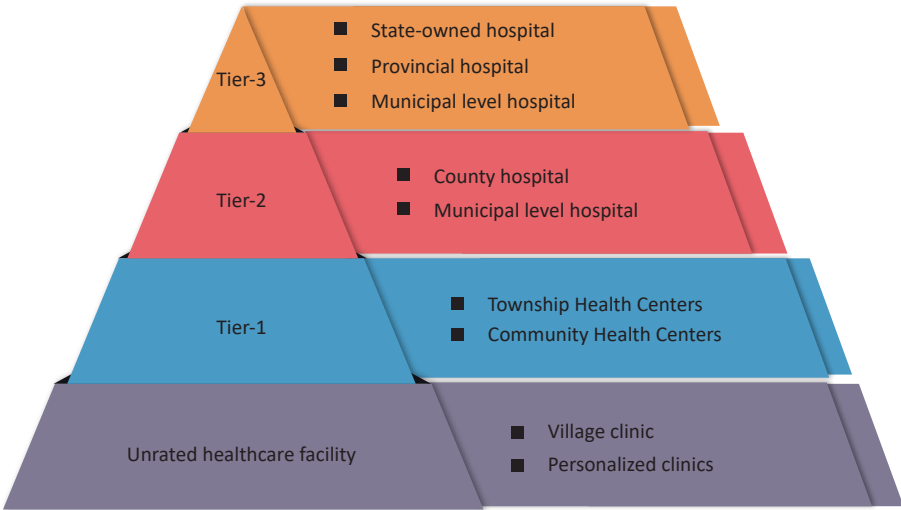




Supplementary Figure S1. Three-tier system of hospitals in China.

Supplementary Table S1. Group A hospital proportions of HZ cases to all patient visits during 2019 to 2020 at the same tier and type of hospital in Lu’an

Group A hospitals	2019			2020		
	Visit volume	Cases	Weights	Visit volume	Cases	Weights
Community Health Center	49,303	99	0.002008	87,576	110	0.001256
Township Health Centers	61,582	113	0.001835	57,437	120	0.002089
Tier-2 general hospitals	221,958	171	0.000770	206,848	191	0.000923
Tier-3 general hospitals	2,441,415	3214	0.001316	2,495,374	3,258	0.001306
Maternal and child health care hospital	399,142	93	0.000223	349,359	109	0.000312
Traditional Chinese medicine hospital	59,854	119	0.001988	6,2501	139	0.002224

Note. Weights is weighting factor; for the Group A hospital proportion of HZ cases to all patient visits during the same study year and at the same tier and type of hospital.

Supplementary Table S2. Group A hospital proportions of HZ cases to all patient visits during 2019 to 2020 at the same tier and type of hospital in Zibo

Group A hospitals	2019			2020		
	Visit volume	Cases	Weights	Visit volume	Cases	Weights
Community health center	7611	23	0.003022	18,033	52	0.002884
Township health centers	63,564	42	0.000661	69,503	47	0.000676
Tier-2 general hospitals	373,756	258	0.000690	288,900	240	0.000831
Tier-3 general hospitals	3,838,054	2345	0.000611	4,428,006	3,206	0.000724
Maternal and child health care hospital	74,145	13	0.000175	406,175	110	0.000271
Traditional Chinese medicine hospital	766,273	291	0.000380	623,130	363	0.000583

Note. Weights is weighting factor; for the Group A hospital proportion of HZ cases to all patient visits during the same study year and at the same tier and type of hospital.

Supplementary Table S3. Group A hospital proportions of HZ cases to all patient visits during 2019 to 2020 at the same type of hospital in Tongchuan

