

Clinical findings in a group of patients infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-Cov-2) outside of Wuhan, China: retrospective case series

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WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

As of 8 February 2020, coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19) caused by the 2019 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2) has been responsible for more than 30 000 infections and 700 deaths globally, and the numbers are still increasing rapidly

The reported mortality from infection with SARS-Cov-2 in Wuhan, China reached 11-15%, which was inconsistent with what was observed outside of Hubei province

The epidemiological and clinical characteristics of patients outside of Wuhan have not been described, especially in Zhejiang province, where by 8 February 2020 more than 1000 people were diagnosed as having covid-19

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

In patients infected with SARS-Cov-2 in Zhejiang province, the median time from exposure to onset of illness was 4 days (interquartile range 3-5 days) and from onset of symptoms to first hospital admission was 2 (1-4) days

The most common symptoms were fever, cough, expectoration, headache, myalgia or fatigue, diarrhoea, and haemoptysis, and only two patients developed shortness of breath on admission

At present, compared with the initial patients infected in Wuhan, the symptoms of patients in Zhejiang province are relatively mild

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Yun-Qing Qiu,¹ Lan-Juan Li¹**ABSTRACT****OBJECTIVE**

To study the clinical characteristics of patients in Zhejiang province, China, infected with the 2019 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2) responsible for coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-2019).

DESIGN

Retrospective case series.

SETTING

Seven hospitals in Zhejiang province, China.

PARTICIPANTS

62 patients admitted to hospital with laboratory confirmed SARS-Cov-2 infection. Data were collected from 10 January 2020 to 26 January 2020.

MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES

Clinical data, collected using a standardised case report form, such as temperature, history of exposure, incubation period. If information was not clear, the working group in Hangzhou contacted the doctor responsible for treating the patient for clarification.

RESULTS

Of the 62 patients studied (median age 41 years), only one was admitted to an intensive care unit, and no patients died during the study. According to research, none of the infected patients in Zhejiang province were ever exposed to the Huanan seafood market, the original source of the virus; all studied cases were infected by human to human transmission. The most common symptoms at onset of illness were fever in 48 (77%) patients, cough in 50 (81%),

expectoration in 35 (56%), headache in 21 (34%), myalgia or fatigue in 32 (52%), diarrhoea in 3 (8%), and haemoptysis in 2 (3%). Only two patients (3%) developed shortness of breath on admission. The median time from exposure to onset of illness was 4 days (interquartile range 3-5 days), and from onset of symptoms to first hospital admission was 2 (1-4) days.

CONCLUSION

As of early February 2020, compared with patients initially infected with SARS-Cov-2 in Wuhan, the symptoms of patients in Zhejiang province are relatively mild.