Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever in Quetta, Pakistan

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I am addressing this letter to bring your attention to the recent break out of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) also called the Congo virus in Civil Hospital, Quetta, Balochistan. This alarming health emergency has prompted the province of Balochistan on red alert. Many doctors and healthcare staff have come in contact with this deadly virus and tested positive for it. As the cases rise, the Balochistan government has imposed an emergency across all the hospitals in the province and other provinces like Sindh are ordered to take preventive measures amidst the ongoing rapid spread of the Congo virus (1).

CCHF is considered as a significant and life-threatening disease that is caused by tick-borne virus and can be transmitted to humans from the bites of hyalomma ticks or coming in contact with infected tissue, the disease is characterised by fatal hemorrhage, with a mortality rate ranging between 10 and 50% (2). The Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV) is classified within the Bunyaviridae family’s genome, specifically in the Nairovirus genus. It stands as one of the most widespread tick-borne viruses globally (3). The first case of the CCHFV in Pakistan was reported back in January 1976 and since then cases have been rising (4). Pakistan being agricultural and farming land, with a propitious agricultural climate, provides grounds for the advancement of this disease (5).

In such times of uncertainty, it’s requested that the government take some proactive measures to prevent further escalation in the cases of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF). Additionally, it is requested that public healthcare workers launch an awareness campaign for the prevention and cure of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever; furthermore, government and healthcare workers can guide the community on hygiene protocols and screenings to timely rule out the affected individuals. Collaborative efforts between the government and healthcare professionals can help to effectively manage and control this outbreak.

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References