

Ebola Virus Symptoms

Ebola virus disease is a highly fatal condition, which initially doesn't present with symptoms until an average of 10 days after infection. Patients develop flu-like symptoms with fever, headaches and muscle pain. Eventually, problems with blood-clotting arise, and patients develop severe hemorrhaging.



PLAY PICMONIC

10 Day Incubation

10 Pins bowling alley

Patients are usually asymptomatic when they first contract ebola virus, as there is an average 10 day incubation period. While this is the average, the incubation period can range from 2 to 21 days.

Flu-like Symptoms

Thermometer and Ice-bag

Initially, there are nonspecific, flu-like symptoms seen with Ebola. Patients complain of headache, muscle aches, fatigue and fever at first.

Impaired Blood Clotting

Broken and Bloody Clog

Ebola causes a disseminated intravascular coagulation-like syndrome. Patients use up clotting factors and develop problems with blood clotting (due to shortage of factors). This leads to rapidly progressive bleeding in the mucosal membranes, skin, and internal organs (organ liquefaction). Hematemesis and hemoptysis are often seen as well.

Hematemesis and Hemoptysis

Bloody-vomit and Red-mop coughing blood

As the disease progresses, patients display hematemesis and hemoptysis, due to organ hemorrhage.

Mucous Membrane Bleeding

Mucous Dripping and Bleeding

Patients begin to show bleeding from various mucous membranes, such as the mouth, nose and eyes.

Skin Bruising

Skin-suit-man Bruised

As blood clotting is impaired, patients are more prone to skin bruising. Other skin manifestations include petechiae, purpura, hematomas and jaundice (from blood breakdown products).

Internal Hemorrhage

Internal Hemorrhage-hammer

As blood-clotting is impaired, the internal organs progressively begin to hemorrhage. Bleeding occurs most in the GI tract, but multi-organ dysfunction syndrome happens later in the disease process. This leads to "organ liquefaction" and death.