

## LETTER TO EDITOR

## H1N1 (Swine flu) - The new chaos in Pakistan while we haven't overcome COVID-19's new strain

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Dear sir, as per 2022 statistics; CDC estimates that, so far this season globally, there have been at least 20 million illnesses, 210,000 hospitalizations, and 13,000 deaths from H1N1 (swine flu).

In this very season, where Pakistan hasn't overcome the sequel of the disasters caused by COVID-19 since 2019 till date.

We are facing a new COVID strain the omicron B5 and B7 with simultaneous stress of H1N1.

Recently only, we have witnessed a sudden young death in our emergency department at Fauji Foundation Hospital, Rawalpindi. A 17 years old teenager presented with an atypical presentation of H1N1, with a history of high grade fever, and neck stiffness, instantly all baseline and H1N1 along with COVID-19 viral serology was sent, Chest xray had bilateral peripheral infiltrates the patient was managed on the lines of acute meningitis and lower respiratory tract infection but within 1 hour stay in the emergency department he was extremely distressed and tachycardia he collapsed, upon resuscitation didn't revive. Later the labs were followed and were suggestive of H1N1.

We must spread more awareness on the typical and atypical presentation of H1N1 along with the new strain of COVID-19.

The holistic approach must be reinforced and all the health care workers must be aware of the timely diagnosis and intervention in such cases, the role of drugs like oseltamavir has been promising.

To conclude with, lastly we must make new strategies to overcome the two simultaneous disasters and create more isolation wards in the hospitals.

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