

Can thermo-scan screening predict the presence of Wuhan coronavirus infection: Observation on detection rate and efficacy from Thailand

Dear Editor,

Emerging viral infection is considered an important problem for the medical society. There are many new emerging virus infectious diseases. In December 2019, a new coronavirus infection, Wuhan coronavirus infection, was firstly reported from China and became a global public health consideration.^[1] The countries that have international relationship with China with many international flights have to implement infectious control programs against the new emerging disease. Thailand, a country in Southeast Asia, is a country with many international flights from China, which had implemented the standard thermo-scan screening at all border posts at international airports for the detection of the emerging Wuhan coronavirus infection. Here, the authors summarize the observation on the screening during the 1st month of disease emergence.

During the 1st month of emerging infectious diseases, the standard thermo-scan screening at all border posts at international airports in Thailand was performed on the overall 9122 passengers, and there were 12 positive screening cases. The positive screening rate is equal to 0.13% (95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.07%–0.23%). Of those screening positive cases, the final diagnosis of the emerging Wuhan coronavirus infection was derived in one case (detection rate 0.01%; CI = 0.002%–0.078%). The rate of final diagnosis per positive screening case is equal to 8.33%. Based on the data from the observation from Thailand, the thermo-scanning at the international post can help diagnose the imported case of infection,^[2]

and this can confirm the necessity for international preventive measures against the new emerging Wuhan coronavirus infection.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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