

COVID 19- A health sector emergency

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ABSTRACT

The Recent outbreak of corona virus has not only put a huge pressure on global health care system but it has also highlighted the fact that how vulnerable as a race we have become in our continuous race for new class of anti viral therapies. The present article highlights the ways of screening of patients applied recently.

Key words: Corona virus, Screening

Background-

The virus although zoonotic, has modified its genome in such a way that it can now not only transmit from Man to Man [1] but unlike other viruses of the CORONA virus family, It has remarkable viability outside host for considerable period of time. Corona viruses spread mainly by close contact. Droplet infection remains the most preferable way of transmission

Symptoms

The infected persons may be asymptomatic or have mild rise in temperature It can also lead to shortness of breath and diarrhoea. The incubation period fluctuates from 2-10 days [2]. Discomfort in upper respiratory tract like nose running and sore throat is not common during infection [3].

The death mostly happens because of severe pneumonia and respiratory failure. Most of the dead patients had another complicated health issues like hypertension, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Old age is a common risk factor.

Methods to Screen-

Screening of corona virus patient is done by several methods-

Thermal screening- This is the primary level of screening to screen out all the feverish people. The cause of fever can be anything.

CT scan- Screened patients undergo CT scan imaging to look for accumulation of secretions in their lungs.

Nucleic acid Test (Reverse transcriptase PCR)- COVID is RNA virus. The confirmatory test needs RT- PCR to be performed. The final confirmation takes around one week of time. This delay has hugely affected the start of treatment. Huge pile of patients have forced the health authorities to instruct people to self quarantine themselves till result comes. During this period the person can spread the disease.

Prevention : The main way to prevent disease is maintaining respiratory hygiene. The primary way of spread being mucus. Governments and health care officials are focusing on outdoor restrictions so that man to man contact can be minimized.

References

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