2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) infection in Saurashtra region, India

Sir,

The previous report on “2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) infection in Saurashtra region, India” by Chudasama et al is very interesting.[1] In that report (n = 274), they concluded that “delayed referral from general practitioner/physician, duration of antiviral treatment, and presence of coexisting condition (especially pregnancy) were responsible for intensive care or mortality in patients of severe influenza A (H1N1) illness.[1]” Of interest, Chudasama et al. have just reported another article in J Family Med Prim Care (n = 511) and came to a similar conclusion.[2] Although, the second study might confirm the finding in the first report, it seems that it might be a kind of self-plagiarism. It should also be noted that Chudasama et al. also studied the same group of subjects (n = 274) and published the report in Lung India, but concluded differently that “pregnancy is found as a significant (P < 0.05) risk factor for severe disease.[3]” It should be questioned on what the exact conclusion should be and whether these publications are salami publications.
Author’s Reply

Sir,

In reference to first study published in Indian Journal of Critical Care Medicine mentioned in the letter, we would like to state that the objective of the study were very clear – “Factors associated with severe disease were determined by comparing with nonsevere cases”. Considering the objective of the study, we have described the findings as those having severe disease and those who do not have severe disease and we have not made manipulation in the presentation of the data. The whole data were presented for the first wave (n = 274) with its distribution and description as per the objective.

In reference to the second study published in Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care mentioned in the letter, we would like to clarify that the title indicated comparison of two waves of the epidemic – “Characteristics of hospitalized patients with severe and nonsevere pandemic in influenza A (H1N1) in Saurashtra region, India (two waves analysis)”. Beuy Joob, Viroj Wiwanitkit1,2,3 Sanitation1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand, 1Hainan Medical University, China, 2Faculty of Medicine, University of Nis, Serbia, 3Joseph Ayobabalola University, Nigeria

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References


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References

