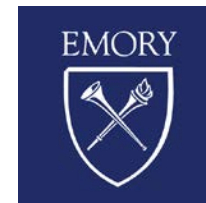


# Lassa Fever: Pediatric Considerations


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# Pediatric Lassa Fever

- IDENTIFY: Clinical Presentation similar to adults
  - ISOLATE: VHF Precautions, limit caregivers
  - INFORM: Include regional pediatric infectious disease experts  
(Consult via CHOA Transfer Center 404-785-KIDS)
- 

# Pediatric Lassa Fever: Clinical Presentation

- 51 hospitalized pediatric cases in Sierra Leone analyzed over 4 yrs.
- Age 0-14
- 16 Males
- Case Fatality Rate 12%

Webb et al. "Lassa fever in children in Sierra Leone"





## Lassa Fever in Children and Infants

- Signs and symptoms recorded for 26/51 cases

Symptoms	No. of cases (n=26)	Frequency (%)
<b>Fever</b>	26	100
<b>Cough</b>	17	65
<b>Vomiting</b>	16	62
<b>Abdominal pain</b>	10	38
<b>Diarrhea</b>	9	35
<b>Anorexia</b>	3	12
<b>Sore Throat</b>	3	12

Signs	No. of cases (n=26)	Frequency (%)
<b>Pharyngitis</b>	7	27%
<b>Lethargy</b>	7	27%
<b>Bleeding</b>	4	15%
<b>Abdominal tenderness</b>	5	19%
<b>Adenopathy</b>	4	15%
<b>Facial edema</b>	4	15%

# Pediatric Lassa Fever: Clinical Presentation

- 57 hospitalized children with lab-confirmed LF in Sierra Leone over 7 yrs.
- Case Fatality Rate 63%
- Common presentations: Cough, vomiting, hypoxia, fever
- Head/neck edema (58%), bleeding (53%), altered mental status (47%) common in children who died

Samuels et al. “Lassa Fever among Children in Eastern Province, Sierra Leone: A 7-year Retrospective Analysis (2012–2018)”

# Swollen Baby Syndrome

- Distinctive of pediatric Lassa fever
- Includes:
  - Widespread edema
  - Abdominal distension
  - Bleeding
- Primarily affects neonates (also infants/toddlers)
- Poor prognosis (three of four children who died in this series)

Monson et al. "Pediatric Lassa fever: a review of 33 Liberian cases"

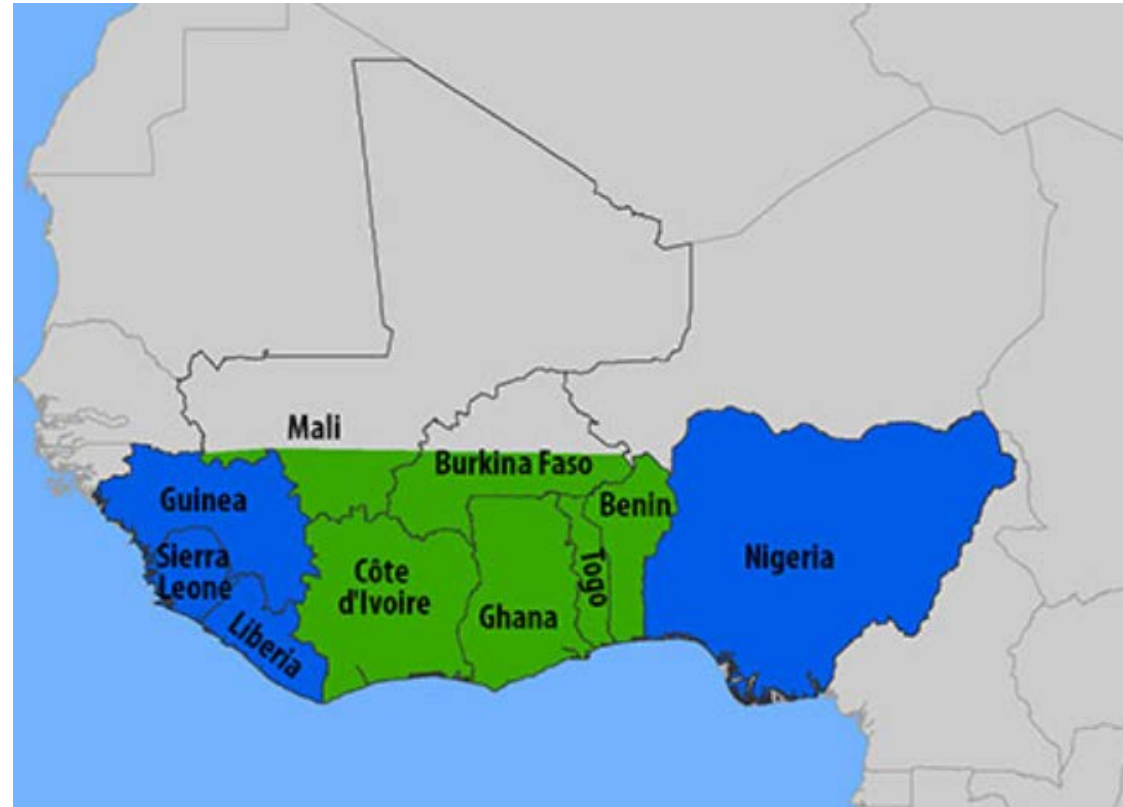


# Pediatric Lassa Fever: Clinical Presentation

- Nonspecific febrile illness, like in adults

PLUS

- History of travel to endemic region



# Pediatric Lassa Fever: Isolate and Inform

- Isolate:

- Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Precautions, like in adults
- Limit family/caregivers

- Inform:

- Hospital Infection Control
- State Health Dept.
- Children's Transfer Center 404-785-7778 – Pediatric Infectious Disease Consult
  - Patient may be direct admission to Eggleston Special Care Unit (SCU)



**Children's**<sup>SM</sup>  
Healthcare of Atlanta