

Healthcare at the front line: the study of international volunteer workers fighting EBOLA in West Africa

Survey shows a high number of near-misses among volunteers, suggesting need for standardization of protocols for management of Ebola virus exposure

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Study shows healthcare volunteers in West Africa are at risk for Ebola infection

In the aftermath of the largest Ebola outbreak in West Africa, organizations around the world chipped in to send men and material for the benefit of at-risk populations in order to combat the deadly Ebola virus. Although a sizeable number of international volunteers were on the front line of service, only a small number were diagnosed with the virus.

A new study surveys returned volunteer responders to the UK the Ireland on exposure events and asymptomatic or pauci-symptomatic infection and finds that a significant proportion experienced “near miss” exposure events, and that most of those who experienced symptoms did not get tested for the Ebola virus (EBOV) at the time.....