

# Predominant Non Pulmonary Manifestations in Childhood COVID 19: Experience of a Pediatric Primary Care During the Pandemic

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## Abstract

Predominant non pulmonary manifestations in childhood COVID 19: Experience of a pediatric primary care during the pandemic Descriptions of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) experience in a general pediatrics practice will help to inform early prediction and isolation during the pandemic.

**Objective:** To describe the triage, clinical, and laboratory features of patients with COVID-19 who visited a pediatric out-patient and to compare these parameters between patients who tested positive with other published information

## Introduction

Descriptions of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) experience in a general pediatrics practice will help to inform early prediction and isolation during the pandemic.

## Design, Setting and Participants

This retrospective review of electronic medical records from American Mission Hospital, a secondary care hospital in Manama, kingdom of Bahrain, included children ( $\leq 14$  years) who were triaged based on an objective visual triage tool devised by Ministry of Health Bahrain for suspicion of COVID-19 between June 1 to November 15, 2020, and had positive results for RT PCR for COVID 19.

## Triage

Visual triage score is an objective numerical score with collective clinical and suggestive historical information of travel or contact [1].

## Confirmatory Test

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 from a nasopharyngeal specimen using a reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction assay done in dedicated COVID center affiliated to ministry

of Health Bahrain.

## Main Outcomes and Measures

Clinical pattern of outpatient COVID 19 encounters mainly to inform unusual patterns.

## Results

We had 380 patients who scored 4 or above in Visual triage score in the study period. 11 amongst them tested positive for RT PCR. The age ranged between 2months to 11yrs male (6) female (5) The elements of triage in the positive patients included: fever of duration 2 to 3 days (11), upper respiratory illness (5), Vomiting (2), history of contact in family (2), while contact in the residential complex(1), and no one had travel history. None of our patients had Shortness of breath or hypoxia. We did not have information about Lymphopenia or increased inflammatory markers as most did not require to be investigated and (2) who were investigated did not demonstrate any pattern.

## Amongst the Unusual Presentations

One 5yr old girl child presented like croup to Pediatric emergency with sudden onset barking laryngeal cough and mild respiratory distress with fever and responded

to epinephrine nebulization and dexamethasone and subsequently tested positive by RT PCR. The child was otherwise stable and managed at home [2]. One 2 month old baby presented as a febrile infant requiring investigations to rule out occult bacteremia, with mild feeding disturbance, sepsis evaluation returned negative and baby after initial supportive hydration and parenteral antibiotic was referred for RT PCR COVID evaluation which turned positive, and was also managed at home and quarantined along with mother [3]. 4 patients who had a course of illness and management like COVID related illness tested negative to RT PCR, which included a 2 yr old with febrile illness without focus but high inflammatory markers, responded dramatically with occult sepsis out patient management [4].

One 10yr old boy post-COVID positive presented as an appendicitis mimic, eventually progressed to be COVID myocarditis and recovered after a stormy course in PICU 5, while a 7 yr old girl presented as fever with gastro enteritis after 1month of mild asymptomatic COVID, and progressed to be MISC with myocarditis and cardiogenic shock and recovered after intensive management in PICU 5 and another 1 yr old boy with persistent or recurring fever and diarrhea over 2 weeks repeatedly tested negative for RT PCR, eventually was managed as atypical KD and recovered [5]. 2 babies born in our facility to mothers who tested positive to COVID 19 were transferred as mother-baby dyad to dedicated Centre and were asymptomatic [6].

## Conclusion and Relevance

In this study of children with COVID-19, the disease had majorly non pulmonary manifestations and some unusual pattern of illness.

## References

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