

Abstract

Dengue and Leptospirosis are important arthropod vector borne and zoonotic infections affecting people mainly in the tropical countries. Both illnesses are endemic to Sri Lanka and time to time country experiences epidemics. The similarity of clinical presentation and most initial investigation findings, impose difficulty in initial diagnosis at presentation. However it is paramount to differentiate between both diseases because Leptospirosis needs early antibiotic treatment, whereas Dengue fever needs carefully guided fluid management and supportive care. In a country where both diseases are prevalent in high numbers, it's not unusual for patients to present with co-infection.

Here we present a case of a 38 year old, previously healthy patient who presented with acute febrile illness with constitutional symptoms that lead to a diagnosis of Dengue and Leptospirosis co-infection.

His initial serological investigations for both Dengue and Leptospirosis infection were negative. Careful analysis of symptoms and signs along with other supportive investigations and early decision making to manage the condition considering the possibility of dual pathology saved his life and shortened the disease course. Later the serological investigations became positive supporting the diagnosis of co-infection.

Therefore in areas where above two infections are highly prevalent, it is important to consider possibility of co-infection