


6 - Respiratory Viral Infections Including Influenza, Immunocompetent, and Immunocompromised Patients


Speaker: Andrew T. Pavia, MD



Respiratory Viral Infections Including Influenza, Immunocompetent, and Immunocompromised Patients

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Disclosures of Financial Relationships with Relevant Commercial Interests

- Commercial Interests: Antimicrobial Therapy Inc, WebMD, Sanofi

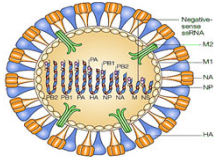

What you need to know for the boards

- Minimal virology
- Epidemiology including avian influenza
- Diagnosis
- Complications
- Antivirals
- Vaccines

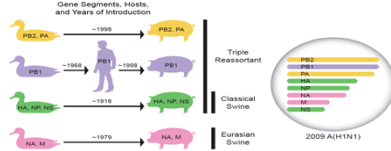


Influenza virus

- Orthomyxovirus; 8 gene segments
- Flu A, B and C
- Flu A has 16 HA types, 9 N types
- High error rate leads to point mutations (drift); segment reassortment leads to shift (pandemics)
- Huge reservoir in wild fowl. Cause disease in poultry, and many mammals

Reassortment of genes leads to pandemic shifts
e.g. A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09, the virus formerly known as swine flu

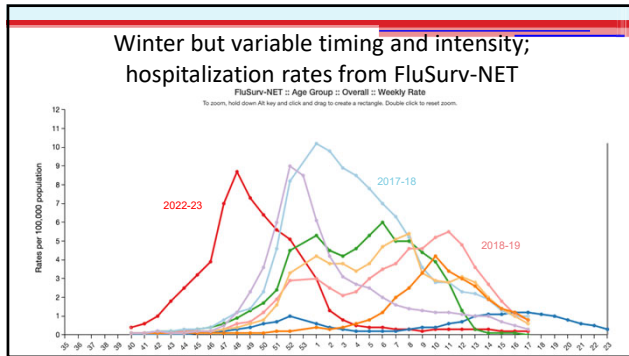


Clinical findings of influenza

- Fever, malaise, cough, sore throat, myalgia, chills, eye pain, headache
- Sudden onset is typical
- During an epidemic, fever with cough has high predictive value
- Fever may be absent in the elderly, immunocompromised, very young

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Groups at Risk for Complications of Influenza

Group	Example/Comment
Children <5 yrs	Highest hospitalization rate children <2 yr
Persons >65 yrs	Highest among frail elderly
Pregnancy	Highest risk in 3 rd trimester and 2 weeks post partum
Chronic CVD	Hypertension not seen as independent risk
Chronic lung	Asthma and/or COPD, cystic fibrosis
Metabolic disorder	Diabetes
Renal, Hematologic	Includes sickle cell disease
Neurologic	Neuromuscular, neurocognitive, or seizure disorder
Immunosuppression	Including HIV, organ transplantation, chemotherapy, hypogamm
Morbid obesity	Noted in several studies during H1N1
Am. Indian/Alaskan native	May also be increased in other disadvantaged groups

Influenza Transmission

- Incubation period: 1-4 days (average: 2 days)
- Shedding:
 - Adults: 1 day before symptoms; 5-7 days after illness onset
 - Young children: 1-2 days before illness onset; 10 or more days after symptom onset
 - Immunocompromised or severely immunosuppressed persons: weeks to months
- Large droplets (up to 6 feet) most important.
- Fomite and small droplet (true airborne) likely contribute.
- Standard plus droplet precautions recommended
- "Use caution" for aerosol generating procedures
- Monitor and manage ill health care personnel

<https://www.cdc.gov/professionals/infectiousdiseasecontrol/healthcaresettings.htm>

What makes a human influenza strain?

