ACE2 is the main SARS Cov2 entry receptor and is also highly expressed in spermatogonia, Leydig and Sertoli cells. This may suggest possible testicular involvement during COVID 19 infection. Our objective was to study the impact of COVID19 on gonadal function.

This was a descriptive and analytical cross-sectional study conducted in a male population of patients under 65 years of age infected with SARS Cov2 in Cameroon. Not included in the study were all subjects on testosterone replacement therapy or with a known condition that could result in hypogonadism. We recruited patients using a questionnaire and then performed total testosterone and Sex Hormon Binding Globulin (SHBG) assays by Enzym Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA) method once infection was confirmed, and 02 months after infection. The data obtained was entered and analyzed using SPSS and Excel and significance level was set at 0.05.

The sample consisted of 40 male COVID 19+ patients with a mean age of 46.4 ±11.8 years. Total testosterone was 11.08 ng/ml ± 2.48 and mean SHBG was 113 nmol/l ±66.93 during infection. Eight patients were reviewed after resolution of infection and we observed a decrease in median total testosterone level during infection (11ng/ml), and an increase after resolution (12.7ng/ml). This difference was statistically significant (p=0.028). Median SHBG level increased during infection (115.7 nmol/l) and decreased after (82nmol/l) with no difference (p= 0.063). There was a statistically significant (P=0.04) positive mean correlation between serum testosterone and SHBG level in patients with severe infection.

Hypogonadism occurs during COVID19 infection and correlates with the severity of the infection. Further follow-up studies are needed in our environment to see the real impact of COVID 19 in the gonadal function and on sperm production.

Key words: COVID19, testosterone, SHBG, hypogonadism

Biography

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Arch Clin Biomed Res 2021; 5 (1): 110-124

VICKY JOCELYNE AMA MOOR, CONSTANT ANATOLE PIEME, JAN RENE NKECK, PROSPER CABRAL BIAPA NYA, GEORGES IKOMEY MONDINDE, FALMATA AMAZIA, CHARLES KOUANFACK, MARIE CLAIRE OKOMO ASSOUMOU, JEANNE NGOGANG

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Acta Scientific Pharmaceutical Sciences 5.3 (2021): 50-57

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Acta Scientific Women's Health Special Issue 2 (2021): 30-34

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Acta Scientific Women's Health Special , 2021 ; Issue 3 : 59-64

JEAN XAVIER EKOUELKOUM NGOUDE, **VICKY JOCELYNE AMA MOOR**, TSOBGNY TSAGUE NADIA-FLORE, BATAKEH B. AGOONS, GAMGNE GUIADEM CATHERINE MARCELLE, ELAGE EPIE MACBRAIN, DARYL NZOKOU TCHEUTCHOUA AND JAN RENE NKECK

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