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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Respiratory Viral Infections Among Children Hospitalized in a Great Referral Hospital in Iran During the Coronavirus Pandemic

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

1 comment · 24 Apr 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 24 Apr 2023

What was the duration of this study?
What are the WHO criteria for diagnosing a viral infection of the respiratory tract?
In this study, there is no information about the prognosis and complications of hospitalized patients, and it is recommended that this information be included in the text of the article.
In patients who had simultaneous infections with two viruses, compared to patients who had one viral infection, what were the prognosis and complications?

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear Editor

Thank you for your valuable comments and all the manuscript revised accordingly. All revision observed in green high light.

Comments:

1. The manuscript should be reviewed to correct grammatical errors.

All of them corrected.

2. ABSTRACT:

1. The presented symptoms are not unique in viral infections and could present in other patients with other non-viral pathogens. Please replace respiratory infection instead of respiratory viral infections and also other respiratory pathogens instead of other respiratory infections.

It was corrected.

2. Results related to other viral agents, except SARS-CoV-2 and FluA, are not presented in this section.

They were added.

Introduction:

1. Please present names of microbes in standard style:

Line 50. …… strains such as viruses, bacria (streptococcus pneumoniae or atypical bacteria such as macoplasma pneumoniae) mycobacterium tuberculosis, and even fungi such as histoplasma (5,6).

All of them corrected.

2. Line 53. This sentence is confusing: In addition, viral infections alone can cause bacterial pneumonia.

It was omitted.

3. Line 57: Please rewrite the following sentence if you mean viral infection in children with underlying diseases or some types of bacterial infections can become serious.

It was rewritten.

4. Line 61. What does your following sentence refer to? If you mean, single viral infection compared with co-infection with bacteria and viruses, please revise its presentation.

It was revised.

5. “On the other hand, the occurrence of COVID-19 pandemic after a cluster of pneumonia cases was reported in Wuhan City, China, especially with new mutant strains, has been associated with significant involvement of the pediatric respiratory system and, based on the available evidence, has also led to morbidity and mortality in children”

It was revised.

6. Line 65: Please correct “COVID-19 neumonia” writing.

It was corrected.

7. Lines 64 and 65: Please delete “In this regard”. It is used in two consecutive sentences; or use other words where you are referring to one of the previous sentences.

It was corrected.

8. Main issue and main question for this study is not well described. What was main issue in respiratory infection in children? Do you want to compare changes in etiology of viral infection during the COVID-19 pandemics in compare to their frequency before the pandemics in Tehran? Have you any data about this change based on recent published articles in other countries or cities of Iran? ….

They were corrected.

Material and Methods:

Line 98. The sentence is incomplete.

IT was completed.

Please correct italicized words: total RNA were extracted; line 106: the identift 17 different respiratory virus; The virasl profile was; the human RNase P gene is also used;

All of them corrected.

RESULTS:

Please correct: the most common respiratory symptoms were ……..

It was corrected.

Please write “COVID-19” in a correct format throughout the manuscript body.

It was corrected.

Lines 144-146, please add number of the positive cases from total numbers together with the percentages. Sum of the percentages should be 100; please describe co-infection with SARS-CoV-2 and FluA in a case in this section.

They were added.

Table 2: Results related to other viral agents, except SARS-CoV-2 and FluA, are not presented in the results.

DISCUSSION:

1. To have better comparison, data of the frequency should be related to studies that were done during the COVID-19 pandemics or thereafter. Moreover, difference in your findings with others reports, mainly regarding the types of viral agants and their association with season, geographic difference, underlying diseases, ward of hospitalization, and infection control measure should be compared and discussed to strengthen this section.

It was corrected.

2. Please correct the following errors: This rate widely varied in dfferent reports; on australazian children; As the seond point, the most common strains detected included the coronavirus (COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2); the coexistence of these two types of infection; It should be noted, however, that .. .

All of them corrected.

3. Lines 200-201: While the authors noted that “Based on our findings, the co-infection of covid-19 with parainfluenza was observed in a significant part of hospitalized patients, which will be important in various ways” their results show that it was just detected in one case. Please correct it. This misinterpretation was also presented in lines 212-214 : “Therefore, in our study, the coexistence of covid-19 with other viral infections was observed in an important part of children, it can indicate the fact that the management and treatment approaches of these patients can be different from other covid patients”

All of them corrected and revised.

Reviewer 2:

Dear author:

Thank you for submission of article

Totally

English and dictation edition is mandatory for example in this sentence in discussion part”

It was revised.

While mild symptoms of COVID-19 infection obsered in children but their role in the pandemic should not be ignored”

It was corrected.

Pls check all covid words in the article and change to COVID-19

All of them corrected.