- Use of α -2-6-linked receptors. PB2 adaptation
- Despite increasing study, anticipating changes difficult
- Many genes interacting in complex ways determine virulence species specificity and transmissibility (e.g. 1918 H1N1 virus)
- Influenza risk assessment tool (IRAT)
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/national-strategy/risk-assessment.htm>

Influenza A viruses infecting humans

- H1N1*: Emerged in 1918. Re-emerged in 1977
- H2N2: 1956-1977 but replaced by H3N2
- H3N2*: Emerged in 1968 (Hong Kong flu)
- H3N2v*: Assorted swine associated variants
- H5N1*: Emerged 2003 in Hong Kong. Current strain causing severe outbreak in birds with recent spill over in mammals
- H7N9: Caused >130 cases of severe disease 2013; >200 in second wave; decreasing
- H7N3: Isolated cases in farm workers
- H7N7: H7 viruses associated with conjunctivitis
- H9N2: Sporadic cases associated with poultry
- H10N3: First human case 2021

* Currently causing human disease





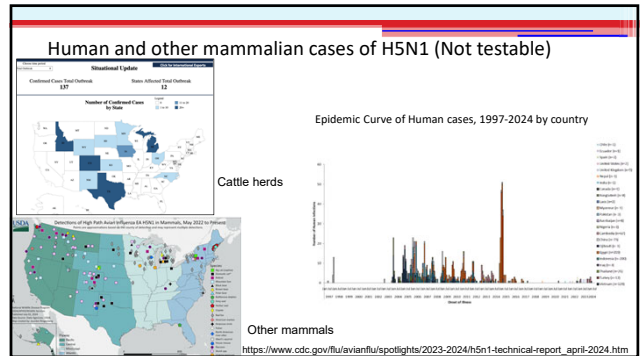
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HPAI H5N1 influenza

- Initially identified in goose in Guangdong in 1996
- 18 human cases/6 deaths Hong Kong 1997
- Re-emerged in 2003 with large poultry outbreaks and sporadic human cases – high mortality
- In 2020, reassortment led to emergence of Eurasian clade of HPAI H5N1 Clade 2.3.4.4b
- Large outbreaks among commercial and backyard poultry and wild birds around the world
- ~ 90 million birds culled in US in since 2020
- 909 human cases to date; 13 of clade 2.3.4.4b



Question #1

PREVIEW QUESTION

An 18 year old high school student develops chills, fever, cough, myalgia in January. She is prescribed azithromycin, rest and NSAIDs. Fever and cough continue and she becomes progressively dyspneic and weak. On admission T 39, P 150, RR 24-30, BP 120/50. She has crackles throughout both bases and a gallop. Influenza PCR positive

- WBC =9000/mm³ (60% polys, 30% bands)
- Creatinine 1.9
- BNP and troponin markedly elevated
- CXR shows diffuse bilateral infiltrates and cardiomegaly
- Requires V-A ECMO

Question #1 (Cont.)

PREVIEW QUESTION

What is the most likely cause of this influenza complication?:

- Pneumococcal pneumonia
- Staph aureus pneumonia with purulent pericarditis
- Influenza cardiomyopathy
- MIS-C due to recent SARS-CoV-2 infection
- Viral pericarditis with effusion

Mild complications of influenza

Complication	Comment
Otitis media	
Sinusitis	
Parotitis	Newly described
Asthma exacerbation	Antibiotics not indicated
Croup	Young children
Bronchiolitis/Bronchitis	

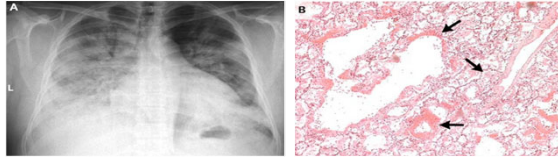
Severe cardiopulmonary complications of influenza

Complication	Comment
Secondary bacterial infection	Strep pneumoniae, GAS, S. aureus. Classically marked worsening after initial improvement. Account for large proportion of pandemic deaths
Exacerbation of underlying illness	COPD, asthma, CHF
Ischemic heart disease	Ecologic association
Viral pneumonia	May be mild or severe hemorrhagic pneumonitis/ARDS
Toxic Shock Syndrome	Staphylococcal TSS most commonly described but GAS also reported
Invasive aspergillosis	Clusters in Belgium and Netherlands. Rare reports worldwide

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Influenza associated hemorrhagic pneumonitis



