

MARBURG VIRUS DISEASE

Rizwan Ijaz¹, Ashraf Ali², Moldoev Murzali Iliazovich³

^{1,2}Final year student, Osh State University, International medical Faculty, Kyrgyzstan

³Instructor's Professor of Tropical Medicine, Osh State University, International medical Faculty, Kyrgyzstan

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ABSTRACT

Marburg virus disease is a deadly haemorrhagic fever as a result of Marburg virus belonging to Filoviridae family. Ever because its first detection in 1967 in Marburg and Frankfurt in Germany, and Belgrade in Serbia, MVD has persisted to be a concern approximately public health due to a high case fatality ratio and outbreak capacity that prevailed. This paper offers the present day updates approximately MVD, its scientific features, the modes of transmission, and modern-day studies, drawing references from authoritative clinical textbooks.

1. INTRODUCTION

Marburg virus disease (MVD) is a rare but severe and often fatal viral illness caused by the Marburg virus, which belongs to the Filoviridae family, the same as the Ebola virus. The disease was first identified in 1967 during simultaneous outbreaks in Marburg and Frankfurt, Germany, and in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where laboratory workers became infected after handling monkey tissue. Marburg virus is primarily transmitted to humans from fruit bats, which are natural hosts, and can spread through direct contact with bodily fluids, contaminated surfaces, or infected animals. The disease is characterized by fever, severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and in many cases, hemorrhagic symptoms leading to organ failure and death. The case fatality rate can be as high as 90%. Supportive care can increase survival rates even while there isn't a specific treatment or vaccination. In areas where outbreaks occur, especially in Africa, MVD continues to be a public health concern.

Etiology and natural Reservoir

The Marburg virus is an RNA virus and evolutionarily similar to the Ebola virus. Its principal inwild reservoir is the Egyptian fruit bat (type *Rousettus aegyptiacus*). Human-to-human transmission is normally due to direct exposure to the bat contaminated region, like caves and mines. The virus is transmitted from person to person both via contact with infected blood/frame fluids, infected materials, or by touch with infected people. The etiological agent of the MVD is a zoonotic contamination this is noticeably just like different filoviruses.

Clinical Features

The incubation period of MVD stages from 2 to 21 days. Frontal headaches followed by using fever of unexpected onset, excessive fever, severe headache, myalgia and malaise are the early signs and signs and symptoms of this illness. Gastrointestinal symptoms including diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting also are common sequelae. For the 5th-7 day submit-contamination heavy hemorrhagic functions which include an occult blood per rectum or through all mucosal membranes and visceral failure that can in the long run be deadly even in its moderate shape is visible.

explain the scientific signs and symptoms and course of the disease. It gives an concept for early signs and symptoms detection, specially for outbreaks.

Epidemiology and Outbreaks

After the primary wave of outbreaks in Europe, MVD attacks were constrained to sub-Saharan Africa. The latest outbreaks in Rwanda 2024 and Ghana 2023, further showed the danger of the virus. This also described the gaps in each fitness care and response structures at the sphere stage.

Diagnosis

MVD is tough to diagnose due to the nonspecific nature of its early manifestations. Confirmatory analysis within the laboratory includes:

RT-PCR for viral RNA:

RT-PCR is highly sensitive and specific, making it the gold standard for diagnosing Marburg virus disease. It can detect the virus during the early stages of infection, even before symptoms appear, which is crucial for early intervention.

ELISA:

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) is another important diagnostic tool for detecting Marburg virus (MARV), particularly for serological testing to identify the presence of Marburg virus antibodies (IgM or IgG) in the blood of individuals suspected of infection. ELISA is used for both acute diagnosis and post-infection surveillance.

Virus culture :

Virus culture for Marburg virus (MARV) is a laboratory method used to propagate and isolate the virus from infected patient samples. However, virus culture is not typically employed as a first-line diagnostic tool due to its complexity, safety concerns, and the availability of more rapid diagnostic methods like RT-PCR and ELISA. Nonetheless, virus culture can still play a role in research, confirming the presence of the virus, and understanding its biology.

2. MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT

Supportive Care: A Marburg virus infection cannot be treated with a specific antiviral medication. Supportive treatment is the primary focus of management in order to help the body combat the virus and lessen the disease's effects.

