

**HA Working Group  
on Severe Community-acquired Pneumonia**

- An outline for the period 11-22 Feb 2003

**HA SARS 17/03**

**4 July 2003**

## HA Working Group on Severe Community-acquired Pneumonia

### An outline for the period 11-22 Feb 2003

At the first meeting on 11 Feb., members of the Working Group reckoned that an updated information on community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) in HA hospitals is crucial in addressing the situation on the reported increase in atypical pneumonia of unknown aetiology in Guangdong area. A prospective surveillance requesting HA hospitals to report on such cases was proposed and agreed for immediate implementation. To further define the focus for reporting, it was decided to look at the more severe form of CAP, severe CAP (SCAP), and considering that patients suffering from a more severe type of CAP would likely require assisted ventilation and/or intensive care, a working case definition for severe-CAP was defined as a case of community-acquired pneumonia required assisted ventilation or ICU/ HDU care. Hospitals were informed on 12 Feb. of the requirement for reporting, a report form and a clinical record form were attached for the purpose.

Also, hospitals were also reminded to refer to the Fact Sheet on Management of Severe Influenza Infections, based on the fact that influenza was at the annual peak season in February. More important, information related to rapid laboratory testing for an aetiological diagnosis and proper infection control measures, namely droplet precautions, were fully elaborated in the Fact Sheet which can be accessed in the HA intranet.

Daily update on the number of reported cases was conducted by the TFIC secretariat and close liaison with DH was maintained.

To obtain baseline information on severe CAP for ascertaining as to whether a genuine increase was evident, a lookback exercise on such cases based on discharge diagnosis was conducted. Data on the number of cases with discharge diagnosis of atypical pneumonia based on ICD9 codes were retrieved which showed the following picture:

Admission (Year/Month)	Date	Number of patients in ICU	Number of Death in ICU
2001 December		72	36
2002 January		78	46
2002 February		74	35
2002 March		55	29
2002 April		66	31
2002 May		59	33
2002 June		59	20
2002 July		64	30
2002 August		65	31
2002 September		56	25
2002 October		59	24
2002 November		72	37
2002 December		67	29
2003 January		59	27

A presentation was given to members of the WG on 27 Feb on analysis of the reported cases in terms of key patient features, travel history to Mainland, outcome and aetiological diagnosis (file attached).

Subsequently, on 19 Feb., a case was confirmed as H5N1 avian influenza infection among the severe pneumonic patients admitted to HA hospitals. It was noticed that there were family members being hospitalised and the family had history of travel to Fujian in Mainland China.

In light of this finding, the severe CAP reporting channel and follow-up mechanism was reiterated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> WG meeting and hospital Infection Control Teams were requested to make sure that reported cases were supplemented with detailed information through the completion of clinical record forms. Also, the recommended test specimens should be sent-out to both DH and HKU was highlighted for members' attention. The first FAQ on severe CAP was issued on 21 February with emphasis on background information, reporting of cases of severe CAP, the need for laboratory investigations, appropriate infection control measures and the use of antivirals.

To summarise, the main focus of the WG during the period 11-22 February 2003 were:

- To ascertain whether an upsurge of severe CAP is encountered in HA hospitals;
- To alert hospital staff in the management of severe CAP, and the need for thorough laboratory investigations;
- To remind staff to adhere to proper infection control measures as advised for influenza, i.e. droplets precautions;
- To coordinate with DH in the exchange of information for updating;
- To look into reported cases for an aetiological diagnosis to guide specific patient management.

To conclude, it was the result of these concerted efforts that open lung biopsy was advised and performed on one of the close contacts of the index case of SARS (██████████ from Guangdong) which led to the isolation and identification of the new Coronavirus as the causative agent for SARS by HKU and HA.

