

# Characteristics of patients admitted due to COVID-19 infection at the peak of the pandemic in a secondary hospital in Perak

Abdul Rani Rosilawati<sup>1</sup>, Chan Wai Seong Christopher<sup>1</sup>, Muthuvadivelu Sreevali<sup>1</sup>, Cheah Wee Kooi<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Clinical Research Centre, Hospital Taiping, <sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, Hospital Taiping

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Clinical presentations of patients with COVID-19 can range from asymptomatic to severe and critical infections. The objective of this study was to identify demographic and comorbidities associated with the infection, as well as presenting signs and symptoms at admission. **Methods:** This retrospective study involves clinical data from medical records. Subjects were randomly selected from confirmed adult COVID-19 cases admitted from 1 – 20 June 2021. Descriptive analysis and paired t-tests were used to show and compare the parameters. **Results:** A total of 89 cases matched the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The majority were female (47, 52.8%), below 60 years old (61, 68.5%) and presented as CAT 4 (39, 43.8%). Over 30% had comorbidities. Sixty-three (70.1%) presented with a history of fever; 58 (65.2%) with a cough; and 23 (25.8%) with a runny nose. Only 11 (12.4%) had a sore throat. There were 53 (59.6%) whose chest X-rays showed lung infiltrates. Twenty-eight (31.5%) required oxygen therapy and 60 (67.4%) were initiated with corticosteroids. Significant improvements were seen in Hb ( $p < 0.001$ ) and WBC ( $p = 0.021$ ) in patients on steroids. The mean length of stay was  $5.26 \pm 3.82$  days. Eighteen (20.2%) deaths were recorded, i.e. CAT 3 (1), CAT 4 (12) and CAT 5 (5). **Conclusion:** The fatality rate in this study was high, especially among patients presenting with CAT 4 and 5. The use of steroids resulted in a marked improvement in symptoms.