

Neuropsychiatric problems due to oseltamivir treatment in H7N9 bird flu

Problemas neuropsiquiátricos devido ao tratamento da gripe aviária H7N9 com oseltamivir

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Sir, the emergence of H7N9 bird flu in China presents an interesting situation¹. The World Health Organization notes the importance of monitoring this situation for a potential worldwide pandemic². In terms of the disease, H7N9 bird flu is an atypical influenza virus infection and the drug treatment is oseltamivir. There is great concern surrounding the adverse effects of oseltamivir. "Delirium or delirium-like events" is

reported as the most common neuropsychiatric adverse effect³. However, based on the available data in all 136 cases, no neuropsychiatric effects of oseltamivir treatment have been reported. This might confirm the safety of the standard oseltamivir treatment. In fact, in earlier research, Smith and Sacks concluded that there was no increased risk of neuropsychiatric disorder from the use of oseltamivir⁴.

References

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