

Changes in the Critical Care in COVID-19: The efficacy of therapeutics and fluids, ventilation strategies, prone position and resuscitative maneuvers

There are currently no recommended specific treatments for the group with severe COVID-19, therefore, supportive treatment is essential. For example, many antivirals and antibiotics were launched as promising remedies against the disease, while little benefit has been proved so far. Likewise, “cytokine storm” has been targeted as a major determinant of severity of the clinical course and mortality, but few data have been published so far on interventions with significant benefit on the patients’ side. Respiratory failure is the most important killer of the patients with critical condition. High-flow nasal oxygenation and non-invasive ventilation can be sufficient for mild-to moderate cases. Expedient recognition and decisions for aggressive measures such as permanent control of airway and positive-pressure ventilation, along with administration of corticosteroids and some other agents, should be evaluated in more severe cases. Prone position is mostly associated with a better course than supine position in resuscitation of patients with critical condition. Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is one of the last-chance measures to restore vital functions for the patient in extremis who do not respond to conventional interventions.

Sepsis and shock are also catastrophic events that should be recognized and managed expediently for favorable outcomes. If the mean arterial pressure (MAP) cannot be kept above 65 mmHg with intravenous (IV) hydration and lactate cannot be maintained below 2 mmol/L, vasopressor support should definitely be started. Development of coagulopathy is associated with high mortality in patients with COVID-19. Therefore, low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) should be used for prophylactic purposes.

Finally, there are numerous agents still debated in the medical community without robust evidence to support their use.

The objective of this special issue is to help healthcare providers conceptualize the current advances in implementation, indications, drawbacks, practical tips of the management strategies of COVID-19 and its complications for the practitioner in emergency and critical care. Clinical research and review / state-of-the-art articles, case reports or case series on the use of the agents and interventions in COVID-19 care are welcomed.

Guest Editor**Changes in the Critical Care in COVID-19: The efficacy of therapeutics and fluids, ventilation strategies, prone position and resuscitative maneuvers****Prof. Dr. Ozgur KARCIOĞLU,****M.D, FEMAT**

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