

COVID-19 Prevention and Management : Overview

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ABSTRACT

Article Info Volume 7, Issue 6 Page Number: 23-32 Publication Issue : November-December-2020 COVID-19 was originated from Wuhan city of Hubei Province in China in December 2019. Since then it has spread to more than 216 countries and territories. It is a contagious respiratory and vascular disease due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) a specific type of coronavirus. The patients show common symptoms like cough, sore throat, fever, breathing problems, and loss of smell and taste. The disease due to SARS-CoV-2 was named COVID-19. COVID-19 mainly spreads through the air when people are near each other, primarily via small droplets or aerosols, as an infected person breathe, coughs, sneezes and speaks. About 46.8 million people have been infected with more than 1.2 million deaths globally. The United States of America is the most affected country with the highest patients of about 9.47million.

In spite of immense efforts, there is no treatment of this disease. However, prevention and management are the best options. This article describes SARS-CoV-2, disease, symptoms, transmission, diagnosis, prevention and management. It is immediately advised and requested that all humankind should follow the precautionary measures and managements to stop Coronavirus spread otherwise the condition may be worsen. In particular, we focus on proper prevention and management is essential to combat this disease and there is a vital prerequisite to educate our novel generation for science and technology to fight against the COVID-19, this overview represents a picture of the current state of the art. It may be useful to create awareness among the community to prevent and manage COVID-19.

Article History Accepted : 01 Nov 2020 Published : 07 Nov 2020 **Keywords :** Coronavirus, COVID-19, Prevention and Management, Contagious Respiratory, Vascular Disease, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

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I. INTRODUCTION

The virus is thought to be natural and has an animal origin,^[1] through spillover infection.^[2] The first known human infections were in Wuhan, Hubei, China. A study of the first 41 cases of confirmed COVID-19, published in January 2020 in *The Lancet*, reported the earliest date of onset of symptoms as 1 December 2019.^{[3][4][5]} Official publications from the WHO reported the earliest onset of symptoms as 8 December 2019.^[6] Human-to-human transmission was confirmed by the WHO and Chinese authorities by 20 January 2020.^{[7][8] [60]}

During the early stages of the outbreak, the number of cases doubled approximately every seven and a half days.^[9] In early and mid-January 2020, the virus spread to other Chinese provinces, helped by the Chinese New Year migration, and Wuhan being a transport hub and major rail interchange.^[10] On 20 January, China reported nearly 140 new cases in one day, including two people in Beijing and one in Shenzhen.^[11] Later official data shows 6,174 people had already developed symptoms by then,^[12] and more may have been infected.^[13] A report in The Lancet on 24 January indicated human transmission, strongly recommended personal protective equipment for health workers, and said testing for the to due its "pandemic virus was essential potential".^{[14][15]} On 30 January, the WHO declared the coronavirus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.^[16] By this time, the outbreak spread by a factor of 100 to 200 times.^[17]

The Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface. There are four main subgroupings of coronaviruses, known as alpha, beta, gamma, and delta. ^[18]There are four main sub groupings of CoVs: (I) α -coronavirus (alphaCoV), (II) β -coronavirus (betaCoV) probably present in bats and rodents, while (III) δ -coronavirus (deltaCoV), and (IV) γ-coronavirus (gammaCoV) probably represent avian species. ^{[19][20][21]} ^[88]The virus has a natural and zoonotic origin: two scenarios that can plausibly explain the origin of SARS-CoV2 are: (i) natural selection in an animal host before zoonotic transfer; and (ii) natural selection in humans following zoonotic transfer.^{[20][21]} ^[88]Clinical features and risk factors are highly variable, making the clinical severity range from asymptomatic to fatal. ^[22] Understanding of COVID-19 is on-going. ^[86]

This virus is out broken in pneumonia type of disease with respiratory problems, leading to death due to respiratory failure. About 216 countries and territories have been reported to be infected with major outbreaks in the USA, India, Brazil, Russia, France, and Spain etc. About 46.8 million people have been infected with more than 1.2 million deaths globally.The United States of America is the most affected country with the highest patients of about 9.47 million and about 2,36,000 deaths. This review aims to overview on the disease and symptoms, transmission, diagnosis, prevention and management of COVID-19.^[87]

1.1 Disease and Symptoms

Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 can change, but have fever and a cough in common.^{[23][24]} People with the same infection may have various symptoms, and their symptoms may change over a period of time. For instance, one person may have a high fever, a cough, and fatigue, and another person may have a low fever at the start of the disease and develop difficulty breathing a week later. However, for people those without prior ears, nose, and throat (ENT) disorders, also with loss of taste combined with loss of smell is with COVID-19 with associated a specificity of 95%.^[25] Some symptoms of COVID-19 can be comparatively non-specific; the most common (88%) symptoms are fever and dry

cough (68%).^{[26][27]} Among those who develop symptoms, approximately one in every five people may become more seriously ill and have difficulty breathing. An emergency symptom includes trouble with breathing, persistent chest pain or pressure, sudden confusion and bluish face or lips; immediate medical attention is advised if these symptoms are found to be present.^[27] Further development of the can complications disease lead to such as pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis, septic shock, and kidney failure.

