Yusuf Firdausi

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Anatomy

The corona virus is a virus that when it enters the body, it begins to attack the epithelial cells in the lining of the upper respiratory tract, which includes the nose, mouth, larynx and bronchi.

Infection from the corona virus can lead to fatal pneumonia characteristics such as severe acute respiratory syndrome. A protein on the receptors of the virus begins to experience mild version of symptoms which are dry cough, shortness of breath, fever and headache, muscle pain and also tiredness.

Symptoms start to get worse once the infection starts going into the lower respiratory tract.

The upper respiratory tract has the conducting portion of air to and from the alveoli.

The conducting tracts in the upper respiratory system are :-

nasal cavity

pharynx

larynx

trachea

bronchi

bronchioles and

Terminal bronchioles

Majority of the conducting portion is lined by the respiratory epithelium and a small portion of olfactory epithelium.

How the virus affects the respiratory and olfactory epithelium:-

Respiratory epithelium:- the virus disrupts the ciliated epithelium and this is likely to impair mucocilliary clearance.

It has no clinical symptoms.

Olfactory epithelium:- the corona virus enters the CNS through the olfactory bulb, it causes nasal infections that causes inflammation and deroyelination.