EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE WEST AFRICAN REGIONS

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Introduction. The epidemiological situation in the countries of West Africa for some infectious diseases, including infections, which may be an emergency situation in the field of public health and to have international significance continues to be dysfunctional. The top three leaders in the incidence of infectious diseases include the following Ebola virus disease, malaria, meningitis.

Aim. Analyze common infection in West Africa and the presence medicines for specific prevention of these infections.

Results and discussion. Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission. The first symptoms are sudden onset of fever, muscle pain, headache and sore throat. Providing support for early treatment and symptomatic rehydration therapy improves survival of patients. Currently there is no licensed vaccine for Ebola, but 2 potential vaccine candidate are being evaluated.

Malaria is a serious infectious disease, mainly transmitted to man by mosquitoes of Anopheles species. The disease runs in cycles. The first symptoms - fever, headache, chills and vomiting – may be mild, making it difficult to identify malaria. Malaria is treated with antimalarial medications; the ones used depend on the type and severity of the disease. An effective vaccine is not yet available for malaria, although several are under development.

Meningitis is an infection of the coverings of the brain, and is most commonly caused by bacteria. One type, cerebrospinal meningitis (CSM), caused by Neisseria meningitidis, is common in the Northern and Upper regions of Ghana, and usually occurs in epidemics during the harmattan season. This type is contagious. Symptoms include fever, neck pains, severe headache, convulsion, vomiting, etc. Immunization protects against the most serious form of bacterial meningitis, and the tetravalent vaccine ACWY is recommended for Ghana.

Conclusions. Infection prevention should be carried out in several directions, such as, the prevention of transmission of infection, reducing the risk of human infection, in the absence of a vaccine the only way to reduce the number of infections among men is to increase awareness of the risk factors and educating people about the measures they can take to reduce exposure to the pathogen, vector control, and the prevention of infections in hospitals.