

LASSA FEVER

- Agent Factor

- Lassa Virus (Family - Arenaviridae)

- Single Stranded Retrovirus (BI-segmented,

Ambi-sense RNA Viruses (genome is contained in 2 segments)

Animal Reservoir - Rodents (Genus Mastomys, commonly known as Multimammate Rat)

Host

Factor

- o Health Care Workers

Environment Factor

Overcrowding & Poor Sanitary Conditions

- Mode of Transmission

- o Animal to Humans Transmission

Direct Contact with Infected Rats

Exposure to Food or Household Items,
contaminated with Urine or Faeces of
Infected Rats Human to Human
Transmission

Direct contact with Blood, Urine, Faeces

or Bodily Secretions of an Infected Person

In Health-care settings by -
Contaminated Medical Equipment (re-used Needles etc.)

Incubation period

o 6 to 21 days

• Clinical Features

80% Asymptomatic

Initial Phase - Febrile Illness with
Weakness & Malaise

Diagnosis

Followed by - Headache, Sore Throat,
Cough, Myalgia, Chest Pain, Diarrhea,

Vomiting & Abdominal Pain As the Disease Progresses (in Severe Cases) Facial Swelling, Fluid in the lung cavity, Bleeding from the Mouth, Nose or Gastrointestinal Tract

In Later Stages - Shock, Seizures, Tremor, Disorientation or Coma 20% may develop - Multiple Organ Dysfunction with involvement of Liver, Spleen & Kidney

Case Fatality Rate - 1 to 15 % (

- RT-PCR

ELISA Antigen Detection Tests

Cell Culture for Virus Isolation

Treatment to Ribavirin (in early disease) o Isolation of Patients, Infection Control Practices & Contact Tracing o

Rehydration, Supportive & Symptomatic
Care Prevention

Good Community Hygiene

Rodent Control & storage of grain and
food in Rodent-Proof Containers
Precaution by Health Care Workers while
handling infected cases (PPE)

Safe Injection Practices

Safe Handling of Corpses after death