Personal protective equipment during COVID-19 outbreak at the First Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University, China

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The First Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University is a comprehensive public tertiary hospital with 100 years of history. It encompasses medical prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, research, and education. It is also the largest teaching hospital affiliated to Wenzhou Medical University (Figure 1). It currently consists of 67 departments, with 101 wards containing 4000 beds. In 2019, it admitted approximately 196 000 inpatients and performed more than 111 000 operations (Figure 2). The hospital received nearly 5 160 000 outpatient and emergency visits, ranking top in Zhejiang province, China (Figure 3).

During the outbreak of COVID-19, the First Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University was the only provincial-level designated hospital for the treatment of severely and critically ill patients in Wenzhou. It undertook the mission of treating all critically ill patients and >80% of severely ill patients in Wenzhou. The hospital set up an expert group for the diagnosis and treatment of severely and critically ill patients, and established COVID-19 treatment protocols focusing on severe and critical cases. From January 28 to March 16, 2020, a total of 70 confirmed patients were admitted; eight were critically ill at the time of admission and 62 were severe, of which 16 were over 70 years old and the oldest was 93. A total of 69 patients have been cured and discharged, and the cure rate is 98.6%. The hospital is working with international experts to fight against the virus and promote the development of global public health. The experience in fighting COVID-19 has been shared with international experts from Italy, Iran and Canada by online meetings.

In response to the epidemic outbreak, the nursing department established an emergency nursing management team for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 patients. Combined with relevant documents of all levels and clinical practice, the nursing department formulated a new COVID-19 nursing training program. A total of 20 nursing teachers were selected as members of the first group of the nursing training instructor team. To provide standardized training, the Procedure of Personal Protective Equipment Wearing and Removing was established, and a video entitled “Procedure for Wearing and Removing Personal Protective Equipment” was produced by a team effort. The training covered a total of 2566 nursing staff and more than 500 doctors and medical technicians in the hospital. The rigorous training played an important part in achieving an infection rate of 0% among medical staff and accomplishing the mission of fighting COVID-19. Thanks to widespread recognition, the Zhejiang continuing education platform and some colleges adopted this video as part of their training course.

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