Risk of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission to Medical Staff and Patients from an Exposure to a COVID-19-Positive Ophthalmologist

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Disclosure

• None relevant
Summary and Conclusions

• No case of validated viral transmission was identified amongst 153 patients and medical staff exposed to COVID19+ ophthalmologist

• This low risk for SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the ophthalmic setting was observed while universal safety measures (extended breath shields, distancing, hygiene, use of masks) were employed

• Caution- potential for viral transmission may vary across SARS-CoV-2+ individuals
Introduction

• Global pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 --> Potential viral transmission in health care environments

• High risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the Ophthalmic setting:
  • Proximity during procedures
  • Long waiting hours
  • Conjunctivitis as the first sign of the disease
  • Viral RNA patients’ tears
Purpose

To evaluate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission after exposure to a COVID-19+ physician in a retina clinic
Case Presentation

- 2 days headache
- Dry cough and SOB
- Highly positive RT-PCR
- Mild disease course
- Tested Negative 3w post-diagnosis
Methods and Data Collection

• Retrospective observational study
• 142 patients and 11 staff members from a single retina clinic
• All 153 individuals were placed in quarantine for 14 days

• Participants were contacted 14 days after the quarantine to inquire
  1. Did they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19
  2. Did they had a diagnostic test done for SARS-CoV-2
  3. Did they wear a mask during their visit
Methods and Data Collection – Cont.

• Demographics
• Type of procedure -
  1. Intravitreal Injection (IV Injection)
  2. Slit Lamp Exam (SLE)
  3. SLE + IV Injection
  4. Laser Treatment
  5. Surgery
• Date of visit – Did the Covid-19+ physician was Symptomatic or Asymptomatic?
Results

• 54.2% were females (n=77)

• The mean Age±SD was 72.8 ±13.6 years (Median=74, range 21-98)

• 50% (n=71) were in contact with the COVID-19+ physician while he was symptomatic
Use of Mask Amongst Patients

- Surgical Mask or better: 31%
- None: 66%
- Unknown: 3%
|                                      | No. of patients (%) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| All                                  | 142 (100%)          |
| Symptoms consistent with COVID-19    |                     |
| Yes                                  | 1* (0.7%)           |
| No                                   | 141 (99.3%)         |
| Missing                              | 0                   |
| SARS-CoV-2 QPCR test                 |                     |
| Yes                                  | 16 (11.3%)          |
| No                                   | 126 (88.7%)         |
| Confirmed COVID-19 cases             |                     |
| Yes                                  | 0                   |
| No                                   | 142 (100%)          |

*Had a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19
Results – Cont.

- Staff - None developed symptoms, and all were tested negative for SARS-CoV-2

- 19 patients were cared for by a COVID-19+ physician while he was symptomatic and while both parties did not wear masks - None had developed COVID-19
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Thank You
For Your Attention