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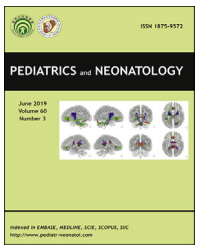

Letter to the Editor

Cystic fibrosis complicated by cor pulmonale: The first case report in Taiwan

To the Editor,

I read with great interest the article entitled Cystic Fibrosis Complicated by Cor Pulmonale: The First Case Report in Taiwan by Chen et al.[1]

Based on the authors' report, the mentioned case was an undiagnosed cystic fibrosis (CF) patient with unfollowing chronic respiratory symptoms that resulted as severe pulmonary involvement with diffused tubulocystic bronchiectasis that is characterized by saccular dilatation of the bronchi that extend to the pleural surfaces. When aggregated, these may give a "bunch of grapes" like appearance. Patients who are at this severe stage will already become complicated by cor pulmonale and prone to die unless a lung transplant that may help them to have some more extension in their life is done. Unfortunately, it is believed that CF is a rare disease among Asians and many doctors in this region do not consider it as a differential diagnosis for their patients. There is a remarkable variation in the incidence rates, which mainly come from small retrospective studies, reported among native Asians from 1/2000 in Jordan to 1/350,000 in Japan suggesting that the CF in Asia is underreported and underdiagnosed.[2,3] This results in many neglected and/or undiagnosed severe cases. Thus, by considering the CF diagnosis criteria (including typical, atypical, and CFTR-related disorder), many of the patients will be diagnosed accurately. Also, there are at least some suggestions for promoting the CF condition among our Asian countries:

1. Activating national and regional CF frameworks (societies, registries, working groups, etc.) and linking them with other national and international registry systems
2. Designing social networking groups for Medical teams and patients
3. Designing multicentral studies, congress, workshops
4. Activating Sweat Chloride test and genetic studies facilities at least in referral medical centers
5. Activating neonatal screening test
6. Increasing awareness among medical representatives and peoples

Declaration of conflict of interest

Nothing to declare.

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