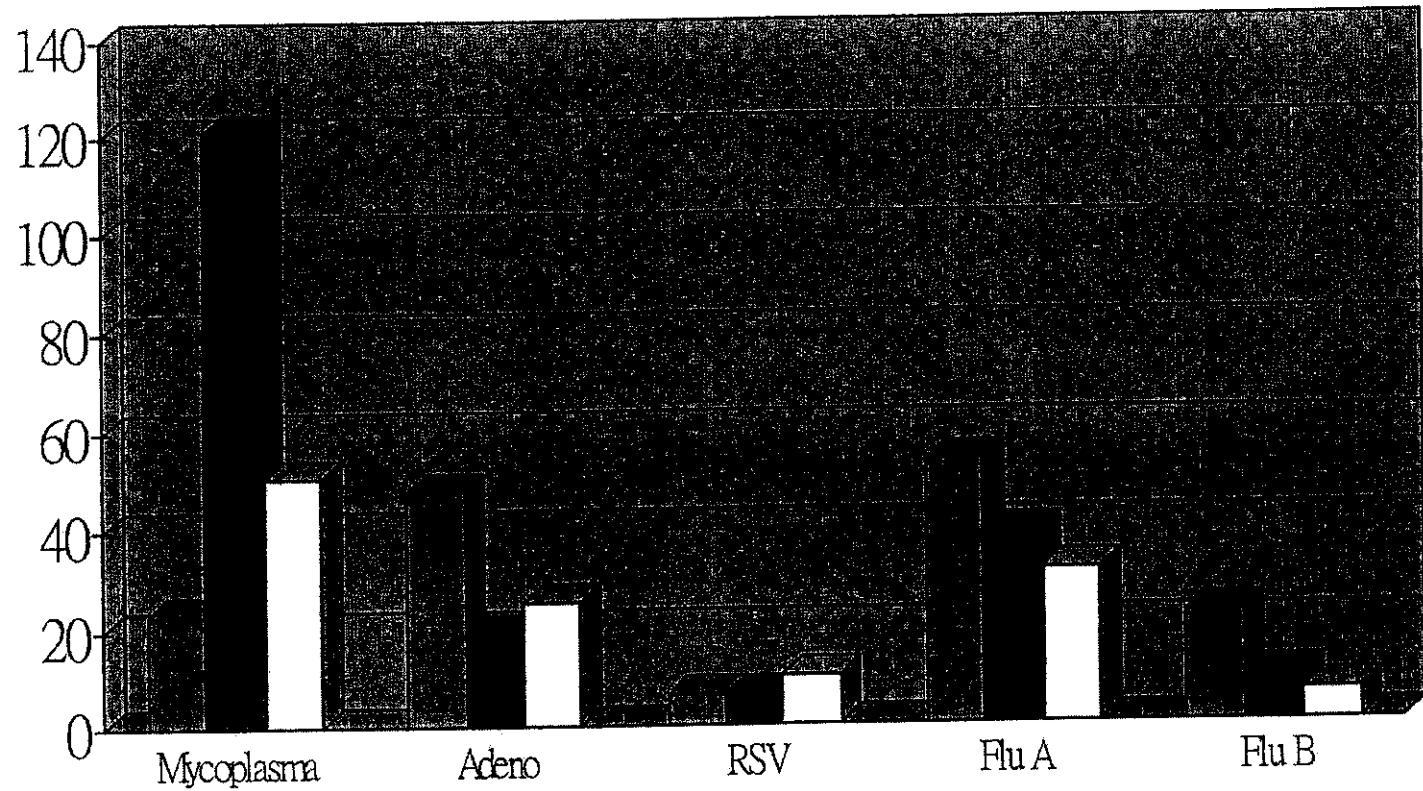
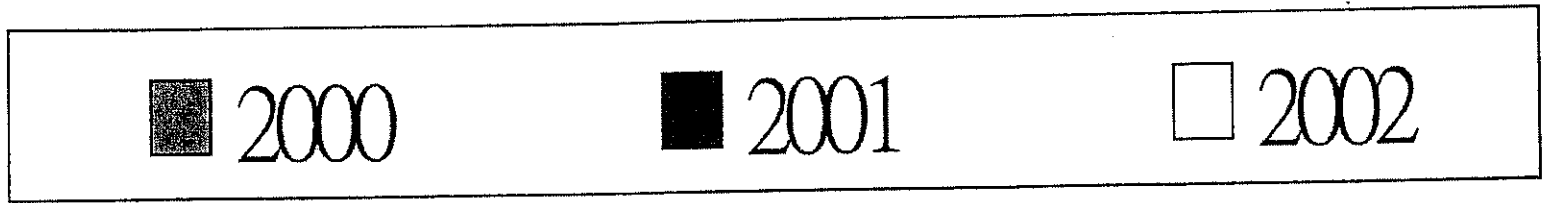
# Surveillance summary

M:F	23:16
Age>50 years	28
Recent travel to China	14
• died	5 (35.7%)
Lymphocyte count <1.0	29
Outcome	
• Died	12 (30.7)
• Discharged	5

# Agents identified

Psittacosis	2
Bacterial	2
H5N1	1
Adenovirus	2
Parainfluenza	2
Rickettsia	1
Influenza A	2
Influenza B	3
unknown	24 (61.5%)

### Breakdown of positive respiratory pathogens in QEH



# Lookback study

**On pneumonia diagnosis code, they are**

Code	Ext	Description
480.0	0	Adenoviral
480.1	0	RSV
480.2	0	Parainf
480.9	0	Viral
483.0	0	Mycoplasmal
483.1	0	Chlamydial
483.8	0	Other organisms
484.1	0	CMV
486	0	Pneumonia
486	1	Atypical pneumonia
487.0	0	Influenza

	2002-01	2002-02	2002-03	2002-04
2002-01	72	36	1208	215
2002-02	78	46	1349	238
2002-03	74	35	1368	215
2002-04	55	29	1223	168
2002-05	66	31	1141	165
2002-06	59	33	1142	183
2002-07	59	20	1045	165
2002-08	64	30	1060	148
2002-09	65	31	870	144
2002-10	56	25	840	148
2002-11	59	24	912	145
2002-12	72	37	903	152
2003-01	67	29	853	123
2003-02	59	27	1048	148



## ICU cases of Atypical CAP

