

3.23 Outcome of pulmonary embolism in pre-pandemic vs. pandemic patients of Mid-west Regional hospital Ireland.

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Introduction:

The Covid-19 disease outbreak in 2019 reached devastating proportions and is still posing a significant challenge to healthcare professionals all over the world. Since the pandemic, increasing number of studies has shown abnormal coagulation parameters in patients hospitalized with severe forms of Covid-19 infection. [1,2]. The purpose of our study was to find out the correlation between the clinical findings, raised laboratory values and radiological evidence of PE and compare these in the patients admitted before and after the Covid-19 pandemic. Thrombotic complications in patients diagnosed with Covid-19 disease have emerged as important sequelae that contribute to significant morbidity and mortality [3].

Keywords:

Pulmonary embolism, Covid-19 pandemic, venous thromboembolism

Materials and Methods:

In this comparative study we retrospectively searched the medical records for 80 patients admitted during the period of January 2019 to March 2019, in University Hospital Limerick with raised D-dimers and clinical symptoms of PE and compared the data to that of 80 patients admitted with the similar clinical picture during the Covid-19 pandemic, in the period of Jan 2021 to March 2021 and these were correlated with CT pulmonary angiography.

Results:

A total of 160 patients between the age of 22 and 90 years (mean age 56 years) were evaluated. Patients were selected on the basis of significant clinical findings and/or raised d- dimers and CT pulmonary angiogram was performed. PE was found in 8 patients (10%) in the pre-pandemic group and 15 patients (18.75%) in the pandemic group. In patients with diagnosed pulmonary embolism, location of PE was recorded with respect of most proximal embolus and distribution of PE was found as follows: B/L or large volume PE (12.5% of total PE

in pre-pandemic group, 46.6% of total PE in pandemic group), segmental PE (25% of total PE in pre-pandemic group, 33.3% of total PE in pandemic group), Sub-segmental PE (50% of total PE in pre-pandemic group and 13.3% of total PE in pandemic group)

Conclusion:

The overall number of patients hospitalized with pulmonary embolism during Covid-19 pandemic was increased as compared to 2019. Clinical findings of PE in Covid patients may prompt early investigation with CT pulmonary angiography to aid in early diagnosis and treatment.

References:

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