

EBOLA THREAT: WHEN NIGHTMARE BECOMES REALITY

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The Ebola virus is a cause of the serious disease that causes hemorrhagic fevers - illnesses marked by severe bleeding (hemorrhage), organ failure and, in many cases, death. The virus is native to Africa, where sporadic outbreaks have occurred for decades. The current outbreak is the largest and there have been more cases of deaths in this outbreak than all others combined. Various degrees of hepatocellular necrosis have been reported in infected people and non-human primates; however, the hepatocellular lesions are generally not serious enough to explain the cause of death. Importantly, hemorrhagic tendencies could be related to decreased synthesis of coagulation and other plasma proteins because of severe hepatocellular necrosis. Supportive care with oral or intravenous fluids - and treatment of specific symptoms improves the survival. There is as yet no proven treatment available for EVD. *Acta Medica Medianae 2015;54(3):78-83.*

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