

Guidelines for the management of SARS released

Guidelines for the management of patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), developed by the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong and the Department of Health, have been released early in an online version of the *Lancet*.¹

According to the recommendations, patients with suspected SARS should initially receive antibacterials active against known bacterial agents of severe pneumonia.² Thereafter, patients should be administered high-dose IV methylprednisolone plus simultaneous IV ribavirin. Among patients with disease progression or clinical deterioration, respiratory support from high concentration oxygen may be required to assist ventilation. Further recommendations detail specific therapeutic regimens for adult and paediatric patients, pregnant women and outpatients with suspected SARS. Other areas covered include means of controlling infection in an inpatient setting, convalescence, home care, and suggestions for physicians conducting postmortem examinations.

1. Ho W. Guideline on management of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). See Reprint No. 120062 for full article. *Lancet* : [3 pages], 8 Apr 2003. Available from: URL: <http://image.thelancet.com>.

2. Ho W. HA Guidelines on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. HA Guidelines : [13 pages], 8 Apr 2003. Available from: URL: <http://www.ha.org.hk>.