

The authors suggest that the costing model they describe quickly identified key financial pressures and could be applicable to other Norovirus outbreaks.

Cooke RPD, Goddard SV & Golland J. Costing a major hospital outbreak of gastroenteritis due to Norovirus (Norwalk-like virus). Brit J Infect Cont 2003; 4(2):18-21.

A major outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome in Hong Kong

The authors report the clinical, laboratory and radiological features of 138 cases of suspected severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) during a hospital outbreak in Hong Kong.

From 11-25 March 2003, all patients with suspected SARS after exposure to an index patient or ward were admitted to the isolation wards of the Prince of Wales Hospital. Their demographic, clinical, laboratory and radiological characteristics were analysed. Clinical end points included the need for intensive care and death. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed.

There were 66 male patients and 72 female patients in this cohort, 69 of who were healthcare workers. The most common symptoms included fever (in 100% of the patients); chills, rigors

or both (73.2%); and myalgia (60.9%). Cough and headache were also reported in more than 50% of the patients. Other common findings were lymphopenia (in 69.6%), thrombocytopenia (44.8%), and elevated lactate dehydrogenase and creatine kinase levels (71.0% and 32.1% respectively). Peripheral air-space consolidation was commonly observed on thoracic computed tomographic scanning.

A total of 32 patients (23.2%) were admitted to the intensive care unit; five patients died, all of who had coexisting conditions. In a multivariate analysis, the independent predictors of an adverse outcome were advanced age (odds ratio per decade of life, 1.80; 95% confidence interval, 1.16 to 2.81; $p=0.009$), a high peak lactate dehydrogenase level (odds ratio per 100 U per litre, 2.09; 95% confidence interval, 1.28 to 3.42; $p=0.003$), and an absolute neutrophil count that exceeded the upper limit of the normal range on presentation (odds ratio, 1.60; 95% confidence interval, 1.03 to 2.50; $p=0.04$).

The authors conclude that SARS is a serious respiratory illness that led to significant morbidity and mortality in this cohort.

Lee N, Hui D, Wu A et al. A major outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Hong Kong. New Eng J Med 2003; 348(20):1986-1994.

Diary of Events

STATE

15-16 September 2003

Western Australia ICAWA & WAWCA Annual State Conference

Burswood Convention Centre

Contact:

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Tel: 0422 944 606

E-mail: thrum@bigpond.com

9-11 October 2003

**A Gold Standard – Promoting the Future
4th Joint Conference of the Infection Control
Practitioners Association of Queensland (ICPAQ) and
the Queensland Wound Care Association (QWCA)**

Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort

Surfers Paradise, Qld

Contact:

WIC 03 c/Intermedia Convention & Event Management
PO Box 1280, Milton Qld 4064, Australia

Tel: (07) 3858 5538

Fax: (07) 3858 5510

E-mail: wic03@im.com.au

NATIONAL

6-8 November 2003

**Inaugural National Practice Nurse Conference
*New Roads to Travel***

Royal College of Nursing

Bunbury, Western Australia

Contact:

Fabiola Guzman

Freecall: 1800 061 660

E-mail: fabiola@rcna.org.au

9-11 June 2004

AICA National Conference

Wrest Point Casino, Hobart

INTERNATIONAL

23-25 June 2003

2003 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance: *Science – Prevention – Control*

Bethesda, Maryland, USA

Contact:

2003 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 750

Bethesda, MD 20814-5278

Tel: (1) 301 656 0003 ext 19

Fax: (1) 301 907 0878

E-mail: resistance@nfid.org

23-25 June 2003

CHICA-Canada:

2003 National Education Conference

Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, Ontario

Preliminary programme available:

Website: http://www.chica.org/2003_confe.html

14-17 September 2003

PHLS Annual Scientific Conference

University of Warwick

Abstract Submission Deadline: 7 March 2002

Accommodation Reservations Deadline: 23 August 2002

Contact: PHLS Headquarters

61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5DF

Tel: (44) 20 8200 1295

Fax: (44) 20 8358 3130

Website: <http://www.phlsnorth.co.uk/asc2002/>

8-11 November 2003

8th World Congress for Infectious and Immunological Diseases in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Venice, Italy

Contact: Key Congressi srl

Tel: (39) 040 660 352

Fax: (39) 040 660 353

E-mail: venice2003@keycongressi.it

9-12 November 2003

4th Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control

Business Centre, The Hilton, St Julians, Malta

Abstract Submission Deadline: 1 May 2003

Earlybird Registration Deadline: 1 June 2003

Contact: Infection Control Unit, St Luke's Hospital,

G'Mangia MSD08, Malta

Tel/Fax: (356) 21 235447

E-mail: infection.control@gov.mt

Website: <http://slh.gov.mt/ific2003.htm>

14-16 November 2003

2nd International Symposium on Resistant Gram- Positive Infections

Berlin, Germany

Contact: Congress Secretariat

KIT GmbH, Convention- and Incentive- Organization

Kurfürstendamm 71, D – 10709, Berlin, Germany

Tel: (49) 03 024 603 240

Fax: (49) 03 024 603 310

E-mail: rgpi@kit.de

4-7 March 2004

11th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

Cancun, Mexico

Contact: ISID, 181 Longwood Avenue

Boston, MA 02115, USA

Tel: (1) 617 277 0551

Fax: (1) 617 731 1541

E-mail: info@isid.org

1-4 May 2004

14th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases

Prague, Czech Republic

Contact: ESCMID-Executive Office, PO Box 6

CH-4005 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: (41) 616 867 799

Fax: (41) 616 867 798

E-mail: escmid-eo@escmid.org

6-10 June 2004

APIC '04 - 31st Annual Education Conference and International Meeting

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Contact: APIC, 1275 K Street, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC, 20005-4006, USA

Tel: (1) 202 789 1890

Fax: (1) 202 789 1899

E-mail: APICinfo@apic.org

15-18 October 2006

6th International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Contact:

Congress Secretariat, HIS 2006, Concorde Services Ltd

4B/50 Speirs Wharf, Glasgow G4 9TB

Tel: (44) 141 331 0123

Fax: (44) 141 331 0234

E-mail: info@his2006.com

Web: www.his2006.com