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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Biomedicine

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/apjtb



Document heading

doi:10.12980/APJTB.4.2014C1251

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Clinical presentation of the new emerging infectious disease, H6N1 bird flu

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To the editor,

The newest emerging influenza which has just been reported in November 2013 from Taiwan province is the H6N1 bird flu. This infection is the emerging zoonotic influenza which crosses species from avian to human beings^[1,2]. The first indexed case in Taiwan presented with acute respiratory illness, which is concordant with the clinical feature of acute influenza infection^[1,2]. The final confirmation of the new emerging influenza H6N1 bird flu is due to the virological examination. The interesting topic is that this new infection has the same clinical features as the simple influenza infection^[3]. There is no atypical presentation (no gastrointestinal, ocular, neurological and other signs and symptoms)^[3]. Focusing on the laboratory findings, the H6N1 bird flu shows no abnormality of liver function, renal function and other blood biochemical parameters^[3]. For the hematological aberration, only the slightly increased white blood cell count, which is different from general influenza infection, can be observed^[3]. It can be said that the clinical features of the new emerging H6N1 influenza infection is mild and might be difficult to be differentiated from general influenza. Perhaps, the human infection might exist for a long time, but it has never been detected by confirmatory virological

examination. Nevertheless, since it has just been the starting phase of discovery of the new infection, further information from further reports is needed for summative conclusion of the clinical presentation of the new emerging H6N1 bird flu.

Conflict of interest statement

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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Article history:

Received 21 Nov 2013

Received in revised form 18 Jan, 2nd revised form 22 Feb, 3rd revised form 24 Mar 2014

Accepted 27 May 2014

Available online 5 Jul 2014