Non-respiratory complications of influenza

Complication	Comment
Neurologic	
Seizures	
Encephalopathy/Necrotizing encephalitis	Viral particles and RNA are rarely found. More common in children but higher mortality in adults
Guillain Barre Syndrome	Up to 10 fold more common with infection than estimated association with vaccine
Other	Stroke, ADEM, Reyes Syndrome
Musculoskeletal	
Myositis, Rhabdomyolysis	Can be severe and lead to AKI
Cardiac	
Pericarditis	
Myocarditis	see also Uyeki Ann Intern Med 274:9 Nov 2021

Question #2

- A 20 year old woman is 18 days out from HSCT in January on and engrafted 3 days ago.
- She develops fever, hypoxemia, bilateral lung infiltrates and is intubated.
- A nasal swab is negative by rapid test for influenza.

Question #2 Continued

Which of the following is the most appropriate course of action (regardless of other actions you may take)?

- A. Do not initiate anti-influenza therapy due to result of rapid test. The timing suggests idiopathic pulmonary syndrome (engraftment)
- B. Initiate anti-influenza therapy empirically and send tracheal aspirate or BAL for influenza PCR
- C. Send IgG and IgM for influenza
- D. Send RSV EIA and initiate empiric IV ribavirin

Diagnosis



Photo: ©Andrew Pavia

Diagnosis of influenza

- Performance of all tests depends on prevalence of virus in community and specimen quality
- Clinical diagnosis: up to 80% PPV during peak (pre-Covid)
- Rapid influenza detection tests have low-moderate sensitivity 10-70%; reasonably specific
- Positive antigen test in peak season high PPV; negative test should not be used for decisions
- PCR/NAAT recommended by IDSA Guidelines, rapid platforms NAAT expanding. When flu is circulating, test for both SARS-COV-2 and flu
- Serology has no role

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Influenza in transplant pearls



- Typical flu symptoms less common
- Virus may not be present in nasopharynx in patients with influenza pneumonia – lower tract specimens should also be tested.
- Spread on transplant units can be explosive - High mortality
- Prolonged shedding is common
- Resistance may develop on therapy especially in HSCT patients

Question #3



PREVIEW QUESTION

- A 32 year old nurse is 34 weeks pregnant during influenza season. She develops influenza symptoms and is seen at an instacare where a rapid test is positive and she is given azithromycin.
- 72 hours after the onset she presents to the ED with fever, tachypnea, hypoxemia and decreased urine output.
- CXR shows bilateral hazy infiltrates. She is hospitalized.

Question #3 (Cont.)



PREVIEW QUESTION

Which of the following is correct?

- A. She should get supportive care only since she has had symptoms for >48 hours
- B. Oseltamivir is relatively contraindicated in pregnancy
- C. Zanamivir is clearly preferred because of low systemic absorption
- D. Oseltamivir should be started as soon as possible

ACIP and IDSA Guidelines for Antiviral Use 2024

- Antiviral treatment is recommended for patients with confirmed or suspected influenza as soon as possible for:
 - Who are hospitalized regardless of duration of symptoms
 - Have severe, complicated or progressive illness regardless of duration of symptoms
 - Outpatients with confirmed or suspected influenza who are at higher risk for influenza complications
 - Consider for otherwise healthy outpatients within 48 hrs of symptom onset

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>
Uyeki. IDSA Guidelines Clin Infect Dis 2019;68(6):895

ACIP Guidelines for Antiviral Use 2024 (con't.)

- Recommended medications for outpatients:
 - Oseltamivir, baloxavir, inhaled zanamivir and IV peramivir
- Recommended medications for inpatients:
 - Oseltamivir

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>

CDC Antiviral Treatment Recommendations

- Empiric antiviral therapy should be offered to pregnant women and women up to 2 weeks postpartum
- Pregnancy should not be considered a contraindication to therapy.
- Treatment duration
 - NAIs: 5 days
 - Baloxavir: single dose
- Initiating treatment within 2 days of symptoms results in improved outcomes
 - Substantial reduction in morbidity and mortality in hospitalized patients up to 5 days after sx

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/avrec_ob.htm

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Baloxavir

- Cap-dependent polymerase inhibitor
- Non inferior to oseltamivir in two phase 3 studies
- Superior for influenza B in patients with risk factors
- Shorter duration of shedding
- Resistance mutations emerge on treatment in 10-20%

