



Lassa fever

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- It is a **Zoonotic viral disease**. The Lassa fever-causing virus is found in West Africa and was **first discovered in 1969 in Lassa, Nigeria**.
- This is **spread by the Rats, which are endemic to Sierra Leone, Liberia, guinea and Nigeria**.
- Although the disease has a low mortality rate, but it can have a high mortality rate in certain individuals (like: pregnant women).
- Its symptoms usually appear after 1 to 3 weeks, which are asymptomatic in about 80% of cases, due to which timely diagnosis is not possible. **Some patients with it may die as a result of multi-system disease within two weeks of the initial symptoms**.
- **Common symptoms include mild fever, fatigue, weakness and headache, while more severe symptoms include bleeding, difficulty breathing, vomiting, swelling of the face, chest, back and abdominal pain.**

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