As there are common infections, there is a delay, known as the incubation period, between the moment a person first becomes infected and the appearance of the first symptoms. The median incubation period for COVID-19 is four to five days.^[28] Most symptomatic people experience symptoms within two to seven days after exposure, and almost all symptomatic people will experience one or more symptoms before day twelve.^{[28][29] [60]}

II. Modes of Transmission

COVID-19 spreads from one person to other person mainly through the respiratory route after an infected person comes in contact when he coughs, sneezes, sings, talks or breathes.^[30] A new infection generally occurs when virus-containing particles exhaled by an infected person, either respiratory droplets or aerosols, get into the mouth, nose, or eyes of other people who are in close contact with the infected Respiratory person.[31][32][33] droplets may evaporate into droplet nuclei, which remain suspended in the air for longer periods of time,[34][35][36] causing airborne transmission particularly in crowded and inadequately ventilated indoor spaces, such as restaurants, nightclubs or choirs.^{[37][38]} It also can occur in the healthcare setting, with certain aerosol-generating medical procedures performed on COVID-19 patients.[34][37]

Kissing, physical intimacy and some other forms of direct contact can easily transmit the virus and lead COVID-19 in people exposed to to such contact.^{[37][38]} It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 through indirect contact by touching a contaminated surface or object, and then touching mouth, their own nose, or possibly their eyes,^[37] though this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.^[32] There currently is no significant evidence of COVID-19 virus transmission through, breast milk, food, wastewater, drinking water, animal disease vectors, or from mother to baby during pregnancy, although research is ongoing and caution is advised.[37][38]

The number of people normally infected by one infected person varies;^[39] as of September 2020 it is estimated that one infected person on an average will infect between two to three other people.^[40] It is more infectious than influenza, but less so than measles.^[41] It often spreads in clusters, where infections can be traced back to an index case or geographical location.^[42] There is a major role of "super-spreading events", where many people are infected by one person.^[39]

It can transmit when people are symptomatic, also for up to two days prior to developing symptoms, and even if a person never shows symptoms.^{[32][40]} People remain infectious in moderate cases for 7-12 days, and up to two weeks in severe cases.^[40] In October 2020, medical scientists reported evidence of reinfection in one patient.^{[43][44]}

III. Diagnosis

The standard method of testing is real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).^[45] The test is typically done on respiratory samples obtained by a nasopharyngeal swab; however, a nasal swab or sputum sample may also be used.^{[46][47]} Results are generally available within a few hours to two days.[48][49]Blood tests can be used, but these require two blood samples taken two weeks apart, and the results have little immediate value.^[50] The antibody tests (which detect may active infections and whether a person had been infected in the past) were in development, but not yet widely used.^{[51][51][53]} Antibody tests may be most accurate after 2–3 weeks a person's symptoms start.^[54] A study asked hospitalised COVID-19 patients to cough into a sterile container, thus producing a saliva sample, and detected the virus in eleven of twelve patients using RT-PCR. The technique used has ability of giving quicker results than a swab and has less risk to health workers (collection at home or in the care car).[55]Along with laboratory testing, CT scans are also helpful to diagnose COVID-19 in an individual with a high clinical suspicion of infection but are not recommended for routine screening.^[56] [57] Bilateral multilobar ground-glass opacities with a peripheral, asymmetric, and posterior distribution are usually infection.^{[57][58]} Subpleural common in early dominance, crazy paving (lobular septal thickening with variable alveolar filling), and consolidation may appear as the disease progresses.^{[56][59][60]}

IV. Prevention and Management

4.1. Prevention

Prevention is the best practice right now in order to reduce the impact of COVID-19 considering the lack of effective treatment. There is no vaccine currently to protect against COVID-19.The best Preventive measures to reduce the chances of infection include staying at home, wearing a mask in the people, avoiding crowded places, keeping atleast 6 feet distance from others, washing hands with soap and water often and for at least 20 seconds, practising good respiratory hygiene, and avoiding touching the with unwashed eyes, nose, or mouth

hands.^{[61][62][63][64][60]} Those who diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspect they may be infected are advised by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to stay home except to get medical care, call in advance before visiting a healthcare provider, wear a face mask before entering the healthcare provider's office and when in any room or vehicle with another person, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, regularly wash hands with soap and water and avoid sharing personal household items.^{[65][66]}

