BRAIN PATHOLOGY IN H7N9 BIRD FLU: THE PRESENT EVIDENCE

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The emerging H7N9 bid flu becomes a focused interest in tropical medicine. The trend of worldwide pandemic leads to the interest of the medical society. As a new emerging zoonotic influenza infection, the disease usually presents with signs and symptoms of respiratory tract illness accompanied with non - respiratory tract problems. There are several non - respiratory tract problems in H7N9 bird flu such as hematological alteration, renal alteration1, endocrine disorder2 and neurological alteration. The neurological presentation in H7N9 bird flu is an interesting topic in neurology.1 Many cases of H7N9 bid flu have this problem. In general, there are many neurological signs and symptoms observed in many infected cases.2 Wiwanitkit noted that “the abnormality in neurological system can be seen in the patients with H7N9 influenza and this is the point for closed monitoring in patient management.”3 The interesting topic is on the brain pathology in H7N9 bird flu. Focusing on clinical pathology, there are some reports on the cerebrospinal fluid in the patients infected with H7N9 bird flu.4 Yu et al. performed molecular test for H7N9 influenza virus in specimens collected from infected cases and noted that no cerebrospinal fluid sample was positive for the test.4 Focusing on anatomical pathology, it is not clear. There are some cases that have brain pathology but it was the previous underlying condition (such as brain infarction).5 Nevertheless, there is no official autopsy report indicating the brain pathology in H7N9 bird flu. Based on the present available data, the brain pathology in H7N9 bird flu is still a myth and cannot explain the neurological presentation. This is an interesting topic for further study. If an autopsy report is available, it will be the clue for this story.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None Declared.

REFERENCES
