Editorial Note on COVID-19 Pneumonia

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Editorial

Most people who get COVID-19 have mild or moderate symptoms like coughing, a fever, and shortness of breath. But some who catch the new coronavirus get severe pneumonia in both lungs. COVID-19 pneumonia is a serious illness which can be deadly. The symptoms of COVID-19 pneumonia may be similar to other types of viral pneumonia. Because of this it can be difficult to tell what's causing your condition without being tested for COVID-19 or other respiratory infections.

Coronaviruses are a certain type of virus that causes respiratory illnesses in animals and humans. Corona means "crown," and the viruses are named for the proteins on the outside of the viruses that look like crowns. Coronaviruses which can cause respiratory illnesses that range from a mild cold to pneumonia, most people get coronavirus infection at some point in their lives. Research is underway to determine how COVID-19 pneumonia differs from other types of pneumonia.

Pneumonia is a lung infection which causes inflammation in the tiny air sacs inside your lungs. They may fill up with so much fluid and pus that it's hard to breathe. Other symptoms such as severe shortness of breath, a cough, a fever, chest pain, chills, or fatigue. People who get pneumonia may also have a condition called acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). It's a disease that comes on quickly and causes breathing problems.

The new coronavirus causes severe inflammation in lungs. It damages the cells and tissue that line the air sacs in lungs. These sacs are where the oxygen is processed and delivered to your blood. The damage causes tissue to break off and clog your lungs.

The walls of the sacs can thicken, making it very hard for you to breathe. COVID-19 emergency warning signs are shortness of breath or trouble breathing, persistent pain, tightness, squeezing or discomfort in your chest or upper abdomen, a bluish tint to the skin, especially on lips, nail beds, gums, or around the eyes, high fever that doesn't respond to normal cooling measures, a weak pulse.

COVID-19 is likely to remain an important differential diagnosis for the future in anyone presenting to hospital with a flu-like illness, lymphopenia on full blood count, and a change in normal sense of smell or taste. Most people with COVID-19 infection do not develop pneumonia; chest radiography of people who are seriously ill with respiratory symptoms when they present to hospital can help to identify those with COVID-19 pneumonia.