Diseases of finfish
Viral diseases—**Grouper iridoviral disease**

**Signs of disease**

Important: animals with disease may show one or more of the signs below, but disease may still be present in the absence of any signs.

Disease signs at the farm level

- typically high mortalities with many dead and moribund fish

Disease signs at the farm level

- high mortality of grouper

  - affected fish are extremely lethargic with mostly darkened body colour

Clinical signs of disease in an infected animal

- extreme lethargy in affected fish, with few visible external signs except darkened body colour

Gross signs of disease in an infected animal

- enlarged spleen consistently observed

**Disease agent**

The infectious agent is grouper iridovirus (GIV). Synonyms include grouper iridovirus of Taiwan (TGIV) and Singapore grouper iridovirus (SGIV). Since the affected fish become extremely lethargic, the disease is also known as sleepy grouper disease.

**Host range**

Fish known to be susceptible to GIV:

- brown-spotted grouper* (*Epinephelus tauvina*)
- yellow grouper* (*Epinephelus awoara*)
- nursing grouper* (*Epinephelus malabaricus*)

* naturally susceptible

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*Source: Somkiat Kanchanakhan*
Grouper iridoviral disease continued

Presence in Asia–Pacific
Infection with grouper iridoviral disease has been officially reported from Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and Vietnam.

Epidemiology
• GIV disease causes losses not only in fry and juvenile grouper but also in market-sized grouper, a highly priced product in tropical mariculture.
• Horizontal contact and waterborne transmission appear to be the principal mechanisms for virus spread.

Differential diagnosis
The differential diagnostic table and the list of similar diseases appearing at the bottom of each disease page refer only to the diseases covered by this field guide. Gross signs observed might well be representative of a wider range of diseases not included here. Therefore, these diagnostic aids should not be read as a guide to a definitive diagnosis, but rather as a tool to help identify the listed diseases that most closely account for the gross signs.

Similar diseases
Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy

Sample collection
Because of uncertainty in differentiating diseases using only gross signs, and because some aquatic animal disease agents might pose a risk to humans, you should not try to collect samples unless you have been trained. Instead, you should phone your national hotline number and report your observations. If samples have to be collected, the agency taking the call will advise you on what you need to do.

Emergency disease hotline
For your national emergency disease hotline number, see Whom to contact if you suspect a disease.

Further reading
This hyperlink was correct and functioning at the time of publication.