



PULMONARY FEATURES OF LONG COVID AMONG PATIENTS ADMITTED AT PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER FROM 2020 TO 2022

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Introduction

The disease caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome- Coronavirus-2 (SARS-COV-2) primarily affects the lungs, however, there are multiple organs that can be affected in the acute phase, leading to long term sequelae. In children, there are inadequate studies of long COVID and limitations of reported true incidence of this syndrome.

Methods

A cross sectional study was done using validated questionnaire by a phone interview of patients with confirmed RT-PCR COVID-19 admitted at Philippine Children's Medical Center from 2020 to 2022.

Results

A total of 182 participated in the study, there were 7 subjects (3.85%) identified to have Long COVID. Persistent cough was the most frequent at 71.42% followed by nasal congestion at 28.57%. Among those with persistent cough, majority were below 9 years old. Subjects with atypical and indeterminate radiographic findings were equally distributed at 42.86% while only one was found to have negative radiographic finding of COVID. Only 3 of the 7 subjects had co-morbidities.

Discussions

The pulmonary features of Long COVID among patients admitted at PCMC ages 0-18 years were observed in 3.85%. The recommendations include the following: (a.) larger study population (b.) fixed schedule of follow-up among patients (c.) standardized approach on the use of questionnaires and radiographic findings for future researches on Long COVID.



Keywords: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, acute COVID-19, long COVID, pulmonary features, persistent cough, nasal congestion