

Co-infection of influenza B and *Streptococcus*

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To the Editor—The recent report on ‘co-infection of influenza B and *Streptococcus*’ by Lam et al¹ is very interesting. They reported “four cases infected with influenza B and streptococci that gave rise to severe pneumonia” and mentioned that “this is the second case report of severe invasive pneumococcal pneumonia secondary to influenza B infection.”¹ Indeed, both influenza B and *Streptococcus* infections are important infectious diseases that are encountered worldwide. In fact, there are more than two previous publications reporting the concurrent infection of influenza B and *Streptococcus*.^{2,3} In the report by Aebi et al,² three cases were documented and additional four cases were presented in the report by Scaber et al.³ Hence, the claim by Lam et al¹ should not be correct. Nevertheless, in all reports, the clinical features of the pneumonia were serious and sometimes fatal. As Lam et al¹ suggested, physicians should increase awareness of possible concurrent infection in the present era of emerging influenza.

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the seasonal influenza outbreak 2010/11 in South East England. Euro Surveill 2011;16 pii:19780.

Authors’ reply

To the Editor—Our report concerned severe pneumonia due to co-infection of influenza B and streptococcus. Scaber et al¹ described a series of 19 invasive streptococcal infection cases affecting a variety of organs. Scaber’s objective and emphasis were different from that of Aebi et al² and our report.³ Moreover, Scaber et al¹ did not provide much clinical details of the patients, such as laboratory investigation findings and complications. Therefore, their article¹ was not included in our reference list. We would nevertheless like to thank Drs Joob and Wiwanitkit for their comments. The mentioned studies certainly enhance awareness of this serious co-infection of influenza B and streptococcus and alert physicians and other health care professionals.

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