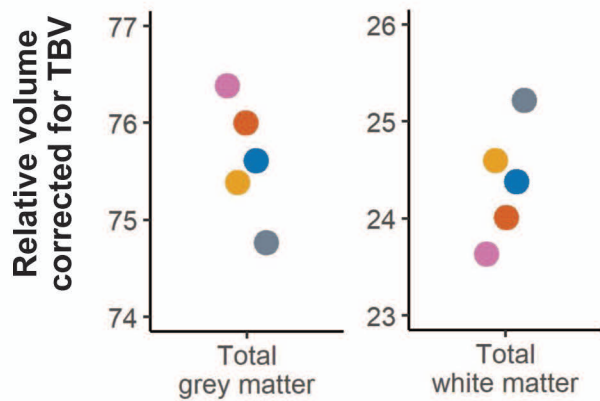
Control



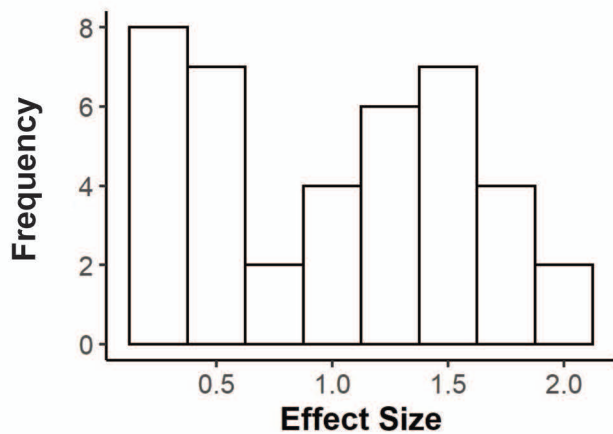
A



B

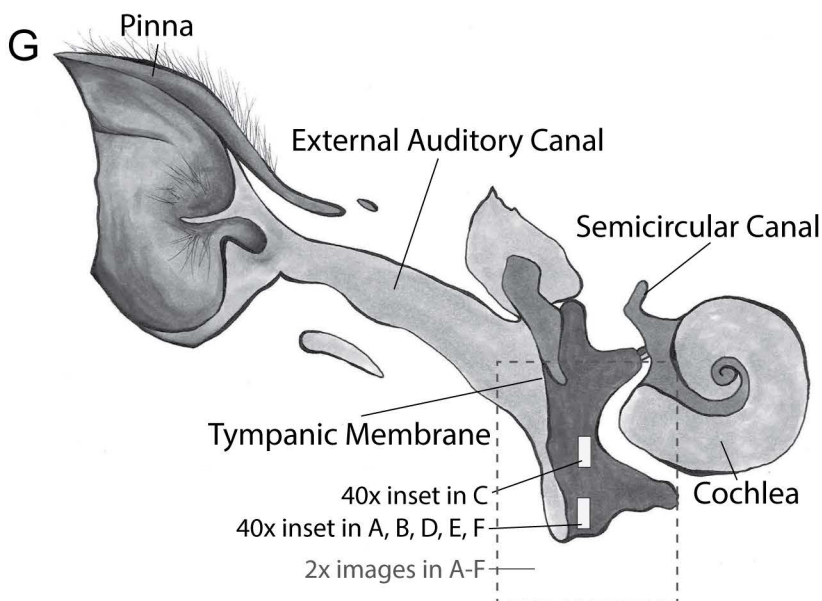
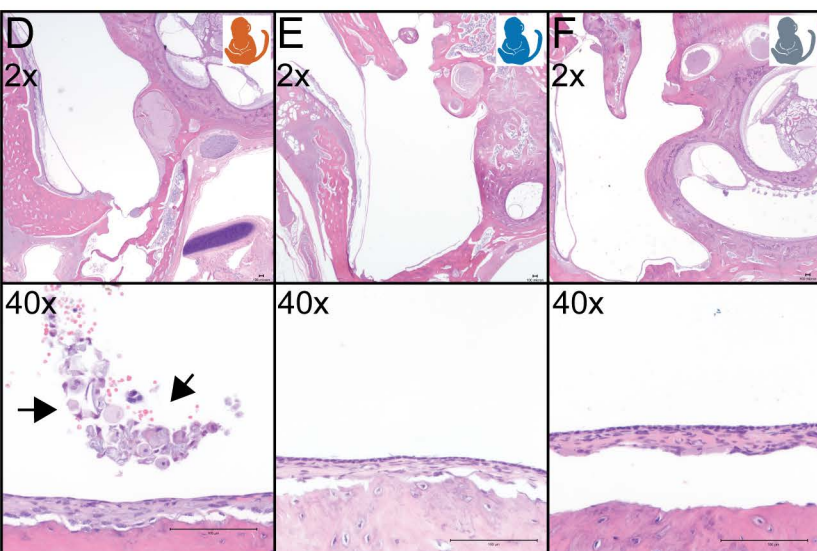
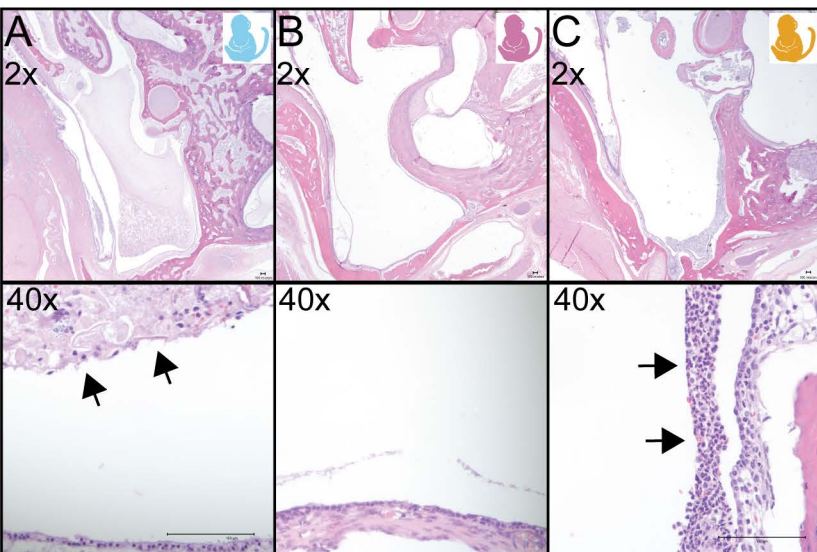


C



ZIKV-exposed

Control



ZIKV-exposed

Control



416597



424847



499874



527421



226691



020501

Lung

