**Title: Humanity over ethics**

**Author: Dr Ganesh Singh Dharmashaktu**

**Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Medical College, Haldhwani, Uttarakhand, 263 139 INDIA**

The WHO announced the recent outbreak of Ebola virus a catastrophic event with dreadful repercussions in the form of lost human lives and socioeconomic burden. Ebola disease starts as flu like symptoms along with nausea or vomiting but later wrecks havoc with haemmorhagic fever and organ failure. By the first quarter of August 2014, WHO estimated thousands of deaths and suspected cases in west African region. The situation was compounded by lack of effective and proven therapeutic agent to deal with it.

FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and the world had never faced a dilemma of human life versus the ethics in medicine so urgently in the past. As the administration geared up for permitting the use of still experimental drugs for clinical trials in the affected region, the debate of righteousness and humanity has resurfaced again.

US FDA has changed its policy and allowed clinical testing of experimental drug TKM-Ebola in the wake of a deadly outbreak claiming thousands of human lives, and more so considering its potential for worldwide spread. The drug was still on phase 1 trials and was reporting cytokine release in participants for which it was under scanner for potential harmful effects. However studies on non- human species had yielded encouraging results.2

The WHO held the decision as ethical.3 One of the experimental drug, ZMapp, also an experimental drug only tested in non- human primates, has already been given to two American doctors affected by the disease serving in Africa .4 Later news announced the one doctor recovered and the other on path of recovery in the United States. The need for quick search of effective agent has been an burning issue in the wake of ZMapp drug exhausted and out of supply.

The move serves to be an unending dilemma concerning the survival of the human lives and maintaining the sanctity of the laws of the land. However, the ethics took a backseat here reaffirming the notion of putting life before the ethics and morality in rare situations.

References –

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