

Abstract

Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) virus is a newly discovered respiratory pathogen since 2001. Cohorts of young children were prospectively evaluated for hMPV infection during Sep 2003 to Sep. 2004. Patients hospitalized for acute respiratory tract infection (ARTIs) under 15 year-old during this period were enrolled. Real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction was used to detect viral nucleic acid. 17 (4.6%) patients with ARTIs were documented for the presence of hMPV from 369 cases. 15 patients (88%) were younger than 2 year-old. Co-infection with other respiratory pathogens was observed in 5 patients. No significant difference was observed between the six patients (6/17, 35%) with underlying disease and those without. MPV infection seems not prolonged their hospitalized course, nor increased oxygen supplement nor increased necessary of intensive care in patients with underlying disease. To compared with those cases of un-identified airway pathogen, no significant difference was found except age (1.5 y/o v.s. 2.7 y/o, $p=0.02$).

In conclusion, the clinical manifestations were non-specific compared with other respiratory viral infections and the clinical outcomes were excellent in our group. The clinical presentation and outcome were described.

Keywords : children respiratory illness ; paramyxovirus ; influenza virus ; parainfluenza virus ; respiratory syncytial virus ; coronavirus