

Ebola Strikes Back

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Not Long Ago

- Doctor Ian Crozier was treated in Atlanta, Georgia
- He was infected with Ebola in Sierra Leone
- After 2 months of being declared free of Ebola Crozier began to experience mild burning and sensitivity in one of his eyes
- Testing showed Ebola was in his eye
- The virus turned his eye from blue to green



(Notice the dramatic change in color and the swelling of the pupil)

Cause

- Clozier's eye problems were apparently caused by a serious inflammation inside the eye called uveitis
- the eye is well protected from the immune system to prevent inflammation
- (Doctors also know that it can live on in the male sexual reproductive organs)

Treatment

- This allows viruses to multiply unhampered
- After more steroids getting shot above his eyebrow and trying an experimental antiviral drug
- Within a week his sight began to return
- After several months his eye regained its normal color
- The eye isn't the only place the virus can go on unchecked though

Impact

- Latest testing shows that tears and the outer eye membrane are free of Ebola
- Cannot be passed through casual contact
- Ebola safety procedures will still be followed
- Ebola survivors in West Africa *have* reported eye problems
- About 40% of survivors have blurred vision, inflammation of the eye, uveitis, and other eye pain

Impact

- Emory University School Medicine is calling for close surveillance in West Africa to watch out for this case
- "Following recovery from Ebola virus disease, patients should be followed for the development of eye symptoms including pain, redness, light sensitivity and blurred vision, which may be signs of uveitis," says Steven Yeh, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology in Emory University School of Medicine.

Sources

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2. http://news.emory.edu/stories/2015/05/nejm_ebola_virus_persists_in_eye/
3. <http://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/6402/20150516/can-ebola-stay-hidden-in-the-orbits-of-the-eye.htm>