

SYNOPSIS

02/18/2020

Review of “First imported case of 2019 novel coronavirus in Canada, presenting as mild pneumonia”

Article citation: Silverstein WK, Stroud L, Cleghorn GE, Leis JA. First imported case of 2019 novel coronavirus in Canada, presenting as mild pneumonia. *Lancet*. 2020 Feb 13 [Epub ahead of print]. Available from: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30370-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30370-6/fulltext)

One-Minute Summary

- A 56 year old man presented to the Emergency Department at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Ontario one day after returning from Wuhan, China.
- His main symptoms were fever and non-productive cough. He showed no signs of respiratory distress.
- Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected in both mid-turbinate and throat swabs.
- A chest x-ray showed bilateral pneumonia, but the patient did not require intubation or supplemental oxygen.
- One day after admission, the patient developed mild haemoptysis and significant rhinorrhea.
- The patient also had thrombocytopenia, which has only been reported in a minority of cases and which had fully resolved by the time of hospital discharge.

Additional Information

- The patient had underlying, but well controlled hypertension.
- Healthcare workers in the transferring ambulance and hospital used appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Mid-turbinate swabs were negative for influenza virus A and influenza virus B, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, adenovirus and human metapneumovirus.
- The authors suggest that patients with similar mild illness due to COVID-19 could be managed by home isolation rather than in hospital care.

PHO Reviewer’s Comments

- This case report describes the first case of COVID-19 in Canada.

Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Review of "First imported case of 2019 novel coronavirus in Canada, presenting as mild pneumonia". Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020.

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