

SERUM TIMES

Monthly | Volume-VI | Issue - V | May - 2021

SERUM MEDICAL BULLETIN

From the desk of the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Doctors / Readers,

Hope you are all well. You are already aware of the spread of second wave of COVID 19 in India. India has been the most affected countries of the world considering the number of infections of COVID 19 patients. The daily infection has risen to 3,62,723 as on April 26. In the outer world, in European countries such as Germany and France are also currently experiencing large outbreaks relative to their size. Again the countries like Brazil and USA are reporting high infection rates at around 70,000 a day. But India, as of now, is highest ever recorded for any country. Many observers think that it is not far off to achieve an infection peak of 3,00,000 per day.



In this issue we are going to discuss on some new symptoms that have been experienced in COVID 19 infected patients. Most of the important phenomenon in the second phase has been the COVID symptoms in children. Earlier the children were least infected by COVID 19. In many states of India including Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka COVID 19 cases in children from 8 months to 14 years are increasing every day. Several high profile doctors, including Tushar Maniyar of Nanavati Hospital, Senior Paediatricians Ravi Malik and Juma Shankar of AIIMS, New Delhi, reportedly mentioned the rising cases of infection and new symptoms of COVID 19 amongst the children. The symptoms are: high fever, breathing problem, mild cough, fatigue, stomach ache, vomiting, diarrhoea, skin inflammation, red eyes, change in skin colour, sore mouth, loss of appetite, loss of taste.

But it is not the children only who have been affected. The symptoms of the other patients have also been changing. In the new phase the COVID 19 attacking the lung in various cases. Many doctors have observed that patients' lungs damaged up to 25%. So, an increasing amount of demand for oxygen at the hospitals is observed.

In the next story some additional information will be discussed about the new symptoms among the COVID 19 infected patients. In the next article we will also discuss the view of ICMR regarding the comparison of fatality of the two phases of COVID 19 and efficacy of the vaccination to challenge the corona virus.

Again wish you safe and healthy lives in this crisis period.

Sanjib Acharya

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Is the second wave of COVID 19 more deadly?

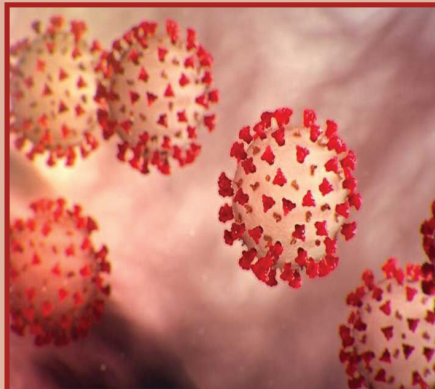
The usual symptoms of COVID 19 include fever, body ache, loss of smell and taste, chills, breathlessness. But in the second wave many infected patients complain about more symptoms that were not known earlier. So, the common RT-PCR test may not always reveal COVID 19 infection. From different studies it is known that symptoms like pink eyes, gastronomical conditions and hearing impairment should also to be considered to diagnose COVID 19 infection. Moreover, increasing number of children with lung problems and other common problems are also seen in the second wave.

Does the ongoing vaccination prevent people from new variants corona virus also?

Dr. Samiron Panda, Head-Division of Epidemiology & Communicable Diseases, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) New Delhi, said, "Yes. People should get themselves vaccinated although information on new variants of SARS-CoV-2 circulating in India is making its rounds in different media because the vaccines are effective against many new variants." (Business Economics, April 15-30, 2021 issue)

Is the second wave more lethal? – Not, ICMR says.

A report published in the Hindu (April 20, 2021) pointed out that in the first wave the proportion of manifestation of common symptoms of COVID infection like fast breathing, cough, chills, joint pains, fatigue was higher than that of the patients of the second wave. Secondly, there was a study on 6,642



patients were analysed in the first wave by ICMR, but in the second wave only 1,405 patients were analysed. Of 6,650 patients admitted into hospitals from September to November last year 9.6% was succumbed. On the other hand from March to April, 9.7% of a group of 351 died. Therefore, the study observed that there was no difference in the proportion of patients who required mechanical ventilation in the first and second wave. The reported quoted Dr. Bhargava of ICMR for this result. Moreover, in the second case - apart from a steep rise in corona virus cases has been unprecedented demand for medical-grade oxygen leading to severe shortages. Dr. Bhargava reportedly said, the sudden surge may have triggered panic and a demand for more oxygen.

