

Alteration of Consciousness as Initial Presentation in COVID-19: Observation

To the Editor,

COVID-19 is a newly emerging respiratory disease that is caused by a novel coronavirus namely SARS-CoV-2.^[1] The disease was firstly reported from China, then it spread to several countries including Thailand.^[2] In clinical neurology, the neurological manifestation of COVID-19 is interesting but little mentioned. Alteration of consciousness might be an initial presentation in coronavirus infection.^[3] For COVID-19, the data on this issue is limited. Here, we would like to exchange the observation from Thailand, the second country in the world that this new respiratory disease existed.^[2]

At present (February 22nd, 2020), there are 35 patients with COVID-19 in Thailand. Of these 35 cases, no case had confusion as initial clinical presentation. From additional analysis on available data on 237 published cases in China,^[4,5] one patient had confusion as initial presentation giving the rate equal to 0.42% (95% confidence interval = 0.06% - 2.98%). The exact interrelationship between COVID-19 and confusion is still unknown. Based on these data, a few patients with COVID-19 might have confusion as an initial clinical presentation. If the practitioner does not recognize this possibility, the case might be missed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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