

SYNOPSIS

01/28/2020

Review of “Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China”

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One-Minute Summary

- Case series of **41 patients admitted to hospital** in Wuhan from December 16, 2019 to January 2, 2020 with laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV from respiratory samples, with the earliest date of onset of December 1, 2019.
- **Direct exposure to the Huanan seafood market** - 66%
- **Male** - 73%; **median age** 49 years (no children)
- **Underlying diseases** - 32%
- **Admitted to the ICU** - 32%
- **Died** - 15% (six patients)
- **Abnormalities on chest CT** - 100%; all patients had pneumonia
- **Most common presenting symptoms:** fever (98%), cough (76%), dyspnea (55%), myalgia or fatigue (44%)
- **Demonstrated person to person transmission** in one case

Additional Information

Other clinical information:

- Lymphopenia in 63%
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome occurred in 29%
- RNA in blood found in 15%
- Acute cardiac injury in 12%

- Diarrhea was not common
- Upper respiratory tract infections not common (e.g., not common to have runny nose, sneezing or sore throat)
- Severity may be related to cytokine storm

Serial interval: In one patient who passed infection to his wife, the serial interval was 5 days (from onset of symptoms in the husband to onset in the wife)

Management:

- Using airborne precautions for suspect cases
- Combination of lopinavir and ritonavir showed benefit in SARS, so a randomized clinical trial is being initiated using these drugs
- Corticosteroids not recommended
- Discharge criteria – abatement of fever for at least 10 days, with improvement of chest X-ray and viral clearance in upper respiratory samples

Case fatality rates of MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV:

- SARS-CoV - 10%
- MERS-CoV - 37%

PHO Reviewer's Comments

The epidemiology of these 41 cases may not represent the current epidemiology, as 66% of the cases in this case series were from the original market exposure. We know from avian influenza exposures that older men are more likely to go to the markets and may also be more prone to severe disease.

Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Review of “Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China”. Toronto, ON: Queens’s Printer for Ontario; 2020.

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