

Woman Infected with H7N9 in China in Intensive Care



The woman who was the third person that contracted the H7N9 strain of bird flu, is still critically ill in a hospital in Nanjing, in east China's Jiangsu province. She got the flu virus in Chuzou, in east China's Anhui province. Efforts are ongoing in order to figure out where the avian flu virus comes from, and if it can spread among humans.

Ms. Han, who has been in intensive care for over one week, is still in life-threatening danger. The 35-year-old woman was sent to a hospital on March 20th, after showing signs of a fever in the city of Chuzhou, in Anhui Province.

Wei Zhengxiang, vice director of Chuzhou Disease Prevention & Control Ctr., said: "She had a very high heartbeat. Two shadows were found in her lungs. She later showed symptoms of heart failure."

Emergency life-saving efforts did not help improve her condition, and she quickly developed acute pneumonia on the same day.

Xu Xuwei, vice director of Chuzhou Disease Prevention & Control Ctr., said: "A conclusion was made that it was a viral pneumonia, but we were not sure which kind it was. We called experts from the disease control and prevention center for assistance."

Han was later transferred to a larger hospital in Nanjing for further examination, on March 30th. Joint investigations by the hospital and experts from China's health authority confirmed that the woman had contracted H7N9.

Xu Xuwei said: "The patient bought a chicken at a poultry market one week before falling ill. The chicken was killed by the vendor, and later was processed by the patient."

Xu said so far, there is not sufficient evidence to prove that the infection is related to the chicken in the market. Chuzhou authorities are still tracking people who had contact with the victim, while continuing to monitor local poultry markets. No additional infections in Anhui have been reported to date.

The total number of human infections of the H7N9 bird flu in China rose to seven, as four more cases were reported in east China's Jiangsu Province on Tuesday (2 April, 2013).

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