

COVID infection in patients with Human T-cell Leukemia Virus Type 1 (HTLV-1) infection, in Peru. Cases report

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Background It is not known whether subjects with HTLV-1 infection have a higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease. Our institutional HTLV-1 cohort includes HTLV-1 patients with and without associated conditions (TSP, strongyloidiasis, ATLL, among others). Peru has suffered a prolonged sanitary emergency and has the highest COVID-19 mortality per capita in the world. We continued periodical telemedicine follow-up of our patients during the COVID lock-down from April 2020 until October 2021 and registered COVID-19 events.

Results

We identified 51 patients: with a definitive diagnosis of COVID-19. 39 (with molecular test, PCR or serology) and 12 with clinical definition when a COVID test was not available. Nine of them had HAM/TSP, 1 ATLL and 1 recurrent uveitis. 34 were diagnosed in 2020, 17 in 2021. Most were women (29 vs. 22). The majority of subjects were adults (age: > 65yo: 5; 50-64yo: 24; 30-49yo: 18; < 30y: 4). Most cases were either asymptomatic (n=5) or mild (n=38), whereas only 8 were considered moderate to severe (O₂ sat <93%). Only 3 were hospitalized and received supplementary oxygen. None was admitted to ICU. Most common symptoms were cough, sore throat, low-grade fever, headache, chest pain and anosmia. Only 2 patients had received vaccinated. No mortality due to COVID 19 has been reported from our cohort to date.

Conclusion

HTLV patients with COVID-19 infection developed a mild or moderate course of the disease. More research is needed to elucidate the risk of severity for HTLV-1 subjects and its associated comorbidities with COVID-19 infection.

Disclosure of interest statement

None

Acknowledgements

We want to begin by acknowledging and thanking the people living with HTLV who have generously participated in this research.