

8.08 Follow up of patients discharged from a Respiratory High Dependency Unit after Covid 19 infection.

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The first Respiratory High Dependency Unit(HDU) was started in this District General Hospital in September 2020 in response to the Covid pandemic. All patients requiring high Flow Nasal Oxygen(HFNO) and or CPAP but not immediate invasive ventilation were admitted to this unit. The long term outcome of all patients who survived to discharge was monitored. Patients were followed up post discharge, initially by community respiratory nursing team. Consultant review was at two months and thereafter depending on need. A number of variables were recorded including: number of outpatient attendances, additional investigations performed, duration of oxygen use, requirement for psychology input, need for referral to the Long Covid service and final outcome. A total of 298 patients survived to discharge from the resp HDU, 111 females(F), mean age 51.8 and 186 males (M), mean age 57.8. Average length of stay was 10.5 days F and 12.5 days M. Oxygen was required in 43 %(48) F and 50% M(94) on discharge home. The majority of patients were able to come off oxygen after 2 to 4 months. Lung function was done on 25.5%. Three patients have post Covid fibrosis. Eleven patients attended psychology. Fifteen patients (5%) have been referred to Long Covid service. The short to medium term follow up of patients discharged from this Covid Resp HDU showed that the majority of patients recovered well as long as review was timely and patients felt supported on discharge.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare