















**Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)**

**How can Marburg virus disease be diagnosed and treated?**

It is difficult to clinically distinguish MVD from diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever and other viral haemorrhagic fevers.

However, it is confirmed by lab testing of samples, which like Coronavirus and Ebola are extreme biohazard risks.

There is no approved antiviral treatment or vaccine for MVD as of now. It can be managed with supportive care.

According to the WHO, rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids, and treatment of specific symptoms can help prevent death.

**What is the Marburg Virus Disease**

Marburg virus disease (MVD), earlier known as Marburg haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal hemorrhagic fever, according to the WHO.

Marburg, like Ebola, is a filovirus; and both diseases are clinically similar.

Rousettus fruit bats are considered the natural hosts for the Marburg virus. However, African green monkeys imported from Uganda were the source of the first human infection.

It was first detected in 1967 after simultaneous outbreaks in Marburg and Frankfurt in Germany; and in Belgrade, Serbia.

The disease has an average fatality rate of around 50%. However, it can be as low as 24% or as high as 88% depending on virus strain and case management.

**MVD in India**

Biologists have found that bats and humans in northeast India carry antibodies to deadly viruses such as Ebola and Marburg.

An international research team, including scientists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore and Sastra University in Tamil Nadu, India, tested blood samples from hunted bat species and humans who hunt bats in Nagaland.

No traces of viral genetic material were detected in the bat blood or tissues. However, the researchers found virus-specific antibodies in 5.9 per cent of the human samples, 6.2 per cent of the E. spelaea samples and 13.3 per cent of the R. leschenaultii samples.

**What are the symptoms of Marburg virus disease?**

After the onset of symptoms, which can begin anytime between 2 to 21 days, MVD can manifest itself in the form of high fever, muscle aches and severe headache.

Around the third day, patients report abdominal pain, vomiting, severe watery diarrhoea and cramping.

Between days 5 and 7, patients report bleeding from the nose, gums and blood appearing in vomits and faeces.

Severe blood loss leads to death, often between 8 to 9 days after symptoms begin.