SYNOPSIS

02/18/2020

Review of “First imported case of 2019 novel coronavirus in Canada, presenting as mild pneumonia”


One-Minute Summary

- A 56 year old man presented to the Emergency Department at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Ontario one day after returning from Wuhan, China.
- His main symptoms were fever and non-productive cough. He showed no signs of respiratory distress.
- Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected in both mid-turbinate and throat swabs.
- A chest x-ray showed bilateral pneumonia, but the patient did not require intubation or supplemental oxygen.
- One day after admission, the patient developed mild haemoptysis and significant rhinorrhea.
- The patient also had thrombocytopenia, which has only been reported in a minority of cases and which had fully resolved by the time of hospital discharge.

Additional Information

- The patient had underlying, but well controlled hypertension.
- Healthcare workers in the transferring ambulance and hospital used appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Mid-turbinate swabs were negative for influenza virus A and influenza virus B, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, adenovirus and human metapneumovirus.
- The authors suggest that patients with similar mild illness due to COVID-19 could be managed by home isolation rather than in hospital care.

PHO Reviewer’s Comments

- This case report describes the first case of COVID-19 in Canada.
Citation

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