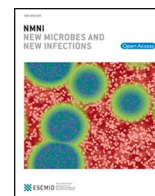


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## Letter to the Editor

### Addressing the new wake of psittacosis outbreak in Europe

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#### Dear Editor

Psittacosis has emerged as a significant public health concern in Europe, with a surge in cases reported in 2023 and early 2024 [1]. The recent outbreak has affected several European countries, including Austria, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands, with varying degrees of severity [2]. Challenges include delayed diagnosis, limited surveillance, and the risk of secondary transmission. Urgent action is needed to strengthen surveillance systems, raise public awareness, foster collaboration, and implement evidence-based policies.

Psittacosis exhibits variable symptoms, ranging from typical respiratory to nonspecific manifestations [3]. Symptoms typically emerge within 5–14 days post-exposure, with fever, headache, and dry cough being common [3]. Severe cases may lead to pneumonia, respiratory distress, chest pain, and atypical pneumonia. Diagnosis relies on a combination of history, examination, and laboratory tests. Criteria for diagnosis include isolation of the causative organism, serological evidence of infection, or detection of specific antibodies [4]. Various laboratory methods aid diagnosis, including culture, serology, and nucleic acid amplification [4].

Several policy recommendations can be proposed to address these challenges and mitigate the impact of psittacosis outbreaks. Strengthening surveillance systems is crucial to enable early detection and rapid response. This involves standardizing case definitions, improving laboratory diagnostic capacity, and enhancing data-sharing mechanisms among healthcare providers and public health agencies. Leveraging advanced technologies like real-time data analytics and AI can facilitate proactive monitoring.

Increasing funding for research on psittacosis epidemiology, transmission dynamics, diagnostics, and treatments is essential. Interdisciplinary collaborations should be fostered to address knowledge gaps and emerging challenges like antibiotic resistance. Promoting innovation in disease control strategies can enhance preparedness and response efforts.

Launching targeted public awareness campaigns is vital to educate at-risk populations about bird exposure risks and hygiene practices. Utilizing various channels like social media and community outreach can help disseminate accurate information and promote behavioural

change. Similarly, providing training programs for healthcare providers, veterinarians, and laboratory personnel on psittacosis recognition, diagnosis, and management is necessary. Continuous professional development opportunities should be offered to ensure updated knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, developing evidence-based policies and regulations to prevent and control psittacosis outbreaks is critical. This involves harmonizing bird trade regulations, promoting biosecurity measures, and allocating resources for outbreak preparedness. Regular monitoring and evaluation of policy effectiveness are needed to adjust based on evolving epidemiological trends.

Addressing the challenges posed by the psittacosis outbreak requires a comprehensive approach, integrating collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based policymaking. Through concerted efforts guided by the outlined recommendations, stakeholders can effectively manage the current outbreak and mitigate future risks.

#### Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

#### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

#### Availability of data and materials

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

#### Funding

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#### Authors' contributions

GO conceptualised the study; All authors were involved in the literature review; NA & EK extracted the data from the reviewed studies;

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All authors wrote the final and first drafts. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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#### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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#### List of Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CT	Computed Tomography
MIF	Micro-Immunofluorescence
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
Elisa	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
mNGS	Metagenomic Next-Generation Sequencing

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