Editor's Column

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In the current issue, Dr. Timothy Tan reported a retrospective study of 505 children admitted in a regional hospital in 2009, comparing the demographic and clinical features between those confirmed to have pandemic human swine influenza A H1N1 infection versus seasonal human influenza A H1N1/H3N2 infection. The importance of RT-PCR testing for the differentiation between the two entities was discussed.

On the other hand, Dr. Johnny Chan presented a review on palivizumab prophylaxis for prevention of respiratory syncytial virus infection in infants. Latest international guidelines and recommendations on indications for palivizumab prophylaxis especially in high-risk infants, including prematurity, chronic lung disease, congenital neuromuscular diseases, congenital airway abnormalities, hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease, and severe immunodeficiency were summarized. Economic implication with local perspectives was also discussed.

Journal Watch this month reminds you that there is an interesting article reported by Prof. Ellis Hon on the implication of atopic eczema with the development of other airway co-morbidities of atopy including allergic rhinitis and asthma. Do also have a go for the X-ray quiz from Dr. Danial Ko!