

4.20 The use of forced oscillometry in detecting abnormalities in lung function in symptomatic post-acute COVID-19 patients.

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Background: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Post-Acute Covid clinic was established at Connolly Hospital. Oscillometry is reported to have a higher sensitivity than spirometry in detecting abnormalities in post-acute Covid patients. We investigated the use of Oscillometry in addition to spirometry, reversibility, diffusing capacity, and lung volumes in symptomatic post-acute Covid-19 patients.

Methods: Test data collected between June 2022 to April 2023 was included as part of a final year undergraduate project. Only reliable high quality tests were included, 51 symptomatic patients (31F:20M). Demographics, age, BMI, previous lung disease, smoking status and inhalers were recorded. Patients attending the clinic presented with varied symptoms and severities.

Results: Nineteen-patients (37%) had normal spirometry results. Within this group 57.9% had abnormal oscillometry results, 37% with abnormal DLCO and 8% had reduced TLC. Female sex and history of inhaler use may be significant in this group.

Conclusion: The respiratory problems associated with Covid-19 are complicated and need additional testing, such as Oscillometry to provide for a full diagnostic picture. Our findings are consistent with published literature, that Oscillometry detects more lung physiology abnormalities in a symptomatic patient post-acute Covid patient population, than other lung function tests.

Disclosures: none

Conflict of Interest: *The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.*

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