

P36. POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION SAFETY REGULATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS

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Viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs) are a group of RNA virus family illnesses including Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) and Ebola virus disease (EVD). As VHFs are spreading via biological fluids of infected people, health-care workers are infected while treating patients with suspected or confirmed VHFs because basic hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and safe injection practices are not strictly practiced.

An essential component of control during outbreaks of VHFs is investigation of the causes of recent unexplained deaths with postmortem examination as it is particularly important during the earliest part of the epidemic in order to identify both individuals who have died of VHFs and their contacts.

Medical personnel including coroners, medical examiners, and pathologists should be able to use PPE while performing postmortem examinations. Using appropriate PPE/communication equipment during examination and monitoring the environment could control such stresses that mentioned above.

Physical and physiological impairments that PPE cause distorted vision, limited view, limited hearing and communication, limited touch and tactility, limited movement ability/body functions, limited working time because of limited life of CBRN protective respirator canisters. The effects of these impairments could affect both the survival of the operator in mean of contamination and the likelihood of the medical examination success and this deficiency could cause misdiagnosis which follows malpractice.

This vital handicap could be eliminated by meeting the criteria of PPE which is suitable for the task requirement, training, and fitness requirements by forensic examination teams in a realistic manner.