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Unprecedented scale Ebola epidemic in Guinea: what we should know

Viroj Wiwanitkit^{1,2,3,4*}¹Joseph Ayobabalola University, Nigeria²Faculty of Medicine, University of Nis, Serbia³Hainan Medical University, China⁴Surin Rajabhat University, Surin, Thailand**To the editor**

The present problematic outbreak in Africa is the Ebola virus infection among local population in the capital of Guinea. It becomes a great concern since the present outbreak (March to April 2014) is considered to be the biggest outbreak, the first discovery of this viral infection^[1]. A high death rate can be seen. Severe diarrhea and bleeding can be seen in almost all cases and death rate is very high (about 75%). Focusing on the present outbreak, there are many considerations on this situation. First, this outbreak occurs in urban area instead of a remote rural area, which is a warning sign for the seriousness and pandemic. The contamination of the disease from the remote limited foci to the big city can imply the chance of wide spreading. In fact, the disease is confirmed to spread out of Guinea to the nearby countries. Second, although there are many new datas on the pathogenesis of Ebola, which better than its first appearance, the diagnosis and treatment of the infection is still unsuccessful. Some recent reports mentioned new biomarkers to help with the diagnosis of Ebola but those biomarkers are still far from reality^[2]. Third, until present, although there are several ongoing developments for Ebola vaccine, there is still no available vaccine for fighting the infection. The disease control during the outbreak becomes an extremely difficulty in public health. At present, the necessary things for the public health workers around the world include a) gathering basic knowledge and updating the situation of Ebola outbreaks, b) planning for preventive actions for possible cross border

infection and infection carried by travelers from Africa, c) setting for an international collaboration or network to trace the spreading path of the infection and performing research and development to find effective diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive tools for Ebola.

Conflict of interest statement

I declare that I have no conflict of interest.

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*Corresponding author: Professor Viroj Wiwanitkit, Wiwanitkit House, Bangkok, Bangkok 10160, Thailand.
E-mail: wiroj@yahoo.com

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