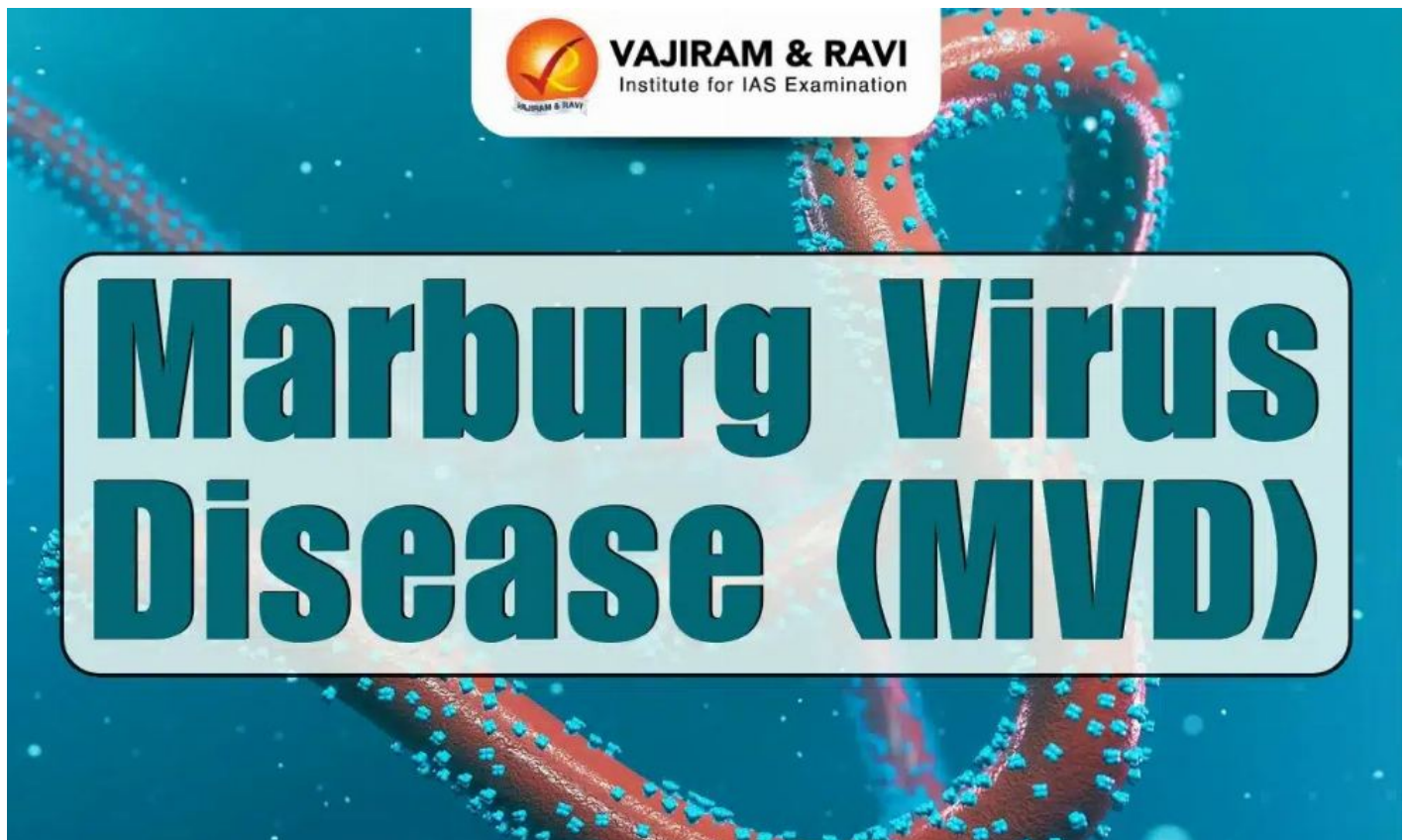


Marburg Virus Disease

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Marburg Virus Disease Latest News

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently confirmed a case of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in Uganda.

About Marburg Virus Disease

- MVD, formerly known as Marburg haemorrhagic fever, is a **severe**, often **fatal illness caused by the Marburg virus**.
- **The Marburg virus** is a **zoonotic virus** that belongs to the Filoviridae family (filovirus), the same group of viruses that includes Ebola.
- It is a **rare disease** that **occurs in humans and non-human primates** (chimpanzees, gorillas, and monkeys).
- It is **named for the German city** where scientists became ill with the disease's **first known cases in 1967** while **handling monkeys imported from Africa**.
- The Marburg virus is most **commonly found in sub-Saharan Africa**.

Marburg Virus Disease Transmission

- The Marburg virus is naturally carried by **Egyptian fruit bats** (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*), which serve as its **primary reservoir**.
- **People** usually become **infected after prolonged exposure to bat-inhabited caves or mines**.
- Once a human is infected, the virus **spreads through direct contact** with the blood, saliva, vomit, urine, faeces, and other **bodily fluids of an infected person**.
- It can **also spread through contaminated objects** such as bedding, clothing or medical equipment that have come into contact with infected bodily fluids.
- Unlike some respiratory viruses, Marburg is **not airborne** and **does not spread through casual contact**.
- **Transmission requires direct exposure to infected bodily fluids** or contaminated materials.

Marburg Virus Disease Symptoms

- People with Marburg **usually start getting sick 2-21 days after they are infected** with the virus.
- **Initial symptoms** include:
 - **Fever**
 - Chills
 - Headache
 - Muscle aches
 - **Rash with both flat and raised bumps**, often on the torso
 - **Chest pain**
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, and **diarrhea**
- **As the disease advances**, symptoms can become more severe, including **liver failure, delirium, shock, bleeding (hemorrhaging)**, and **multi-organ dysfunction**.
- **In severe cases, death** generally occurs **between eight and nine days after the onset of symptoms**, primarily due to massive blood loss, multi-organ failure, and circulatory shock.
- The **average MVD case fatality rate** is around **50%**. Case fatality rates have **varied from 24% to 88% in past** outbreaks.

Marburg Virus Disease Treatment

- There is **no vaccine or specific treatment** for MVD.
- **Treatment focuses on relieving symptoms** and supporting patients through the course of the disease.
- Patients are typically hospitalized and **treated with intravenous fluids and electrolytes** to maintain hydration and pain relief medication.

News: N18

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