Journal of Clinical Research in Paramedical Sciences
Volume 12 · Issue 1 · e122581

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Epidemiological, Clinical and Imaging Features of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Diseases (COVID-19) in Southwestern Iran: A Descriptive Study

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SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
31 May 2022	31 Jan 2023	16 Apr 2023	10.5812/jcrps-122581

About this report

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Contents

1 **Original submission** Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 2
2 **Revision 1** Referee 1, Referee 2, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 7

1 Original submission

2 comments · 28 Nov 2022 – 28 Nov 2022

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 28 Nov 2022

Minor Revision

Editor-in-Chief

MINOR REVISION 28 Nov 2022

Minor Revision

2

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-in-Chief of Journal of Clinical Research in Paramedical Sciences

Thank you very much for your consideration of our manuscript and request for a revised version. We thank the reviewers for their insightful and constructive comments and suggestions which helped to considerably improve the quality of the manuscript. We considered the comments of the two reviewers in revising our manuscript. To make our paper worthy of publication in the Journal of Clinical Research in Paramedical Sciences, changes are highlighted in the revised manuscript. Please, find our specific responses to every reviewer's comment (black font color is the reviewer's comments; red font color represents our action).

We hope that the revised version of the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in black.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes, Yours sincerely,

Javad Zarei

Responses to the comments of Reviewer#1

The manuscript has potential because of the subject matter and the general framework. However, the manuscript requires some revisions before publishing.

Title:

- Ok
- In the text of the article, some words were stuck together. It is recommended that these words be corrected in writing.

The mentioned item was corrected.

Abstract:

- Keywords should be selected based on the MESH.

The keywords were modified according to the MESH.

Background:

- In background section some of the contents, such as the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 disease, have been repeatedly stated in previous studies. Thus, it does not seem necessary to repeat again. It is recommended that the contents be removed.

Some content that was too clear was removed. But according to the title of the article, there was a need to mention some of the clinical manifestations of the COVID-19.

Methods:

In the methods section, the following are specific points needing to be considered:

- Explain to the research sample that the patients were outpatients, inpatients, or a combination of both?

In the method section, it was mentioned that the samples included inpatients and outpatients.

- It was noted that the interpretation of CT scans and chest X-ray images was performed by two specialists (including a Pulmonologist and a Radiologist). Did two experts review each image?

CT images of the patient were observed only by a specialist and the study checklist was completed by him.

Results:

- -

Discussion

- Due to the control of the COVID-19 epidemic and the significant reduction in the number of patients, some of the sentences in the discussion that emphasize the spread of the disease and increase the number of patients should be removed or changed.

The following sentences were deleted in the discussion section:

“After several months of the disease onset and many efforts to find quick ways to diagnose, treat and follow up the disease, the world situation is still very serious and countless questions remain unanswered. Strict monitoring by health workers and observance of hygienic principles recommended by the World Health Organization for individuals are still the main priorities in order to abate this epidemic."

- It is better to state the limitations of the study.

The limitations of the study were mentioned.

References:

- -

Responses to the comments of Reviewer#2

- The following paragraph must be moved to discussion from introduction:
  “On the one hand, the results of this study can help prevention and treatment, and on the other hand, it is an opportunity to examine whether there is a difference in the epidemiological features and clinical outcomes of patients with COVID-19 in this region with the rest of the world or not.”

The mentioned paragraph was moved to discussion from introduction.

- Key words must be written according to MESH.

The keywords were modified according to the MESH.

- Sample Size of study is small. Why the authors selected it?

At the time of the study, there were 7320 patient data. But only 1,680 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Among them, only 375 cases met all the criteria for entering the study.

- What are the Exclusion criteria in this study?

The inclusion criteria for the research samples included the following:

- Hospital admission (inpatient or outpatient)
- Positive PCR test
- CT scan procedure
- The presence of complete clinical information of the patient in the COVID-19 registry system

Therefore, non-hospital patients, suspected cases of COVID-19, patients without CT scans, and patients with incomplete clinical data were excluded from the study.

- In comparison of this results with imaging features of another studies, why the Consolidation and crazy-paving changes was more detected in Ahwaz?

This issue can be caused by the type of checklist designed to record pulmonary involvement or the number of study samples.

2 Revision 1

4 comments · 16 Apr 2023 – 16 Apr 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 16 Apr 2023

Accept

Referee 2 Reviewer

ACCEPT 16 Apr 2023

Accept

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 16 Apr 2023

Accept

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 16 Apr 2023

Accept