Introduction:

1-“In addition, viral infections alone can cause bacterial pneumonia.” This sentence is recommended to check

It was revised.

2- please describe the importance of this study

It was added in the introduction part.

3- please give a study result on prevalence of viral pathogens to show the finding of other studies

It was added and described.

Method:

1- Pls describe the characteristics of your hospital and admission rate. Does it have PICU facilities?

All wards of hospital sent us the specimens. It was added in the text.

2- What is your ethical code?

It was added.

3- Please give reference for WHO CRITERIA for respiratory infections

It was added.

4- Pls give the exclusion criteria. Did they have any underlying problem? What was their growth and development condition?

It was added.

5- What was the technique for nasopharyngeal specimen detection?

It was added.

6- Who obtained the specimen and did he or she educated for this procedure to reduce the false negative cases?What was the characteristic of nasal swab. How did the specimen transfer to Lab and what was the characteristic of your Lab? Did you collected the specimens to do the last laboratory exam?

The explained added to the text.

Result:

1- Plz give the mean and SD

It was added.

2- Pls give information about medical history of your cases mentioned in Method part

We have just the symptoms of respiratory infection and they were added in the text.

Discussion:

1- Please add studies from iran . What was the role of specimen collection techniques and lab. In your negative results?

The study of Iran was added in to the discussion part. We use educated hospital staff for getting the nasopharyngeal swabs to minimize the sample collection error.

2- Pls check this sentence “But other common viral strains of this type of infection include nfluenza A, metapneumovirus, and parainfluenza while the share of RSV virus among these strains was small and only 2.3 percent was estimated.”

It was omitted.

3- What are Advantages and disadvantages of your study

The importance of this study and also, limitation of that added in the main text.

Conclusion:

1- It is recommended to focus on your main result which was different viruses found in cases with respiratory problems. Pls make the conclusion brief and concentrate on main important findings

It was revised.

Best regards

Reviewer 3:

How long has this study been conducted?

From September 2021 to February 2022. It was added.

What are the WHO criteria for diagnosing a viral infection of the respiratory tract?

The references added.

In this study, there is no information about the prognosis and complications of hospitalized patients, and it is recommended to include it in the text of the article

We have just the symptoms of respiratory infection and they were added in the text.

In patients who had simultaneous infection with two viruses, compared to patients who had one viral infection, what was the prognosis and its complications?

It was added in the text.

Reviewer 4:

Dear author please attention to the comments and answer them,

Comment 1: In line 13, you stated that " children's hospital", if it's possible specify the name of hospital or hospitals that you gathered data.

It was added.

Comment 2: In line 50, spelling mistake, please correct it, "bacteria".

It was corrected.

Comment 3: In line 93, spelling mistake, please correct it, "inclusion".

It was corrected.

Comment 4: In line 139, why didn't you report the standard deviation of age ?

It was added.

Comment 5: Number of tables do not match with the numbers in text that is referenced.

It was corrected.

Comment 6: In line 148, you interpret the comparison between different types of viral strains in gender groups, but the results that you reported in table 2, compare every viral strain between male and female separately, please explain about that how did you analyze your data?

Detected the type of viruses shown in table 2 based on different gender and according to Chi-Square test P value ≥ 0.05 in all cases. So, the frequency of respiratory virus independent on age.

Comment 7: In line 152, you compare viral strains in different age groups, but in table 3 you report a p-value for each strain, please clear your hypothesis.

Detected the type of viruses shown in table 3 based on different age group and according to Chi-Square test P value ≥ 0.05 in all cases. So, the frequency of respiratory virus independent on age.

Comment 8: please, under the table, refer the statistical test.

It was added.

> Associate Editor's Comments:

Associate Editor 1:

Dear author

Thank you for your submission

There are different important notes in this article

1- Please correct the dictation and grammatical errors

All of them correct.

2- Please check the result part and match the tables and what is written in it

It was revised.

3- Please revise the statistical findings and give the results as SD and mean, please give the statistical analysis method in tables.

It was revised.

please check aii the statistical results

It was checked.

4- Please set the definition of variables, what is the definition of viral infection and if there is co-infection please signify that

It was corrected.

5- Please give the complication and prognosis information about infection with single or multiple viruses

It was added.

6- It is recommended to give the results about other respiratory infections and their co-infection

It was added.

7- Please revise your interpretation on infection with one and multiple viruses and correct the sentences about this issue

It was revised.

Best wishes

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 10 Jun 2023

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 10 Jun 2023

Dear author:
Thank you for your corrections.
There are a few notes.
1- Please omit the subtitles in the materials and methods section.
2- Otherwise, the article is accepted.
Best Wishes