This involves electrolyte balance (to rectify imbalances), nutritional support (for those who can tolerate food), and hydration (to restore fluids lost from vomiting and diarrhea).

Patients who are having respiratory distress may need oxygen therapy.

Because the virus affects the cardiovascular system, hypotension may require blood pressure support.

Handling Symptoms:

Using acetaminophen or ibuprofen to treat pain and fever (if not contraindicated).

antiemetics to manage vomiting and nausea.

Since individuals with MVD are susceptible to secondary bacterial infections, antibiotics are recommended to prevent these infections.

Treatments in Experiments:

While there is monoclonal antibodies and antiviral medications are among the investigational medicines that have been evaluated in clinical studies, despite the fact that there are currently no licensed antiviral treatments for MVD.

Although convalescent plasma from patients who have recovered has been investigated as a possible treatment, its effectiveness is yet unknown.

Vaccines:

As of the time of my knowledge cutoff, there isn't an approved vaccine against the Marburg virus. Nonetheless, studies into possible vaccinations and therapies are still being conducted.

Controlling Infections and Isolation:

Because the Marburg virus is extremely communicable through bodily fluids, patients must be strictly isolated in order to stop the virus from spreading.

When providing patient care, healthcare professionals should wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks, gloves, gowns, and eye protection.

Quarantining and tracking down contacts who have come into contact with infected persons are crucial to prevent outbreak.

Prevention and Control

Measures for prevention consist of lowering human exposure to bats and the adoption of rigorous contamination manipulate in the course of outbreaks. community focus and secure burial practices are of the important significance within the manage of the virus. Vaccines, e.g., an instance reference cAd3-Marburg, have already been taken to scientific trial latitudes, and how to carry out clinical trials nonetheless calls for improvement, with best advantage in thoughts.

Research and Future guidelines

Enhancing methods for detection, treatment, and prevention of Marburg virus disease (MVD) requires research. The following areas are the focus of current scientific studies due to the high fatality rate of the virus and the lack of particular antiviral therapies or vaccines:

Vaccine Development :

A number of vaccine candidates, such as protein subunit vaccines, viral vector vaccines, and DNA-based vaccinations, are being studied. Clinical trials are being conducted to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of some, such as the recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (rVSV) vaccine, which has demonstrated promise in animal models.

Antiviral Therapies:

Scientists are investigating antiviral drugs that could prevent the virus from replicating. The evaluation focuses on small chemical inhibitors that target viral enzymes or cellular components involved in the entry and replication of the Marburg virus.

Diagnostics:

To identify the virus early, especially in areas where outbreaks happen, better diagnostic procedures are required, such as quick point-of-care assays. Controlling spread and administering therapy on time depend on early detection.

Surveillance and Outbreak Response: To detect outbreaks faster and stop their spread, it can be helpful to bolster international surveillance networks and increase capacity in impacted areas. This entails creating rapid response teams, enhancing epidemic control, and educating healthcare personnel.

Public Health Guidelines:

Improved contact tracking, quarantine procedures, and safeguards for medical personnel are all part of the updated guidelines for Marburg virus epidemics. During an outbreak, community involvement and infection control recommendations are essential for reducing transmission.

research is currently directed at vaccine development, antiviral sellers trials and public health measures. thinking about the devastating socio-financial consequence, specially on the African continent, urgently required, well-reassessed and well timed nicely-managed treatments are incredibly applicable.

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, because of its severe symptoms and quick start, Marburg virus illness continues to pose a substantial threat to public health and has the potential to have high death rates. Even though they are uncommon, outbreaks have happened in some regions of sub-Saharan Africa, underscoring the necessity of ongoing monitoring, investigation, and readiness. Since contact with infected humans or animals is the main way that the virus is spread, control methods like contact tracking, isolation, and protective gear are crucial. Supportive therapy, like as rehydration and symptom management, can increase survival chances even when there isn't a specific antiviral medication or vaccine. Research into the creation of vaccines and antiviral medications is still ongoing, which gives hope for future prevention and treatment that is more successful. Global cooperation and investments in public health infrastructure are necessary to combat the Marburg virus.

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