Risk Factors for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome in H1N1

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Sir,

The recent report on “risk factors for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) development in patients with type A influenza (H1N1)” is an interesting report [1]. It was concluded that “diabetes, late initiation of antiviral therapy and some laboratory tests are risk factors for ARDS development [1].” Indeed, the ARDS is a serious fatal complication of H1N1 infection and high rate of this complication is reported in many developing countries with poor medical resource [2, 3]. To find the risk factor can be useful, however, there are many considerations. The use of retrospective analysis might have the problem of data record and this can affect the final result (for example, one might not know whether he or she has diabetes mellitus or not if there is no previous blood test). Focusing on laboratory investigation, it can be informative. Some new laboratory investigations such as procalcitonin might be useful in managing H1N1 infected patients [4]. Finally, it should be noted that the rapid clinical change in H1N1 infected patients can be expected, hence, closed follow-up is required for all cases with or without risk factors.

REFERENCES


