Tourniquet Test Positive, High Fever and a Pediatric Case of Swine Flu

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Swine flu is the present problem of the world. In the tropical countries, swine flu is still pandemic. The author hereby reports and discusses on a pediatric case of swine flu. The case is a 7 year-old boy (body weight 28 kg) presenting to the primary care center in Bangkok, Thailand with the complaint of high fever, non productive cough, nausea, vomiting and malaise. His body temperature was 39.2 ºC. His throat was red and lung clear. The attending physician performed tourniquet test and got positive result. The boy was referred to the hospital for further proper management. At the hospital, complete blood count was done and no thrombocytopenia could be detected. In this case, the finalized diagnosis as swine flu was derived. The Real time PCR test was done to confirm new H1N1 influenza virus infection (confirmation was performed at Thai Department of Medical Science). During hospitalization, investigations done to rule out co-existing dengue fever or other infections included hemoculture, dengue serological study (paired serum test) and Chikungunya serological study (results of all tests were negative). Chest X ray was also done in this case and there was no lung involvement. This case was treated by antiviral drug (Oseltamivir 60 mg twice daily) and got full recovery within 10 days. Of interest, high fever and flu like symptoms are non significant and several tropical diseases can have this presentation. In Thailand, dengue infection is common and tourniquet test is helpful in screening and diagnosis[1]. Indeed, the important differential diagnoses for positive tourniquet test include dengue hemorrhagic fever and some other viral hemorrhagic fever (such as Rocky mountain spotted fever and Chikungunya fever)[2,3]. In this case, positive tourniquet test could be seen in a case of swine flu, which is not a viral hemorrhagic disease. This observation could be due to the fragile nature of the child or the exact undisclosed pathological process of the new influenza virus infection. The possible mechanism causing tourniquet positive might be due to swine flu induced thrombocytopenia. This requires further study for clarification. Indeed, there is no similar case in the literature. For the tropical doctors in the endemic areas of dengue, it is necessary to think of swine flu in positive tourniquet test case in the present situation of pandemic swine flu[4].

Key words: H1N1 Virus; hemorrhagic fever; Tourniquets

References


Comparison of Effect and Side Effects of Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen in Treatment of Febrile Children

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Fever is a common pediatric problem accounting for 25-30% of emergency department and clinic visits each year. Although it usually indicates minor infection, it can also be a sign of serious life-threatening disease. Acetaminophen is usually mentioned as the medication of choice, while ibuprofen is also recommended to be given for high-temperature fevers[1]. However, due to the potential side