

# Skin rash in novel H7N9 influenza infection: a concern

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**Dear Editor,**

The novel H7N9 influenza infection is still the big problem in China and it is under focus for the worldwide epidemic. As an outbreak of new emerging disease, the clinical presentation of the novel H7N9 influenza is very interesting. In most cases, the patients present with acute respiratory tract signs and symptoms, according to the nature of influenza virus infection. In some cases, additional non-respiratory signs and symptoms can be observed. Many atypical clinical features can be observed and this should be recognized by practitioners<sup>1,2</sup>. Here, the authors summarize on the observed skin abnormality among 130 available cases. According to available data, there is a case presenting with pruritic skin rash, giving the incidence equal to 0.77 %. Of interest, the skin presentation of emerging atypical influenza is rare but it is a topic to be considered<sup>3</sup>. There are several possible causes of skin rash in the patients with atypical influenza. First, the rash can be the direct clinical manifestation, a dermatological presentation, of the atypical influenza. The induction of Henoch-Schönlein purpura by the novel influenza virus is mentioned in the literature<sup>4</sup>. Second,

the rash might be due to the adverse effect of the therapeutic drug for management of atypical influenza. Oseltamivir, the recommended drug for atypical influenza, has already been reported for causing of skin rash<sup>5</sup>. Third, the rash might be due to other causes which is totally not relating to the influenza. The problems might be due to other irritation or allergic reaction.

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