The New Influenza A Virus: A/Mexico/2009 (H1N1): Practice Point for Caregivers of Children and Youth

A new H1N1 influenza A virus of swine origin (A/Mexico/2009 [H1N1]) that causes respiratory disease in humans was first reported in early April 2009. By early May, countries had reported a total of almost 1,000 confirmed cases to the World Health Organization, with the majority reported in Mexico. Serious illness and deaths have occurred in children and youth as well as in adults, although to date the vast majority of severe cases have been in Mexico. The purpose of this Paediatric Infectious Disease Note is to provide a brief overview of: 1) the clinical manifestations; 2) the epidemiology; 3) diagnostic tests; 4) treatment; and 5) prevention and control measures for A/Mexico/2009 (H1N1).

Congenital syphilis: No longer just of historical interest

The majority of paediatricians and family physicians in practice in Canada today have never seen a case of congenital syphilis. However, there have been outbreaks of syphilis across Canada since 2001, such that the incidence of syphilis in Canada in 2007 was projected to be almost 10-fold compared with what it was in 1994 to 2000. The initial increase in incidence was concentrated in men who have sex with men, but heterosexual transmission in inner-city populations now accounts for a large percentage of cases in some provinces. The incidence of syphilis in 2007 was highest in British Columbia and Alberta, followed by Quebec and Ontario. This has led to an increase in reported congenital cases from approximately two per year to 10 per year nationally; it is likely that other cases have been missed because infants are asymptomatic or the diagnosis has not been considered.

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