Hayden NEJM 2018; 379:913-923
Ison Lancet Infect Dis 2020; Jun 8;S1473-309
Uehara JID 2019; 221:346

Antiviral Prophylaxis

- Chemoprophylaxis should not replace vaccination
- Oseltamivir, zanamivir, baloxavir 70-90% effective in trials
- **PEP is recommended to control influenza outbreaks in nursing homes**
- Prophylaxis may increase selection of resistant viruses
- PEP can be considered for high risk persons with unprotected close contact with patient with flu
- Post exposure prophylaxis should not be given after 48 hours from exposure
- Post exposure prophylaxis for otherwise healthy persons is generally discouraged; prompt empiric therapy is preferable

Vaccines



ACIP Recommendations for Influenza vaccination 2024-25

- Routine influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older.
- All vaccines will be trivalent!!! (TIIV = Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine) H1N1, H3N2, B Victoria
- Enhanced vaccines recommended for those >65
 - High dose inactivated, adjuvanted, recombinant
- Consider HD or adjuvanted for solid organ recipients

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2024-2025.htm>

Vaccine pearls (con't.)

- All influenza vaccines can be given to those with egg allergy.
- For those with anaphylaxis to egg, consultation with allergist no longer recommended. Anaphylaxis to flu vaccine is still a contraindication

Vaccine pearls

- Efficacy varies by year and group
- Generally 50-70%; lower in elderly, children < 2, renal disease, immunosuppressive therapy and transplant pts.
- In HIV, response related to CD4 count
- Major mismatch occurs at least every 10 years
- Egg adaptation may lower efficacy

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Egg Allergy

- Persons with a history of egg allergy who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg should receive flu vaccine. Any licensed and recommended flu vaccine (i.e., any form of IIV or RIV) that is otherwise appropriate for the recipient's age and health status may be used.
- Persons who report having had reactions to egg involving symptoms other than hives... or who required epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention, may similarly receive any licensed and recommended flu vaccine (i.e., any form of IIV or RIV) that is otherwise appropriate for the recipient's age and health status. **If a vaccine other than cclIV4 or RIV4 is used**, the selected vaccine should be administered in an inpatient or outpatient medical setting (including but not necessarily limited to hospitals, clinics, health departments, and physician offices).
- A previous severe allergic reaction to flu vaccine, regardless of the component suspected of being responsible for the reaction, is a contraindication to future receipt of the vaccine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/egg-allergies.htm>

Other important respiratory viruses Adenovirus, RSV, hMPV, parainfluenza, coronaviruses, hantaviruses (and more)



Photograph by Adam Clark

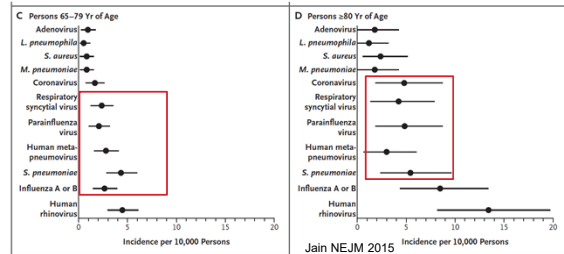
What you may be tested on

- Focus on lower respiratory tract disease in compromised hosts, *including* older adults
- RSV, adenoviruses, hMPV are fair game
- Parainfluenza viruses possibly
- Coronaviruses including MERS (possible) and SARS-1 (unlikely) possibly SARS-CoV-2
- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a popular zebra



Photo: ©Andrew Pavia

Incidence of pathogens in older adults hospitalized with CAP



Findings which may suggest viral vs bacterial CAP: beware the overlap!

