Cardiology concern on new H3N2 influenza outbreak

Yeni H3N2 grip salgının kardiyoloji ile ilgisi

The present public health concern is on the new outbreak of influenza, H3N2 flu in USA. The pandemic outbreak is expected. Similar to the previous outbreaks of influenza, the cardiology concern is of interest. Focusing on the previous swine flu epidemic 2009, the cardiac involvement and cardiac presentation is mentioned (1) and this is the topic for consideration in the present H3N2 outbreak. According to a recent retrospective study, it was concluded that “A/H3N2 viruses, are directly associated with acute IHD-related events in older individuals” (2). Gurevich et al. (3) could demonstrate the presence of H3N2 influenza viral RNA in vascular atherosclerotic lesions and proposed for the chance for atherosclerosis progression due to the identified RNA. In addition, the case of influenza-related myocarditis in H2N2 influenza virus infection is also reported (4). Indeed, the animal model study can demonstrate the viral invasion into the cardiac tissue during the H3N2 influenza virus infection (5). Although there is still no data on clinical cardiology aspect on the infected cases in the present H3N2 flu outbreak, the consideration of cardiac problem is required. Better than treatment, the prevention of H3N2 is recommended and special attention on any patients with cardiac problem is needed. For H3N2 influenza vaccination, the poor vaccine response is observed the patients with heart failure (6) and double dose vaccination is the way to increase immunogenicity (7). To prepare for the possible pandemic H3N2 influenza, the practitioners should concern on the cardiac presentation of the infection and should provide prevention to their patients with cardiac problems.

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References