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RESEARCH ARTICLE

OLFACTORY AND TASTE DYSFUNCTION IN CORONAVIRUS DISEASE PATIENTS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To evaluate the occurrence, clinical course & outcome of olfactory & taste dysfunction in patients with laboratory confirmed positive patients. **Method:** This is prospective cross sectional study of patients diagnosed with coronavirus disease infection by real time polymerase chain reaction over 6 months. The clinical outcomes studied were: age, sex, general symptoms, olfactory & taste dysfunction. **Result:** A total of 500 COVID 19 positive patients were included in study, with 300 males & 200 females. 200 patients were reported chemosensory dysfunction, of which 150 patients reported both olfactory & taste dysfunction. Olfactory & taste dysfunction proportionally more common in females than males.

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INTRODUCTION

A novel severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 infection, coronavirus disease emerged in east asia at the end of 2019, since then it has spread to the rest of the world (Guan *et al*., 2019).The clinical manifestation of Covid 19 infection vary widely from no symptoms to severe acute respiratory distress syndrome and death. The spread of Covid 19 throughout the world has high lightened chemosensory dysfunction as a symptom of the disease. The study aimed to evaluate and characterize the occurrence, clinical course and outcome of olfactory and taste dysfunction with laboratory confirmed cases.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study was carried out at Medical college & hospital, Dharpurpatan, Gujrat, India from January, 2021 to June 2021.The patients includes who tested positive for covid 19 infection based on Real time polymerase chainreaction findings at our hospital during this period were identified. This was prospective cross-sectional study of patients diagnosed with covid 19 infection.

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RESULTS

A total 500 patients were included in the study. There were 300 males (60%) & 200 Females (40%). The age range was 18-80 yrs. 200 patients were reported chemosensory dysfunction, of which 150 patients reported both olfactory & taste dysfunction. Olfactory & taste dysfunction proportionately more common in females than males.

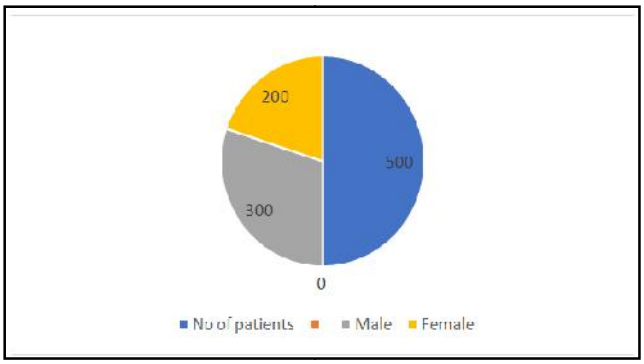

Figure 1. No of patients according to gender

Table: No of patients according to chemosensory disturbance

No of patients (n= 200)	Chemosensory disturbance (Symptom)
150	Taste & smell disturbance
18	Taste disturbance
32	Smell disturbance

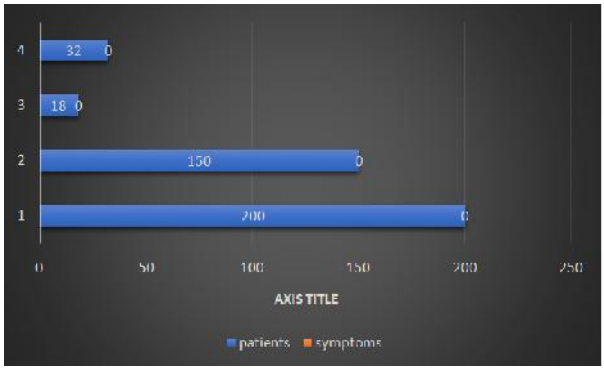

Figure 2. No of patients according to chemosensory disturbance

DISCUSSION

Coronavirus disease is an active global pandemic. Symtoms associated with covid 19 infection includes fever, sore throat, cough, fatigue and difficulty in breathing, other clinical manifestations have been associated with diagnosed or suspected covid 19 positivity, such as the sudden appearance of olfactory & taste dysfunction, even in absence of other symptoms. A cross sectional study was performed by Giacomelli *et al* in 59 civid positive hospitalized patients in Italy. They reported loss of smell & taste in 20 patients & loss of both taste & smell in 11 patients (Giacomelli, 2020).

Conflict of interest: None declared

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