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Editorial Comment

Delayed COVID-19 Outbreak in Taiwan

The COVID-19 pandemic, occurring in December 2019 and spread rapidly worldwide, including Taiwan. Although initial preventive measures raised by Taiwan government successfully kept the island relatively free from community transmission, an outbreak inevitably attacked Taiwan in mid-May 2021. There were 535 new cases per day on May 17, predominantly from Taipei and New Taipei City, and the number fell drastically in 2 months, to 10 cases on July 26. COVID-19 infection is characterized by geriatric emergency and critical care, most of the severe cases were the elderly people, who were brought to the hospital mainly via the emergency room and eventually admitted to the critical care unit. During the outbreak of Taiwan in 2021, hospitals in Taipei and New Taipei City took the major responsibility to care the people with COVID-19 infection.

How to deal with a rapidly increasing number of COVID-19 patients while avoid intra-hospital transmission is a difficult task. In this issue, nine papers submitted from MacKay Memorial Hospital, a medical center located in central Taipei with a branch in New Taipei City, were collected to reflect the contribution of health care workers in hospitals in Taiwan during the battle against COVID-19.

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