

Leukemia Presenting as H1N1 Pneumonia

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Swine flu caused by H1N1 virus has complications which could be very severe. Several studies have reported an association between influenza and malignancies.

We report a child with H1N1 with pancytopenia associated with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). The child presented with high-grade fever and pneumonia; a blood film revealed atypical lymphocytes with no blast cells. A repeat blood film revealed blast cells, and a subsequent bone marrow examination confirmed the diagnosis of ALL, after which child was started on chemotherapy.