

Research Assessment #8

Date: October 23th, 2020

Subject: Influence of COVID-19 Pandemic on Cardiology Practice

Source:

Zubaid, Mohammad, et al. "Influence of COVID-19 Pandemic on Cardiology Practice at a Major

General Hospital in Kuwait." *Heart Views*, vol. 21, no. 3, July 2020, pp. 141–143.

EBSCOhost, doi:10.4103/HEARTVIEWS.HEARTVIEWS_158_20.

Assessment:

While COVID-19 has had a wide variety of unprecedented impacts on every aspect of the medical field, the impact it had on other diseases and their hospital admittance is often overlooked. Often times, people with serious health issues are not given priority as COVID-19 cases are placed in higher importance nowadays. There are currently over one million deaths for COVID-19, leading to this priority. The goal of this study was to convey a potential decrease in hospital admittance for heart problems during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the change in priorities, it has been identified that only acute emergency cases for heart problems were given priority, causing other less significant problems to be put on hold during the pandemic.

In this study, the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital was looked at. It has a 678-bed capacity and is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University. They have had 3296 patients for general COVID medical wards, and 328 in the COVID intensive care unit. The hospital underwent changes in that it altered their cardiology staff allocation and assignments, relocated their cardiology wards, and implemented a short stay policy for cardiac patients. The three cardiology wards were designated as COVID ICU wards. The Coronary Care Unit and

post-catheterization beds (25 beds) were relocated to the recovery rooms of the operating theater from May 17 to June 22.

The results show that there was an overall decrease in Coronary Care Unit admissions: fifteen percent of ACS patients remained in the hospital for less than 24, while sixty-four percent of ACS patients were discharged in less than 48 hours. This trend is unprecedented as there is a newly found decrease in admissions for heart problems.

In this article, it is detailed that working at a hospital during a chaotic time like this has many implications while negative. Being at risk for other diseases as well as needing medical assistance, in general, is becoming more of a problem as hospitals are becoming more contested for open spots. More and more hospital resources are being used up such as ventilators, masks, and beds. This takes from the supply of resources previously used for other emergencies such as heart problems.

In the future, the hospital plans to conduct a cohort study in which they intend to evaluate the rates of admission for acute coronary syndromes (ACS) also known as heart attacks. They also intend to evaluate the rates of cardiac catheterization, management, and other hospital outcomes for four months. This will provide further information for the impacts of COVID as it progresses to its later stages.

This study overall aims to demonstrate the significant impact of COVID on hospitals. This is very valuable information in that if I am to work in a hospital, I will be aware of the effects of a pandemic and the necessary protocols rather than operating in a panicked state. Viruses and pandemics can be very volatile and as we continue into the future we can evaluate the impacts of COVID on the population as well as the impacts on other diseases for other medical fields.