Molecular characterisation and estimation of public health relevance of hemorrhagic fever viruses circulating in Ghana and Nigeria

Initiative: Wissen für morgen – Kooperative Forschungsvorhaben im subsaharischen Afrika (beendet)

Ausschreibung: Tropical Medicine 2004

Bewilligung: 14.12.2006

Laufzeit: 3 Jahre

Lassa virus and other viruses causing hemorrhagic fever (VHF) are prevalent in West Africa and led to outbreaks with considerable morbidity and mortality in the past. However, up-to-date information on prevalence and geographic distribution of these viruses is largely lacking. Molecular tools to diagnose Lassa fever and other VHF are not established in Nigeria and Ghana, and national research programmes aiming at identifying and characterising VHF agents, as well as estimating their public health relevance do not exist. Therefore, through the project state-of-the-art technologies for virus detections will be transferred from the German partner institution to their African counterparts. Also, the respective molecular tools will be used to detect and identify Lassa and VHF in Nigeria and Ghana. The information gained through the project will be made available to local and regional public health authorities and the World Health Organisation.

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