Published in final edited form as:

Am J Ophthalmol. 2017 September ; 181: 180. doi:10.1016/j.ajo.2017.05.029.

Ocular Complications in Survivors of the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea

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We read with interest the paper by Hereth-Hebert and associates concerning the ocular complications in survivors of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea.¹ Our recent case-control study of retinal findings in Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone has provided additional information on the subject. Of the 9 figures of retinal lesions attributed to Ebola included in Hereth-Hebert and associates' ¹ cohort, only Figure 2 demonstrates a lesion in keeping with the retinal lesions we found in 14.6% of our Ebola survivor cohort (n = 82).² Uniform pigmented lesions with or without lacunae and/or a surrounding gray halo, as seen in Figures 3–6, 9, and 10, were seen in 18.2% and 19% of our Ebola survivors and control group (n = 105), respectively.² Figures 7 and 8 are also not in keeping with the appearance of Ebola lesions in our study. The rate of posterior uveitis secondary to Ebola in the study by Hereth-Hebert and associates¹ may therefore be overestimated.

Given that other causes of uveitis, such as toxoplasmosis, are considerably more common in West Africa than Ebola-related uveitis,³ it may be that the 4 cases of late reoccurrences in the study by Hereth-Hebert and associates¹ are secondary to alternative etiologies rather than Ebola.

Funding/Support

Paul J. Steptoe received equipment donations/loans from Optos, Topcon, and Adaptive to conduct this work. Financial Disclosures: Paul J. Steptoe reports a grant from Global Ophthalmology Awards Programme funded by Bayer, Germany and The Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust, UK related to this work. Janet T. Scott and Malcolm G. Semple report related grants and support from The Enhancing Research Activity in Epidemic Situations (ERAES) Wellcome Trust, UK and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA and the UK National Institute for Health Research Health – Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections outside of the submitted work. Nicholas A.V. Beare reports a grant from Bayer, Germany outside the submitted work and personal fees from the Wellcome Trust, UK, Abbvie, UK, Santen, Japan, Novartis, Switzerland and Alimera, USA outside the submitted work. The following authors have no financial disclosures: Matthew J. Vandy, Foday Sahr, and Simon P. Harding. The authors attest that they meet the current ICMJE criteria for authorship.

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