Epidemiological and Clinical Features of SARS-CoV-2: A Retrospective Study from East Karachi, Pakistan.

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Statement: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has spread to almost every country on the globe, and each is reporting the presentation of their patients to give better insight into the various clinical presentations of SARS-CoV-2. However, the epidemiological literature from Pakistan is scanty. Methods: We retrospectively analyzed data of 412 patients from East Karachi and tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 between February 26 to April 24, 2020. Patients' demographics, symptoms, travel and contact history, and outcomes were recorded. Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS Ver: 22. Results: Most of the patients were male (64.6%), the majority (43.3%) belonging to the 21- to 40-year age group. A total of 15.8% of the patients were admitted to the hospital, and 3.9% expired. The three most common presenting symptoms were fever (74.8%), cough (60.4%), and flu (35.5%). The majority of patients (89.3%) gave a history of contact with SARS-CoV-2 patients. Conclusion: The number of SARS-CoV-2 cases is rapidly increasing in Karachi, Pakistan. There is a need to educate the population about the most common sign and symptoms of the virus so that individuals can identify these symptoms and get themselves tested. The concerned authorities should devise an adequate effective plan to flatten the infectivity curve.

Demographics:

Variables	Options	No of participants (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	266	64.6
	Female	146	35.4
Age (years)	0-20	64	15.5
	21-40	179	43.5
	41-60	98	23.8
	Greater than 60	71	17.2

Symptoms of COVID-19:

Symptoms	Frequency (%)		Symptoms	Frequency (%)	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Cough	249 (60.4)	163 (39.6)	Drowsiness	9 (2.2)	403 (97.8)
Fever	308 (74.8)	104 (25.2)	Sore throat	9 (2.2)	403 (97.8)
Bodyache	109 (26.5)	303 (73.5)	Shortness of breath	53 (12.9)	359 (87.1)
Flu	138 (33.5)	274 (66.5)	Diarrhoea	27 (6.6)	385 (93.4)
Vomit	20 (4.9)	392 (95.1)	Lower respiratory tract infection	2 (0.5)	410 (99.5)
Abdominal pain	17 (4.1)	395 (95.9)	Headache	5 (1.2)	407 (98.8)
Fatigue	24 (5.8)	388 (94.2)	Decreased appetite	2 (0.5)	410 (99.5)
Arthralgia	41 (10.0)	371 (90.0)	Chest pain	4 (1.0)	408 (99.0)
Nausea	8 (1.9)	404 (98.1)	Chest congestion	55 (13.3)	357 (86.7)
Upper respiratory tract infection	9 (2.2)	403 (97.8)	-	-	-

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Biography:

Shumaila Tahir is a motivated and competent physician specialising in Internal Medicine and involved engrossly in National & International Researches with experienced personnels. Currently providing healthcare services based on endeavours in healthcare facilitating compassionate care from basic health to complex illness.

Arslan Memon is an enthusiastic medical professional, specialized promoting wellbeing in community. His expertise in Epidemiology instigates great effect in Pandemic, Epidemic and Endemic Disease study, control and Prevention that help public health policies & global strategies in order to prevent future outbreaks of disease.

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