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RESEARCH ARTICLE

COVID-19 IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS: A CASE SERIES

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has affected the global health system with an urgent need for more sophisticated studies. One of the prominent aspects of COVID-19 is the feature of the disease in pediatric population. In a retrospective study, four children COVID-19 patients confirmed with RT-PCR nasotracheal sampling and typical clinical features were assessed. All our patients did not have any underlying disease and were discharged after recovery from the disease. These patients were aged 5-15 years old. COVID-19 affects pediatric population while the outcome might be better if there is no underlying condition. However, any major systemic disease should raise caution.

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INTRODUCTION

Since December 2019, an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread globally. The current epidemiological and clinical features of pediatric patients with COVID-19 is less clear yet. The milder pattern of disease in pediatric patients could be an extraordinary solution to the pathogenesis and treatment of the disease. We retrospectively retrieved data for pediatric patients (aged 0–18 years) with confirmed COVID-19 from medical records in Dr. D Y Patil Hospital. We recorded patients' epidemiological and clinical features.

CASE REPORT

We present 4 pediatric cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) admitted to the Dr. D Y Patil Hospital kolhapur. The youngest was 5 years old and the oldest one was 15. All children had at least one family member infected with COVID-19. Two patients had leukopenia and lymphopenia. The virus that cause COVID-19 is SARS-CoV-2. The virus RNA detected by RT-PCR test in all the patients.

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Elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate were detected in all patients. Supportive care, antiviral and antibiotic therapy were administered for all the patients. All patients were discharged within 10 days after admission with stable general and medical conditions.

DISCUSSION

Our experience with these patients showed that COVID-19 could affect children; and the outcome seems to be good. In an approach similar to adult patients, pediatric patients need supportive care with a special focus on the respiratory maneuvers. Again, similar to adult population, imaging studies and RT-PCR test from nasotracheal samples remains the most important confirming tests for any clinical suspicious patient. Since our center is a COVID center, we admitted 4 pediatric patients, there was no case fatality rate or mortality rate in pediatric population seen in our hospital. In addition, male preponderance was seen in my study.

Conclusion

The current study demonstrates that pediatric population should not be considered only as just a transmission route. Frank clinical disease with considerable morbidity and mortality might occur in this age range, while the response to the question that why pediatric patients are not affected as

much severely as adults might be one of the most important solutions to the treatment of the disease.

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