Clinical Presentation and Outcomes of Hospitalized Children with COVID-19 in Mexico City

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Abstract

We describe the demographic, clinical, radiological and laboratory findings relating them also to the severity and clinical outcome of 129 children (0-18 years) which were admitted to a tertiary care pediatric hospital in Mexico City due to SARS-CoV-2 infection between April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. The infection was confirmed using RT-PCR. Fever (82.2%), tachypnea (72.1%) and cough (71.3%) were the most commonly reported signs at the moment of hospitalization. The most frequent radiological pattern that stood out was the interstitial pattern (66.7%). History of oncologic pathology (25.6%) was the most frequent past medical history. ESR (erythrocyte sedimentation rate) was the only laboratory value significantly associated with severity ($p=0.015$). NSAIDs (93%), antibiotics (57.4%), and steroids (40.3%) were the most common medication given. The average hospitalization stay was 14.2 days, 21.7% of the total patients required transfer to the intensive care unit. At discharge, 20.2% required oxygen on an outpatient basis, and unfortunately 7.0% of the patients who were admitted to the institute for COVID-19 died. Our findings confirm that COVID-19 in children has a mild presentation except for patients with hematologic/oncologic co-morbidities which had severe presentations.

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