Title: Correspondence: Ocular complications in survivors of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea

Editor:

We read with interest the paper by Hereth-Hebert and associates concerning the ocular complications in survivors of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea1. Our recent case-control study of retinal findings in Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone has provided additional information on the subject. Of the nine figures of retinal lesions attributed to Ebola included in the Hereth-Hebert et al1 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 grey halo as seen in Figures 3 to 6, 9 and 10 were seen in 18.2% and 19% of our Ebola survivors and control group (n=105) respectively2. 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 Hereth-Hebert et al1 study may therefore be overestimated.

Given that other causes of uveitis such as toxoplasmosis are considerably more common in West Africa than Ebola related uveitis3, it may be that the 4 cases of late reoccurrences in the study by Hereth-Hebert et al1 are secondary to alternative etiologies rather than Ebola.

Paul J. Steptoe Liverpool, UK

Janet T. Scott, Liverpool, UK

Matthew J. Vandy, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Foday Sahr, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Simon Harding, Liverpool, UK

Nicholas A.V. Beare, Liverpool, UK

Malcolm G. Semple, Liverpool, UK

Word count: 600

Correspondence: Ocular complications in survivors of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea

American Journal of Ophthalmology, Vol. 175, p114–121

Authors

Dr Paul J. Steptoe1

Dr Janet T. Scott1

Dr Matthew J. Vandy2

Prof Foday Sahr3

Prof Simon P. Harding4

Mr Nicholas A.V. Beare4

Dr Malcolm G. Semple1

Affiliations

1. **Institute of Translational Medicine, University of Liverpool**

University of Liverpool, Crown street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L69 3BX,

United Kingdom

1. **Connaught Hospital**

Tower Hill, Freetown, Sierra Leone

1. **34th Military Hospital**

Wilberforce, Freetown, Sierra Leone

1. **Department of Eye & Vision Science, Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease, University of Liverpool**

West Derby Street, Liverpool, L7 8TX, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author

Dr Paul Steptoe

Address:

Institute of Translational Medicine

University of Liverpool

Alder Hey Children’s Hospital

Liverpool

L12 2AP

UK GBR

Telephone No. +44 (0) 7969237935

Fax No N/A

Email: paul.steptoe@liverpool.ac.uk

References

1. Hereth-Hebert E, Bah MO, Etard JF, et al. Ocular Complications in Survivors of the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea. *Am J Ophthalmol*. 2017;175:114-121.

2. Steptoe PJ, Scott JT, Baxter JM, et al. Novel retinal lesion in Ebola survivors, Sierra Leone, 2016. *Emerg Infect Dis*. doi: 10.3201/eid2307.161608. 2017.05.12

3. Ronday MJ, Stilma JS, Barbe RF, et al. Aetiology of uveitis in Sierra Leone, west Africa. *Br J Ophthalmol*. 1996;80(11):956-961.

Financial Disclosures

1. Funding/Support: PJS received equipment donations/loans from Optos, Topcon and Adaptive to conduct this work.
2. Financial Disclosures: P.J.S. reports a grant from Global Ophthalmology Awards Programme, and The Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust related to this work. M.G.S. and JTS report related grants and support from The Enhancing Research Activity in Epidemic Situations (ERAES) Wellcome Trust and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK National Institute for Health Research Health - Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections outside of the submitted work. N.A.V.B. reports a grant from Bayer outside the submitted work and personal fees from the Wellcome Trust, Abbvie, Santen, Novartis, and Alimera outside the submitted work. SPH, MJV and FS report no conflicts of interest.
3. Other Acknowledgments: All authors involved in this work have been listed as authors.