Characteristic	Viral	Bacterial
Onset	Gradual	Sudden
Season	Winter, associated with viral outbreaks	Slightly less seasonal
Host	Older age, more cardiac and pulmonary disease	Any age
Exam	Wheezing	Consolidation
CBC	Leukopenia	Leukocytosis
Procalcitonin	< 0.1	> 0.5
CRP	Lower	Higher
CXR (big overlap)	Interstitial, multilobar	Consolidation, effusion

Diagnosis of respiratory viruses in adults

- Generally shed less virus than children
- Sensitivity depends on test and specimen. Flocked swab and swabbing nose and throat may be better
- Virus may be present in lower respiratory tract (TA/BAL) but not upper in patients with pneumonia
- PCR most sensitive. FDA cleared multiplex platforms available
- Testing is critical in immunocompromised and transplant patients with respiratory symptoms
- Consider testing in hospitalized elderly

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Respiratory Viruses in HSC Transplant Patients

Virus	Mortality for pneumonia	Treatment	Comment
RSV	7-33%	IVIG, ribavirin	LRI associated with severe outcomes
Influenza	25-28%	Oseltamivir, zanamivir, peramivir	Antiviral resistance may develop
Parainfluenza	35-37%	IVIG?	
Adenovirus	30-50%	Cidofovir	May disseminate
hMPV	33-40%	IVIG?	27-41% progress from URI to LRI
Coronavirus (non-SARS)	?	?	Progression to LRI less common
Rhinovirus	<5	?	Severity unclear

Falsey, Walsh. Clin Microbiol Rev 2000;13: 371
 Nichols. Blood 2001;98:573
 England. Ann Intern Med 2006;144:344
 Reynolds. Curr Opin Infect Dis 2011;333
 Boeckh. Br J Haematol. 2008; 143: 455
 Larosa. Clin Infect Dis 2001;32:871
 Ison. Clin Infect Dis 2003;36:1139

Question #4

- A 75 yo man with COPD, history of MI is admitted in January with progressive dyspnea, cough, tachypnea, low grade fever. ROS is positive for rhinitis.
- He has been spending time with young grandchild who has bronchiolitis.
- Rapid Covid test negative. CXR shows bilateral perihilar infiltrates but no consolidation or effusion

Question #4 Continued

The recommended strategy, pending more lab results, regarding isolation should be:

- Put him in a regular two bedded room with standard precautions
- Put him in a single room with standard precautions
- Put him in a single room with contact/droplet precautions
- Put him in an airborne isolation room with airborne isolation

Question #5

- Multiplex PCR of his nasal swab shows RSV. Which of the following is correct

 - RSV is an incidental finding which might cause URI symptoms
 - RSV likely accounts for infiltrate. He should be immediately started on palivizumab (Synagis) and ribavirin
 - RSV likely accounts for infiltrate. Supportive care is appropriate
 - He has high risk CAP and should be started on vancomycin and piperacillin tazobactam

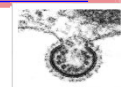
Risk factors for RSV hospitalization among adults

- Age
- CHF
- CAD
- COPD
- Diabetes mellitus
- Immune compromise, especially hematopoietic stem cell transplant and solid organ transplant
- Asthma
- Morbid obesity

Anderson et al. Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis (2016);
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2016.02.025>
 Prasad et al. Clin Infect Dis (2020); <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa730>
 Kujawski et al. Plos One (2022); <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0264890>
 Branche et al. Clin Infect Dis (2022); <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciab595>

RSV

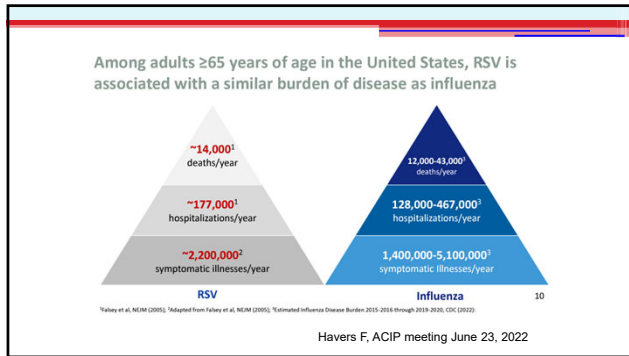
- Most common cause of LRTI in children
- Common cause of URI with rhinitis in adults.
- AE-COPD, worsened CHF, asthma exacerbation and pneumonia in elderly and immunocompromised
- Transmitted by large droplet and contact; Late fall to spring (usually December- April)
- Similar rates of hospitalization to influenza among those> 65
- COPD, CAD, CHF risk factors for hospitalization



Falsey NEJM 2005, Widmer 2012
 Branche Clin Infect Dis 2022

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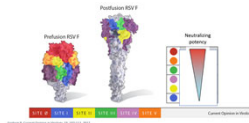
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RSV

- Long incubation period 2-8 days
- Diagnosis by PCR
- No indications for palivizumab (Synagis) or nirsevimab in adults
- Inhaled ribavirin controversial
 - Limited efficacy, high cost, occupational risk
- Case series suggest benefit aerosolized RBV +/- IVIG in HSCT patient with LRTI; no good data in SOT.
- Oral ribavirin appears equally effective, much less expensive

RSV Prevention!



