

Cardiopulmonary emergencies in the COVID-19 era: What is on the horizon?

The pandemic infection COVID-19 has changed the world considerably in almost every aspect: Economics, social issues, health care, politics, etc. Substantial changes had their negative impact on healthcare systems around the world. Most importantly, health care organization has evolved to screen and diagnose suspected patients with COVID-19, and to commence their treatment expediently and economically. This challenge, per se, represented a shift of resource allocation to specific diseases such as cardiopulmonary diseases.

As a result, patients have experienced remarkable difficulties to be seen and followed up by their regular physicians, to find beds in the hospitals to be admitted to, even in ICU beds in extremis.

Cardiopulmonary diseases including COPD, pulmonary embolism and thromboembolism, asthma, bacterial and fungal pneumoniae, acute coronary syndromes, cardiomyopathies and heart failure, arrhythmias, and cerebrovascular diseases lack the attention they usually attracted in the past.

This special issue aims to cover topics related to the challenge launched by the pandemic disease on the cardiopulmonary emergencies in general, while addressing the most specific areas like coronary syndromes, arrhythmias, and acute and chronic pulmonary diseases etc.

Key words: COVID-19, Cardiopulmonary diseases, emergency medicine, intensive care, healthcare system, diagnosis, treatment

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