4.1.1. Personal protective equipment

For health care professionals who may come into contact with COVID-19 positive bodily fluids, using personal protective coverings on exposed body parts improve protection from the virus. In addition to that, adding tabs and some form of other modifications to the protective equipment may reduce the risk of contamination during donning and (putting taking doffing on and off the equipment). Implementing evidence-based an donning and doffing protocol such as a one-step glove and gown removal technique, giving oral instructions while donning and doffing, double gloving, and the use of glove disinfection may also improve protection for health care professionals.[67][60]

4.1.2. Face Masks

The World Health Organization (WHO) and most of the countries recommended public to wear nonmedical face coverings in public settings where there is an increased risk of transmission and where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. ^{[60][68][69]} ^{[70][71][72]} This recommendation is meant to reduce the spread of the disease by asymptomatic and presymptomatic individuals and is complementary to established preventive measures such as social distancing. Face coverings limit the volume and travel distance of expiratory droplets dispersed when talking, breathing, and coughing.^[70] Masks are also strongly recommended for those who may have been infected and those taking care of someone who may have the disease.^[73]

4.1.3. Social distancing

The main aim of Social distancing strategies are to reduce contact of infected persons with large groups by closing schools and workplaces, restricting travel, and canceling large public gatherings.^[74] Distancing guidelines also include that people stay at least 2 meters (6.6 ft) apart.^[5] After the 7 of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, many regions have been able to sustain an effective transmission rate ("Rt") of less than one, meaning the disease is in remission in those areas.^{[60][76]}

4.1.4. Hand-washing and hygiene

Always proper hand hygiene after any cough or encouraged.^{[77][78]} The sneeze is WHO also recommends that individuals wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to toilet or when hands are dirty, before eating or after blowing one's nose. The CDC recommends using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, but only when soap and water are not readily available.^[78] For areas where commercial hand sanitizers are not readily available, the WHO provides two formulations for local production. In these formulations, the antimicrobial activity arises from ethanol or isopropanol. Hydrogen peroxide is used to help eliminate bacterial spores in the alcohol; is "not substance it an active for hand antisepsis". Glycerol is added as a humectant.^[79]Sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces is also recommended.^[60]

4.2. Management

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19, and no vaccine is currently available as of now. [87] Different strategies can be used depending on the severity of the patient. Residence managing is suitable for asymptomatic patients. They need everyday mandatory assessment of body temperature, blood pressure, oxygen saturation and respiratory symptoms for about two weeks. Such kind of patients should focus on prevention of transmission to others and monitoring for clinical status with prompt hospitalization if required. Outpatients with COVID-19 should stay at home and try to separate themselves from other people in the household. They should wear a face mask when in the same room (or vehicle) as other people. When presenting to health care settings. Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces is also important. The optimal duration of home isolation is uncertain, but in consideration of incubation time around 14 days without symptoms (fever, breathing problems, others) are considered sufficient to end home isolation. [88]

People are managed with supportive care, which may include fluid therapy, oxygen support, and supporting organs.^{[80][81][82]} The other affected vital CDC recommends those who suspect they carry the virus wear a simple face mask. Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) has been used to find out the issue of respiratory failure, but its benefits are still under consideration.^[83] Personal hygiene and a healthy diet have been recommended to improve immunity.^[84] Supportive treatments may be useful in those with mild symptoms at the early stage of infection.[85] [60]

V. CONCLUSION

This article provides an insight into the COVID-19 present situation and represents a picture of the

current state of art in terms of public Health impact, disease, symptoms, transmission, diagnosis, prevention and management. There are rapid clinical trials are going on the COVID-19 vaccine and hopefully, it will help in finding an effective stop for the virus spread, prevention and management. Once this pandemic ends, everyone will be able to evaluate their health, socializing with other people and economic impacts of this global disaster and we should be able to learn from our experiences, especially in terms of public and global health for future pandemics.

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Cite this article as :

Dr. P. Srilatha Reddy, "COVID-19 Prevention and Management : Overview", International Journal of Scientific Research in Science and Technology (IJSRST), Online ISSN : 2395-602X, Print ISSN : 2395-6011, Volume 7 Issue 6, pp. 23-32, November-December 2020. Available at doi : https://doi.org/10.32628/IJSRST20761 Journal URL : http://ijsrst.com/IJSRST20761