- Three licensed vaccines for those > 60
 - Protein >80% effective at preventing severe RSV
 - Target pre-fusion F protein
 - GSK adjuvanted single dose
 - Pfizer un-adjuvanted single dose
 - Moderna mRNA single dose
- Pfizer licensed for pregnant women to protect infant ~ 70% effective
- New long acting monoclonal Ab nirsevimab for infants

Case

- A 20 year old soldier undergoing advanced infantry training presents in March with several days of fever, cough, chest pain, tachypnea, hypoxia and conjunctivitis with this CXR.
- No travel, tick bites, animal exposures
- WBC 3.0, platelets 160, CRP 2.5, AST 85, ALT 80

Question #6

2 days later he is in ICU on high levels of support.
You suspect:

- A. Pneumococcal pneumonia
- B. *Borrelia hermsii* with capillary leak and ARDS
- C. Adenovirus
- D. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome
- E. MRSA pneumonia
- F. Group A streptococcus with TSS

Question #6

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Adenovirus

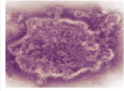


- DS DNA; 7 species, >50 serotypes
- Associated with URI, pharyngitis, conjunctivitis, otitis, pneumonia, myocarditis, hemorrhagic cystitis; hepatitis, disseminated disease in compromised hosts
- Adenovirus species F type 40/41 associated with gastroenteritis; unclear association with pediatric liver failure
- Outbreaks of pneumonia in day care, closed settings, stressed populations e.g. military barracks
- No real seasonality

Adenovirus in transplant patients

- More common with Campath (alemtuzumab)
- URI progresses to LRI in about half, with high mortality
- May disseminate and cause severe hepatitis, encephalitis
- May cause hemorrhagic cystitis, tubulointerstitial nephritis
- May lead to loss of graft in SOT patients; HLH
- Diagnosis by PCR of **respiratory secretions, blood**, pathology of organ biopsy
- Cidofovir, Brincidofovir have been used for Rx

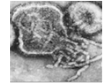
Human Metapneumovirus



- “Discovered” in the last decades
- Nonsegmented, single stranded, negative sense RNA virus: Paramyxoviridae family, Pneumovirinae subfamily
- Causes URI, bronchiolitis, pneumonia similar to RSV
- Winter/Spring in temperate climates
- In younger adults, URI common with sore throat, hoarseness, wheezing, asthma exacerbation, AE-COPD, and CAP
- More severe in elderly, more wheezing; ECF outbreaks
- Mortality among HSC transplant similar to RSV

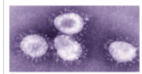
Falsey J Ped Inf Dis 2008
Walter Inf Dis Clin North America 2017

Parainfluenza virus



- Paramyxovirus with 4 subtypes 1-4
- Spring and fall seasonality
- Causes URI, bronchiolitis, croup, pneumonia in children. Parainfluenza 3 more severe.
- Causes URI, cough illness and viral pneumonia in adults
- May cause severe disease in transplant patients and all respiratory viruses be associated with COP (formerly known as BOOP)

Other Human Coronaviruses



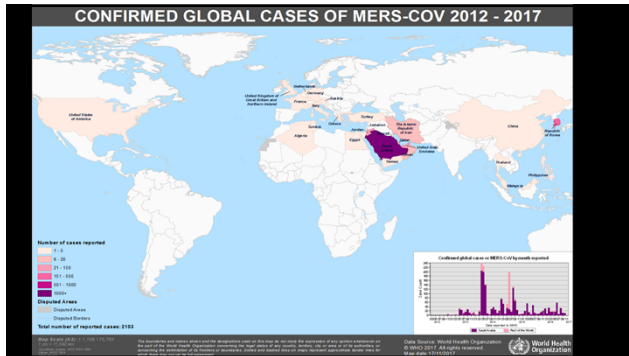
- HuCoV 229e, HuCoV OC43
 - “Older” associated predominantly with URI
- HuCoV HKU1, HuCoV NL63
 - Recently described using molecular techniques. Associated with URI and some pediatric and adult pneumonia
- May be detected on newer multiplex platforms (Luminex, FilmArray). Do not cross react with SARS-CoV-2
- Can cause severe disease in HSCT population

