Our case highlights the importance of timely recognition of a false-positive result for SARS-CoV-2 when chest CT findings do not conform to the typical changes of COVID-19 pneumonia. From the epidemic control perspective, it is imperative to isolate individuals with suspected cases of COVID-19 to protect the uninfected population. However, the suspected cases should not be housed with confirmed cases of COVID-19 to prevent the spread of this disease.

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**A dynamic residential community-based quarantine strategy: China’s experience in fighting COVID-19**

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To the Editor—As the global COVID-19 pandemic progresses, many countries face major public health emergencies. The number of active COVID-19 cases worldwide is >1.69 million as of April 12, 2020.1 With rapidly increasing new cases, healthcare systems are at the brink of collapse in some regions. To reduce the burden on health systems, public health strategies should be adopted to control the source of infection, to cut off transmission routes, and to protect vulnerable populations. One strategy that was effective in China in controlling the COVID-19 epidemic was the successful implementation of a nationwide, community-based, dynamic quarantine strategy.2 From Late January to March 18, 2020, the main purpose was to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in China. Afterward, the focus turned to the prevention of imported cases.

At the beginning of China’s quarantine, residents were required to stay home. When necessary, they were required to use an electronic pass system with traceable personal information to gain entry to residential areas, work places, and public transportation, and body temperature was screened by thermal scanning at the entrances.3 Once new cases were identified, health professionals and volunteers followed-up, treated, and isolated the patient and those in close contact. From prior experience with SARS, most Chinese citizens understood the importance of the quarantine and were invested in its success. As the epidemic came under better control, community-level management was strengthened and upgraded. It also became more dynamic, allowing movement and return to work to minimize the effects on people’s lives and businesses while still monitoring movements and health status.4

Experience can be drawn from China’s quarantine strategy. First, the quarantine strategy was strictly implemented nationwide at a community level.5 Strong governmental support is required to strengthen the community, and training is needed to foster policy implementation. Second, the quarantine strategy was dynamic and was adjustable based on the evolving situations, from stay-home quarantine to movement with updated health monitoring. Third, a large team of professional and technical support traced, identified, treated, and isolated patients and their close contacts. These strategies ensured early diagnosis and treatment, thus bringing the COVID-19 pandemic under control in China.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a massive toll on the healthcare systems and economies of countries worldwide, China’s experience in its fight against this novel virus can be of great value to other countries. A practical attitude of learning by doing and responsiveness among government officials and the general population must be fostered.

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Extended use or reuse of N95 respirators during COVID-19 pandemic: An overview of national regulatory authority recommendations

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To the Editor—We read with great interest the article by Wang et al1 and the study by Cheng et al2 that highlighted the vital role of N95 respirators for preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission and COVID-19 among healthcare workers (HCWs). The protective role of N95 respirators in other respiratory diseases could be translated to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.1 Preliminary results in Hong Kong demonstrated that the use of N95 respirators for triage, for medical care of suspected or confirmed cases and during aerosol-generating procedures, drastically reduced COVID-19 infection among HCWs.2 We acknowledge that the effectiveness of N95 respirators to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission should be confirmed and their use in clinical practice should be supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are facing a scenario of global shortage in availability of personal protective equipment (PPE), including surgical masks and N95 respirators.3 Countries are in dispute over the insufficient number of manufacturers. With unfair markets and increasing prices, low- and middle-income countries are at risk of losing their ability to acquire PPE for their HCWs. Several studies have previously reported methods for PPE decontamination4 or reuse of N95 respirators.5

Globally, the discussion by health authorities regarding new approaches to managing the N95 respirator shortage is urgent. The extended use or reuse and/or implementation of decontamination methods of N95 respirators might be an alternative that can prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission among HCWs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, we have summarized recommendations regarding the extended use or reuse of N95 respirators, and we provide an overview of published information by regulatory authorities, surveillance organizations, and ministries of health of several countries.

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