



Comparison of two predictive rules for assessing severity of community-acquired pneumonia  
Asthma prevalence in Nigerian adolescents and adults  
Interchanging spirometric and peak flow meter readings in obstructive airway diseases  
Relationship between some risk factors of pneumonia and hypoxaemia in hospitalised Nigerian children

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## First word

Ebola virus is a member of the Filoviridae family (filovirus), which has two other members, genus Marburgvirus and genus Cuevavirus.

The Marburgvirus was first discovered in a German city in 1967 and originated from Uganda. Since then, several outbreaks all originated from African countries (Uganda, Zimbabwe, DRC, Angola, and Kenya) have been reported. Most were small, but the largest was in DRC with 80% mortality.

Ebola was first discovered in 1976 and named after a river in the region. In the same year, there was another outbreak in Southern Sudan and later found to be a different species of Ebola called Ebola-Sudan. Ebola virus has four other species, namely Bundibugyo ebolavirus, Zaire ebolavirus, Reston ebolavirus, and Tai Forest ebolavirus. Since then, there have been over 30 other outbreaks with case mortality ranging from 25 to almost 90%.

The present outbreak in West Africa is the largest with 3500 confirmed or probable cases, and 1900 people dead according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The reason for this large number is not clear, but the fact that it started in the city of Guéckédou, Guinea instead of a rural area; also, people walk across the border uncontrolled, and the ease of travel could have fueled the spread. Many countries in Africa are now at risk, including travel hubs. Ebola virus spreads through human-to-human transmission, with infection resulting from direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected people, and indirect contact with environments contaminated with such fluids. Even though there is no specific treatment, experimental drug ZMAPP has shown mixed efficacy, and studies of the vaccine are ongoing.

The Editorial team wishes to inform our readers (healthcare workers in Africa in particular) to continue with the good job they are doing, but take the necessary steps as per WHO/Centers for Disease Control recommendations. We also would like to invite the faculty and students from across Africa to the PATS MECOR which takes place in Nairobi in the month of September and wish them a fruitful training.

*Dr Evans Amukoye, Co-Editor, AJRM*

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