

Stigmatized and Vulnerable: *When are Ebola Survivors fit to donate?*

Based on an Ebola Convalescent Plasma Trial in Liberia; West Africa

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Purpose and context described in previous presentation

This focuses on donor health and safety

(Screening and eligibility as per trial protocol)

Donor status? Anticipated challenges

- Ongoing convalescence-chronic inflammatory?
- Unrecognized target organ damage-metabolic status?
- Chronic debility-nutritional indicators/parasitaemia
- PTSD-Traumatized survivors.

Speculative- collectively little experience of Ebola survivors

Approach

In accelerated Training program for donor team
-raised awareness of 'care'

Multiple 'warm body' plasmapheresis runs. Simulation of adverse events

Prospective donors

- Familiarization tour –reduce apprehension
- Scheduled appointments/meet and greet
- Donor staff *appreciation of donors*

Pre donation –standard procedure

- Start pre hydration- 500 ml water with Ca supplement
- Checked for postural drop in BP
- EMLA cream for needle stick

Repeated affirmation of value/'heroic'

During donation

- 2 staff attending in unit
- Monitoring
- Draw 650ml plasma
- Saline 500ml IV bolus infusion

Post donation

- Observation in unit for 30 min
- Refreshments in unit
- Multivitamins; Iron and Folate supplement x 1 month

Appointment for repeat donation

Repeat donation

- 97 participants (90% successful draw)
- 45% of donors returned x1
- < 4% 'regular'

Outcomes wrt donor safety

- Observation-robust
- Hypotensive episodes-nil reported
- Vasovagal-? one mild , late in procedure
- Citrate toxicity-nil
- Hydration status-most donors completed procedure with full bladders (oral fluids/saline bolus/air con/unused to cold ambient temp)

WELL TOLERATED

Affirmation ?

***Other
considerations ?***

Post-Ebola Syndrome

Sequelae after Ebola virus disease: even when it's over it's not over

The Lancet Infectious Diseases, April 2015

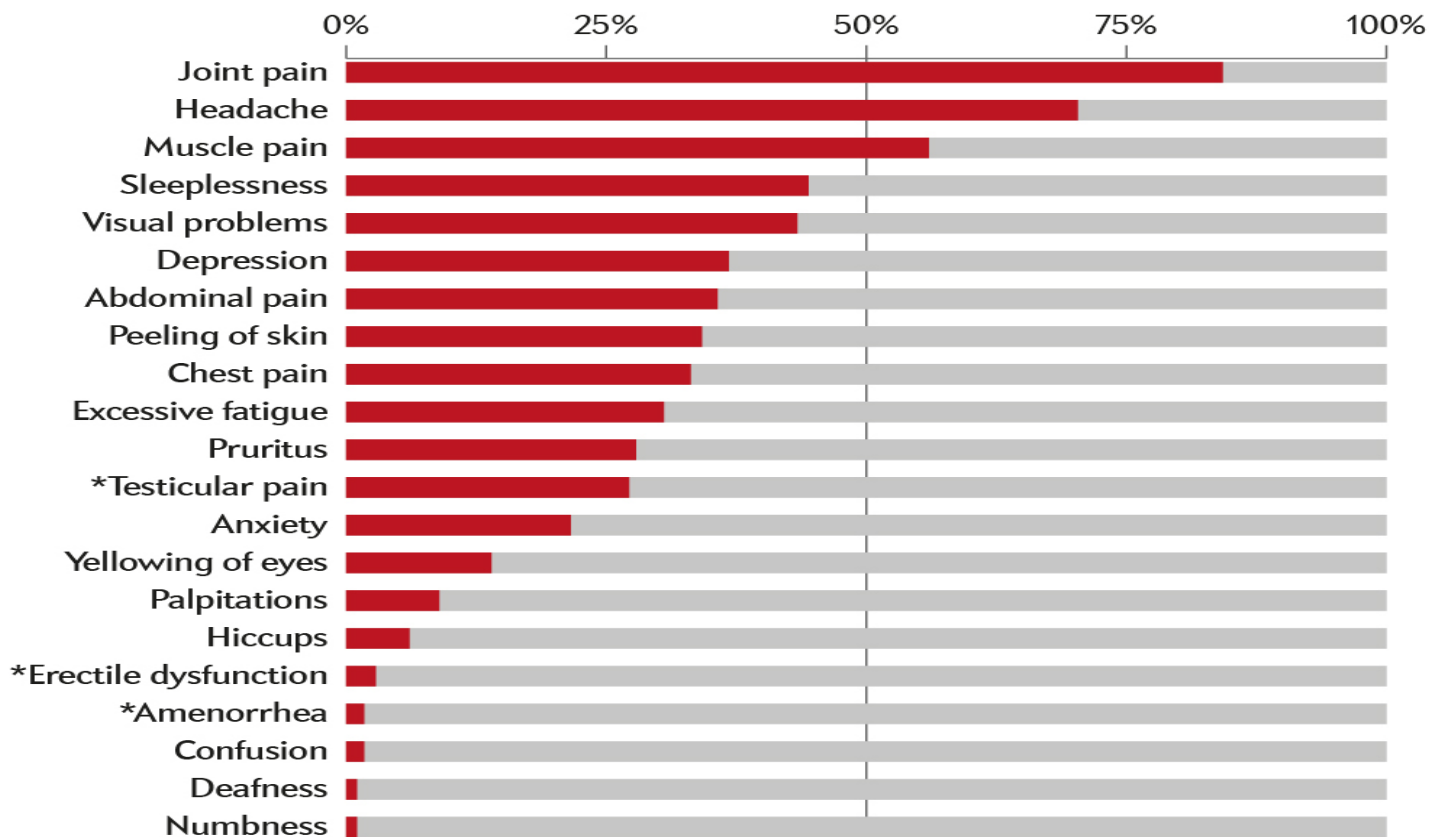
Ebola Gone But Scars Remain: Survivors Deserve Better

FrontPageAfrica: Editorial August 31, 2015

Grim Snapshot Reveals Complex Health Issues for Ebola

Scientific American, September 2015

Challenges Facing Ebola Virus Disease Survivors in Sierra Leone



* Percentage calculated using only denominator of relevant sex.

Source: "Sequelae of Ebola Virus Disease, Kenema District, Sierra Leone," by M. Nanyonga, J. Saidu, A. Ramsay, N. Shindo and D. G. Bausch, in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

*Graphic by Daisy Chung, for **SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN***

***Could plasmapheresis impact
post-Ebola syndrome?***

Could plasma donation impact on societal reintegration ?

Stigma regarding ongoing 'health seeking' behaviour ?

Community perception of benefits related to donation and survivor status?

V high % of survivors rejected by communities or too scared to go back

Conclusions

- Willingness by survivors to participate and donate plasma
- Accelerated training in resource constrained setting is possible to achieve level of competence and safety
- No serious adverse events at time of donation reported (?)
- Achieved low number of regular, repeat donors (?)

Recommendations

- Metabolic evaluation at outset and monitor-eg BUN/
Creatinine/Ca/TP and Albumin*
- Inflammatory markers*
- Measure impact on convalescence

- Monitor and evaluate social impact-include sociologists /
medical anthropologists in study design

* PREVAIL study

THANK YOU

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