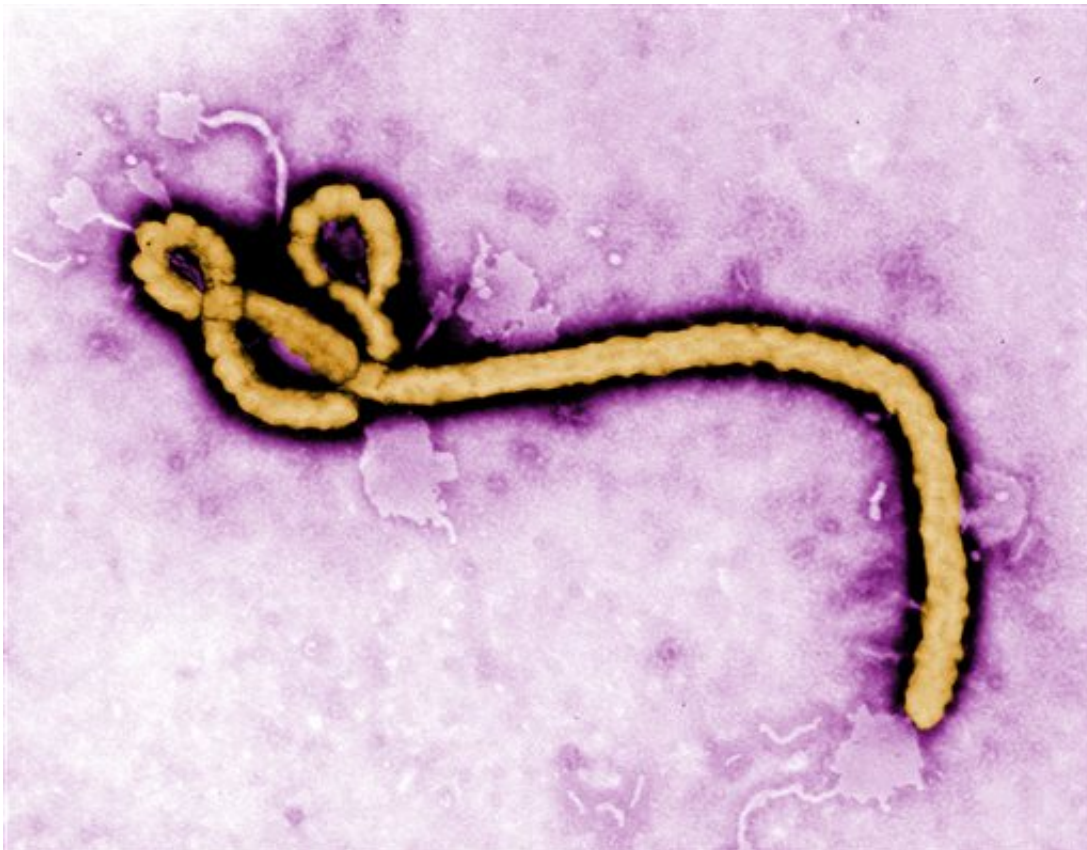


Ebola found in man's eye months after it left blood (Update)

May 7 2015



This undated colorized transmission electron micrograph image made available by the CDC shows an Ebola virus virion. For the first time, Ebola has been discovered inside the eyes of a patient months after the virus was gone from his blood, according to a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Thursday, May 7, 2015. (Frederick Murphy/CDC via AP)

The Ebola virus has been detected for the first time in an eye of a patient months after it vanished from his blood, researchers said Thursday.

Dr. Ian Crozier, an American doctor, was diagnosed with Ebola in September 2014 while working in Sierra Leone with the World Health Organization.

He was sent back to the United States to Emory University Hospital's special Ebola unit in Atlanta, Georgia.

Crozier left the hospital in October when Ebola was no longer detected in his blood, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported Thursday.

But two months later he developed an inflammation and very high blood pressure in his left eye. It caused swelling and serious vision problems.

He returned to the same hospital where he had been treated, and an ophthalmologist, Dr. Steven Yeh, removed some of the fluid and tested it for Ebola. It did in fact contain the virus, but it was not present in his tears or the tissue around his eye.

Doctors believed he did not pose a risk of infecting other people, but Yeh said the case shows that survivors of the deadly virus should be monitored for possible eye infection. It is not known how long this condition can last.

The infection caused an inflammation of the inside of his eye.

Besides the problems with his vision, his iris changed color, going from blue to green 10 days after the symptoms were first detected.

After undergoing treatment with a variety of medicines, Crozier began

to recover his vision but it is still not complete. And his eye color returned to normal.

The worst ever outbreak of Ebola began in southern Guinea in December 2013 before spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The death toll now exceeds 11,000, the World Health Organization reported this week.

Cases of eye inflammation had been reported among survivors of Ebola in previous, limited epidemics and among people with a virus known as Marburg, which is similar to Ebola. But such cases are rare, the medical journal said.

In the current epidemic, some cases of people with eye trouble have been reported among survivors of Ebola.

Dr. John Fankhausser, chief of medicine at ELWA Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, said chronic pain, headaches and eye trouble were the problems most often cited by 100-odd survivors who attended a meeting at that hospital.

Around 40 percent suffered pain and inflammation in the eyes, he told The New York Times.

But the proportion of survivors who suffer these problems is still not known, the medical journal said.

It has already been established that the Ebola virus can persist in semen for several months after a patient is declared healthy.

More information: Persistence of Ebola Virus in Ocular Fluid during Convalescence. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 2015;

150507125510001 . [dx.doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1500306](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1500306)

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