Avian Flu

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Introduction

Dear Visitors,

Thank you for visiting our webpage on "avian flu". Through this webpage, we hope to share the clinical and radiographic features of this new disease with the rest of the medical community.

Our first encounter with this new viral disease was in 1997 when there was a limited outbreak of the infection in Hong Kong. No major human outbreaks have since occurred until last winter. This time, however, the disease is more widespread and not limited to Asia or a single strain of the virus. With the help of our colleagues in Hong Kong and Vietnam, we have gathered a collection of serial radiographs of this disease and the associated clinical findings.

We would like to thank all the medical staff who have contributed and helped with providing information for this webpage. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the public, health-care workers and health authorities in limiting the spread of this disease.

Department of Imaging and Interventional Radiology,
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Avian Flu

Case One

13-year-old symptomatic female
Admitted to Paediatric ward 26/11/97 (Day 1) from the Emergency department.
Previously healthy. Sore throat, rhinorrhoea, and dry cough one week prior to admission. Fever four days prior to admission.
Examination - Alert, febrile, no respiratory distress. Lung auscultation - decreased breath sounds and crepitations in R lung base.

Complete blood count - WCC 4700/microL, Platelets 62 000/microL
Blood culture - negative
Sputum culture - nil of note
Viral titre - nil of note

Diagnosis of atypical pneumonia - Clarythromycin orally.
Following day - haemoptysis. Cefotaxime added.
In evening cough, increasing respiratory rate and distress and hypoxia despite oxygen therapy.
Admitted to ICU on 27/11/97 (Day 2).
Mechanical ventilation for hypoxia 6 h after admission. Clinical R lower and middle lobe crepitations and audible "rub". Rapid deterioration over next 3 days with ARDS, multiple organ dysfunction.
29/11/03: Upper gastrointestinal bleeding. Worsening ARDS requiring prone position ventilation - until the 5th or 6th Dec.
Died 21/12/97. cause of death intractable respiratory failure (hypoxia).
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Case One

Day 2

Day 3
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Case One

Day 4

Day 5
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Case One

Day 9

Day 14
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Case One

Day 20

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Case One

Day 23(1)  Day 23(2)
M 31 yrs: Exposed to dead chicken 5 days before illness (onset 3/1/04).
Fever 40C, malaise, dry cough, SOB, headache for 2 days.
His 2 sisters died of confirmed H5N1 2 weeks later.
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Case Two

6/1/04

Died 9/1/04
M/52 yrs old: Poultry farm worker, contact with dead chicken. Fever 5 days / dry cough, runny nose & SOB for 2 days. CPK 15820. Rx: Fortum & Amikacin.
M/19 yrs: Poultry farm worker with contact of dead chicken. Fever, productive cough, SOB since 5/12/03. WBC 2.1, L=0.6, Plt 30, Normal fibrinogen & APTT. Urea 15.4, Cr 238, ALT 49, AST 397. Rx: cefotaxime, gentamicin.

8/12/03

9/12/03
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Case Four

Died 10/12/03

10/12/2003
M/23 yrs: Farmer. Contact with dead chicken 3 days prior to illness. T38.7C, Productive cough, SOB, diarrhoea. Admitted to HCM Hosp for Tropical Dis 7 days after onset. SpO2 90% on 40% oxygen. Hb 17.6, WBC 3.9, Lym 0.7, Plt 102, Cr 121, ALT 89, AST 110. RTPCR positive for H5N1.
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Case Five

Critically ill-3
M 33 yrs/Princess Margaret Hospital, Hong Kong: returned from Fujian with fever, chills, cough since 7/2/03. Lymphopenia, increased ALT. ARDS & MODS on 14/2/03. Died on 17/2/03.
F/6 yr, fever for 8 days, developed acute respiratory distress
Adm WBC 2.4 x 10^9/L, L 0.5 x 10^9/L, plt 127 x 10^9/L, ALT 246 IU/L, AST 1379 IU/L, nasal swab H5 Ag +ve
Given Methylpred 5 mg/kg/day and Tamiflu. Died 3 days after admission

CXR on admission

CXR 6 hours after admission
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Case Seven

CXR on day 2

CXR on day 3