Month	Group A community health center						Group A township health centers					
	2019			2020			2019			2020		
	Visit volume	Cases	Weights	Visit volume	Cases	Weights	Visit volume	Cases	Weights	Visit volume	Cases	Weights
1	3,519	21	0.005968	1,600	3	0.001875	1,595	5	0.003135	1,470	3	0.002041
2	2,106	17	0.008072	955	7	0.007330	1,570	3	0.001911	1,494	3	0.002008
3	3,175	18	0.005669	1,006	8	0.007952	2,753	3	0.001090	1,674	3	0.001792
4	2,981	18	0.006038	1,269	21	0.016548	2,535	4	0.001578	1,884	3	0.001592
5	3,366	24	0.007130	1,667	26	0.015597	2,254	3	0.001331	1,965	3	0.001527
6	3,689	20	0.005422	1,946	18	0.009250	2,247	3	0.001335	1,977	3	0.001517
7	3,503	21	0.005995	1,898	21	0.011064	2,416	5	0.002070	2,353	2	0.000850
8	3,586	20	0.005577	2,104	22	0.010456	2,139	3	0.001403	2,015	5	0.002481
9	2,525	21	0.008317	2,344	17	0.007253	1,975	4	0.002025	2,058	4	0.001944
10	2,942	18	0.006118	2,091	24	0.011478	2,199	3	0.001364	2,065	3	0.001453
11	3,042	21	0.006903	2,316	22	0.009499	3,024	3	0.000992	2,783	2	0.000719
12	3,123	19	0.006084	2,157	29	0.013445	3,457	3	0.000868	2,939	2	0.000681

Note. Weights is weighting factor; for the Group A hospital proportion of HZ cases to all patient visits during the same study month and at the same type of hospital.

Supplementary Table S4. Characteristics of HZ cases seen in Group A hospitals

Variables	Lu'an	Zibo	Tongchuan	Overall
Gender				
Male	3,361 (49.34)	4,493 (48.71)	1,537 (48.64)	9,391 (48.92)
Female	3,451 (50.66)	4,731 (51.29)	1,623 (51.36)	9,805 (51.08)
Age group				
0–	1,521 (22.33)	2,259 (24.49)	502 (15.89)	4,282 (22.31)
40–	937 (13.76)	1,400 (15.18)	440 (13.92)	2,777 (14.47)
50–	1,637 (24.03)	2,012 (21.81)	900 (28.48)	4,549 (23.70)
60–	1,285 (18.86)	2,009 (21.78)	712 (22.53)	4,006 (20.86)
≥ 70	1,432 (21.02)	1,544 (16.74)	606 (19.18)	3,582 (18.66)
Complications				
Yes	2,556 (37.52)	2,385 (25.86)	345 (10.92)	5,286 (27.54)
No	4,256 (62.48)	6,839 (74.14)	2,815 (89.08)	13,907 (72.46)
PHN				
Yes	133 (1.95)	833 (9.03)	313 (9.91)	1279 (6.66)
No	6,679 (98.05)	8,391 (90.97)	2,847 (90.09)	17,917 (93.34)
Hospitalization				
Yes	618 (9.07)	758 (8.22)	13 (0.41)	1,389 (7.24)
No	6,194 (90.93)	8,466 (91.78)	3,147 (99.59)	17,807 (92.76)
Grade of hospitals				
Tier-1	123 (1.81)	990 (10.73)	282 (8.92)	1,395 (7.27)
Tier-2	223 (3.27)	4,238 (45.95)	628 (19.87)	5,089 (26.51)
Tier-3	6,466 (94.92)	3,996 (43.22)	2,250 (71.21)	12,712 (66.22)
Total	6,812 (35.49)	9,224 (48.05)	3,160 (16.46)	19,196 (100.00)

Note. Shown as *n* (%).

Supplementary Table S5. Postherpetic neuralgia in Group A hospital cases

Variables	PHN cases	Proportion of PHN cases (%)	Univariate analysis		Binary logistic regression	
			χ^2	P	OR	95% CI
Gender						
Male	650	6.92	1.98	0.160		
Female	629	6.42				
Age group						
0–	146	3.49	168.09	< 0.001	1.00	
40–	158	5.69			1.78	1.41–2.24
50–	273	6.00			1.92	1.56–2.36
60–	344	8.59			2.82	2.31–3.44
≥ 70	358	9.99			3.35	2.75–4.08
Tier of hospitals						
Tier-1	21	1.51	75.56	< 0.001	1.00	
Tier-2	410	8.06			6.49	4.17–10.11
Tier-3	848	6.67			5.16	3.33–7.98

Note. All tests were 2-sided and *P* values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.