MERS coronavirus

- Discovered April 2012
- > 600 cases in or with contact with Gulf area, predominantly Saudi Arabia
- Transmission documented in health care settings and families but to date, super spreaders suspected in Korea
- Mortality 56% with small number of asymptomatic
- Closest relative is a bat virus
- Camels play important role

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Question #7

- A 35 yo man is admitted to the ICU in July with fever, respiratory failure, hypotension.
- 5 days PTA he complained of having the “flu;” fever, malaise, myalgia, mild abd pain.
- **History:** Recently camped in cabins at Yosemite National Park which has had rodent infestations issues.
- Has parakeet, dogs, cat had kittens recently, owns a hot tub. 2 kids in daycare have URI.

Question #7 (con’t.)

- **Labs:** Hct 52; WBC 6.0 (20% bands, 45% polys, 2+ atypical lymphs), platelets 90K,
- AST 105, PT 18, PTT 25
- **CXR:** Rapidly progressing bilateral infiltrates leading to white out

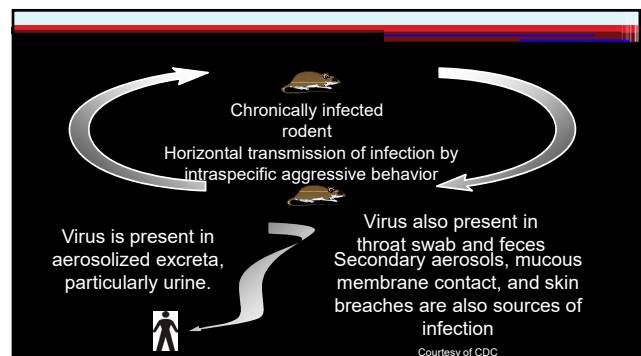
Question #7 (con’t)

Which of the following is the most likely cause of his illness?

- Adenovirus
- Influenza
- Anthrax
- Coxiella burnetii
- Sin Nombre virus (Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome)

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome HPS

- First described in a 1993 outbreak in the **4 Corners**
- Outbreak in 2012 **Yosemite**. Endemic cases of HPS in much of US, **Chile, Argentina**
- Caused by specific North American and Latin American hantaviruses – member of Bunyaviridae family.
 - Previously unrecognized viruses cause HPS, Sin Nombre virus, Black Creek Canal, New York virus
 - Prior to the HPS outbreak, the only known hantaviruses were those that caused HFRS



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Stages of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS)

- Incubation (4-30 days)
- Febrile phase
 - Fever, myalgia, malaise occasionally N, V, abd pain
- Cardiopulmonary phase
- Diuretic phase
- Convalescent phase

HPS-Cardiopulmonary Phase

- Acute onset of cough and dyspnea
- Presentation and rapid progression of shock and pulmonary edema (4-24h non-productive cough and tachypnea (shortness of breath))
- Hypovolemia due to progressive leakage of high protein fluid from blood to lung interstitium and alveoli, decreased cardiac function

HPS-Cardiopulmonary Phase

- Hypotension and oliguria
- **Critical clues:**
 - Thrombocytopenia (98%),
 - Hemoconcentration
 - left shift with atypical lymphs
 - elevated PT, abnormal LFTs

Respiratory viruses: Take home

- RSV, hMPV, Parainfluenza viruses are common causes of CAP and exacerbation of underlying cardiopulmonary disease in elderly
- COPD and heart disease are risk factors
- Exposure to children probably a risk factor
- Nosocomial transmission has been documented in hospitals and ECF
- Testing and use of appropriate precautions
- HPS has distinct epidemiologic risks and recognizable lab abnormalities



Good Luck on the Exam!
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