No difference

VK Paul who chairs empower group on vaccinations and COVID 19 management (NEGVAC) said there was no difference in mortality in the first and second wave in those 40 and under. He also said, "There is overarching extra/ excess risk of younger becoming COVID 19 positive."

Financial stress at present may lead to physical pain in later years

A medical research surprisingly observes that there exists a relationship between financial stresses of a person for a period may lead to physical pain in later period of life of that person. This has been observed by a new research from University of Georgia scientists. It is published in a journal, Stress and Health. From that article it is known that the researchers have observed from a study that family financial stress in midlife is associated with a depleted sense of control, which is related to increased physical pain in later years of life.

The newness of the research

Dr. Kanduada AS Wickrama, first author of the article and professor in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences reportedly said, "Physical pain is considered an illness of its own with three major components, biological, psychological and social. In older adults, it co-occurs with other health problems like limited physical functioning, loneliness and cardiovascular diseases."

Research methodology

The source of data is from the Iowa Youth and Family Project. It is a longitudinal study that provides 27 years of data on rural families from a cluster of eight counties in north-central Iowa. The data was collected in real time from husbands and wives in 500 families. All of these families experienced financial problems associated with the late 1980s farm crisis. When the study was being done most of the individuals by that time had become over 65 years old. At the same time the couples are in enduring



marriages -- some as long as 45 years.

The findings

Even after the researchers controlled for concurrent physical illnesses, family income and age, they found a connection between family financial hardship in the early 1990s and physical pain nearly three decades later. Additional information from the study is also important. The findings also reportedly show that it's more likely that financial strain influences physical pain, though physical pain can in turn influence financial strain through additional health care costs.

The study also finds that in their later years, many complain about memory loss, bodily pain and lack of social connections, according to scientists in the study group. Scientists also points out that nearly two-thirds of adults complain about some types of bodily pain, at the same time many complain of loneliness. That percentage is going up, and the health cost for that is going up. Actually that is a public health concern.

CASE PRESENTATION by Dr. Chirasri Goswami (MBBS, MD) Consultant Histopathologist

CASE PROFILE: 15-year-old boy from Jamshedpur presented with a large mass in nasopharynx.

DIAGNOSIS: NASOPHARYNGEAL ANGIOFIBROMA.

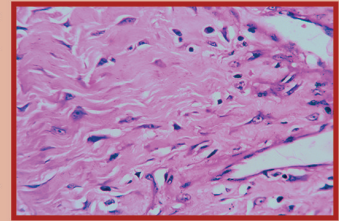
INCIDENCE: It is a very rare tumour, with an incidence of 0.05% of all head and neck tumours. It occurs only in males in between 10 & 25 years of age and the tumour is androgen dependant.

MICROSCOPY: The tumour is composed of an intricate mixture of blood vessels & fibrous stroma. Stroma is loose with stellate fibroblasts showing nuclear atypia.

MOLECULAR PROTEIN EXPRESSION: This tumour contains the protein basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF).

PROGNOSIS & TREATMENT: Some of these tumours regress after puberty with surgery and radiotherapy. Radiation therapy or even chemotherapy may be necessary for more advanced and aggressive tumours.

Some of these tumours may recur after excision & Sarcomatous transformation after radiotherapy has also been recorded. Ref: Chen K TK. Sarcomatous transformation of nasopharyngeal angiofibroma Cancer 82.49: 9- 371.



CSR Activities of SERUM throughout March & April, 2021



March 25: Shri Sanjib Acharya, Chairman, SERUM Group at Firey Esho Basanta as the guest of honour, organised by Sangbedan Social Welfare Organization



March 26: Basanta Utsab celebrated at SERUM Auditorium



April 19: SERUM Group had organised Annapurna Puja on the street of Kolkata by distributing food supplies to underprivileged by taking all necessary COVID precautions



April 2: In association with Vivek Seva Niketan, Hatpara & Rotary Club, Joka, SERUM Group Organised Thalassemia Awareness Programme



An initiative of **S SERUM Analysis Centre (P) Ltd.**

This is a Medical Bulletin. Edited, compiled & published by Editorial Board for and on behalf of S SERUM Analysis Centre (P) Ltd., 82/4B, Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata 700004. Chief Editor: Sanjib Acharya.
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