



Lassa fever outbreak in Africa; problem on renal failure

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Key Point

Lassa fever has been known as a possible viral disease that can induce renal failure for a long-time. Since there is a possible trend of wide epidemic of Lassa fever, practitioner should recognize that the acute renal problem might be a possible clinical presentation of Lassa fever.

The Lassa fever is an important viral hemorrhagic fever that can cause severe clinical problems and death in the most severe case. The disease is endemic in Africa. At present, the big outbreak occurs in Nigeria and there are several infected and dead cases. In nephrology, renal failure caused by Lassa fever is an important issue that is little mentioned. In fact, Lassa fever has been known as a possible viral disease that can induce renal failure for a long-time (1). The main renal pathological finding in Lassa fever is the focal renal tubular necrosis (2,3). Nevertheless, the renal pathology was usually not enough severe to cause death (3). In a recent report from recent Nigeria outbreak, the rate of acute renal problem was up to 60 % and the abnormal renal function test (BUN and creatinine) was an important predictor for mortality (4). Since there is a possible trend of wide epidemic of Lassa fever, practitioner should recognize that the acute renal problem might be a possible clinical presentation of Lassa fever.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicting interest.

Authors' contribution

SY and VW wrote the manuscript equally.

Ethical considerations

Ethical issues (including plagiarism, data fabrication, double publication) have been completely observed by the authors.

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