

The clinical feature and follow up of asymptomatic coronavirus disease 2019 carriers: A study from Middle China

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Abstract

Background: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been highly epidemic in the whole world now. Asymptomatic transmission of severe acute respiratory coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) might pose challenges for disease control. Little information on its characteristics of asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers is available. This study aimed to clarify the clinical feature and follow-up data of asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers. We hope the information would help the management of asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers. **Methods:** This retrospective study included all asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers in The First People's Hospital of Yueyang (Hunan, China) and Hunan Provincial People's Hospital (Changsha, China) between January 22 and March 26, 2020. The epidemiology, clinical characteristic, laboratory data, chest CT and follow-up data of these cases were investigated. **Results:** 24 asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers were enrolled in The First People's Hospital of Yueyang and Hunan Provincial People's Hospital between Jan 22, 2020 and Mar 26, 2020. All patients had history of exposure to SARS-CoV-2. During the whole disease course, patients had no symptoms and most of laboratory findings were normal. The median period from contact to diagnosis was 9.6 days (1-38 days). The median period from diagnosis to discharge was 14.4 days (6-24 days). Following after discharge, all patients continued to be asymptomatic. 5 (20.83%) patients were admitted again because their specimens (4 throat swab and 1 feces) showed re-positive results in SARS-CoV-2 PCR. The re-positive time away from diagnosis (day) was from 23-53 days; the time from re-positive to re-negative RT-PCR of SARS-CoV-2 was 3-11 days. **Conclusion:** Asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers have favorable outcomes and should be closely monitored. We suggested post-discharge surveillance of them.

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