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Pandemic Disease swine flu : A Review

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Abstract

Swine flu is a respiratory disease and has some elements of a virus found in pigs. There is no evidence of this disease circulating in pigs in the UK and scientists are investigating its origins. Swine flu has been confirmed in a number of countries and it is spreading from human to human, which could lead to what is referred to as a pandemic flu outbreak. Pandemic flu is different from ordinary flu because it's a new flu virus that appears in humans and spreads very quickly from person to person worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) is closely monitoring cases of swine flu globally to see whether this virus develops into a pandemic. Because it's a new virus, no one will have immunity to it and everyone could be at risk of catching it. This includes healthy adults as well as older people, young children and those with existing medical conditions. The present review highlights several methods to prevent from Swine flu.

Keywords: - : Swine flu, Pandemic Disease, H1N1.

INTRODUCTION

Influenza like Illness caused by Influenza A [H1N1], a re-assorted influenza virus, was reported from Mexico on 18th March, 2009 and rapidly spread to neighboring United States and Canada. Subsequently the disease spread to all the continents. World Health Organization [WHO] has raised the level of Influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to 6 on 11.06.09. As per WHO, we are now at the start of 2009 Influenza pandemic. As per WHO assessment the overall severity of Influenza pandemic is moderate implying that most people recover from infection without the need for hospitalization or the medical care. As on 13th August 2009 World Health Organization has reported 1,82,166 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A/H1N1 and 1799 deaths from 178 countries.

India reported its first case on 13th May, 2008. Most of the cases reported subsequently were travel related cases among those traveling to India from affected countries. As on 20th August, 12,604 persons have been tested so far out of which 2401 are positive for Influenza A H1N1 [Swine]. Substantial number of cases now being reported from Maharashtra (Mumbai and Pune), Karnataka (Bangalore) and Tamil Nadu (Chennai) are indigenous cases. Thirty six laboratory confirmed cases have died. Majority of those who died had some underlying diseases and have reported late to the identified health care facility.(1)



Human infection with influenza virus can vary from asymptomatic infection to uncomplicated upper respiratory tract disease to serious complicated illness that may include exacerbation of other underlying conditions and severe viral pneumonia with multi organ failure. Since a wide range of pathogens can cause influenza-like illness (ILI), a clinical diagnosis of influenza should be guided by clinical and epidemiologic data and can be confirmed by laboratory tests. However, on an individual patient basis, initial treatment decisions should be based on clinical presentation and epidemiological data and should not be delayed pending laboratory confirmation. In developing these guidelines, the Guidelines Panel (the Panel) considered three broad scenarios, set out below.