

4.17 The Prevalence of Post-Covid Interstitial Lung Disease in A Tertiary, Single Centre Hospital in Ireland

¹Elaine Curran, ¹Arsah Asis, ¹Camilla Conta, ¹Michelle Angeli Uno, ¹Aisling O'Connor, ¹Tidi Hassan

¹Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland

Introduction: The initial waves of acute severe Covid-19 infections manifested primarily in the lungs. Post-covid interstitial lung disease (PC-ILD) has been described with a prevalence of 4.8 to 10% and strong evidence-based guidelines to manage this are lacking¹. We report a low rate of PC-ILD prevalence in patients attending the respiratory clinic after a severe Covid-19 infection with acute respiratory failure.

Methods and Results: Three hundred and sixty five patients with acute respiratory failure secondary to Covid-19 infection admitted from March 2020 to March 2022 were followed up in clinic. Chest radiograph (CXR) was performed and 84% percent (n=306) were reported as normal. Twenty-seven CT thorax performed beyond 12 months after initial presentation were examined for this study. 9 CT thorax were reported as normal, 6 emphysema, 8 interstitial abnormalities (3 UIP pattern, 2 NSIP and 3 PC-ILD as per ILD-MDT (0.8% of total), 4 others). One PC-ILD was 41-year old and a non-smoker. All PC-ILD were male, requiring at least non-invasive ventilation or high flow oxygen during inpatient stay. All PC-ILD are non-progressive to date, and anti-fibrotic was not offered. One patient was referred for lung transplantation.

Conclusion: As a single, tertiary hospital, we report a low rate of PC-ILD. However, the majority of patients had CXR only for follow-up imaging, and this might influence the detection rate.

References:

¹Ann Am Thorac Soc. 2021 May; 18(5):799-806

Conflict of Interest: *None to declare*