

Title: Re: Shantha et al.: Ophthalmic Manifestations and Causes of Vision Impairment in Ebola Virus Disease Survivors in Monrovia, Liberia

To the Editor,

We read with interest the study by Shantha et al<sup>1</sup> on the ophthalmic manifestations and causes of visual impairment in Ebola virus disease survivors in Monrovia. Our recent case-control study has provided additional information to help assist in the interpretation of the lesion attributed to Ebola seen in the fundus photograph (Figure 3) in their paper. The lesion they reported as a 'chorioretinal scar with characteristic hyperpigmented scars with hypopigmented halo' was also present in 14.6% of our Ebola cohort, as well as 16.2% of our control population suggesting an alternative aetiology common in West Africa such as toxoplasmosis<sup>2</sup> may be the cause of this lesion. The reported incidence of Ebola related posterior uveitis may therefore be less than that reported in the study by Shantha et al<sup>1</sup>. 16 patients with chorioretinal scarring including two cases of chorioretinal scarring on the macula with counting finger vision were also reported. OCT imaging in our study suggests Ebola lesions are limited to the retina as opposed to a chorioretinal clinical appearance and appear to spare the fovea<sup>3</sup>.

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## References

1. Shantha JG, Crozier I, Hayek BR, et al. Ophthalmic Manifestations and Causes of Vision Impairment in Ebola Virus Disease Survivors in Monrovia, Liberia. *Ophthalmology* 2016. Available at: <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S016164201631510X> [Accessed December 4, 2016].
2. Ronday MJ, Stilma JS, Barbe RF, et al. Aetiology of uveitis in Sierra Leone, west Africa. *Br J Ophthalmol* 1996;80:956–961.
3. Steptoe PJ, Scott JT, Baxter JM, et al. Novel retinal lesion in Ebola survivors, Sierra Leone, 2016. *Emerg Infect Dis* 2017;In Press.