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Bird flu deaths: 'no alarm'

SIGNS that the H5N1 bird flu virus may be developing resistance to frontline drug Tamiflu are not necessarily alarming, a senior World Health Organisation official said yesterday.

Keiji Fukuda, a scientist at the WHO's global influenza programme, said some resistance was inevitable.

"Whenever you use any kind of drugs, antivirals or antibiotics, you expect to see resistance develop in organs," he said. "Finding some resistance in and of itself is not surprising and is not necessarily alarming."

But reports that four bird-flu patients in Vietnam had died despite use of Tamiflu indicated more research was needed on its use, he added.



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- [Dept of Health - pandemic flu](#)
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en>
- [WHO - Bird Flu fact sheet](#)
http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/

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