# **Original Research Article**

# Correlation of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection with different clinical features and laboratory parameters: An observational study in a rural tertiary care centre Sanjay Kumar Kannaujia<sup>1</sup>, Sanjeev Kumar Singh<sup>2</sup>, Naresh Pal Singh<sup>3</sup>, Seema Dayal<sup>4</sup>, Pinki Pandey<sup>5</sup>, Bhanu Pratap Singh<sup>6</sup>\*, Neha Khurana<sup>7</sup>, Geeta Maurya<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, UPUMS, Saifai, Etawah, India
 <sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, UPUMS, Saifai, Etawah, India
 <sup>3</sup>Professor Department of Community Medicine, UPUMS, Saifai, Etawah, India
 <sup>4</sup>Professor, Department of Pathology, UPUMS, Saifai, Etawah, India
 <sup>5</sup>Professor and Head Department of Pathology, UPUMS, Saifai, Etawah, India
 <sup>6</sup>Senior Resident, Department of Community Medicine, Dr. RMLIMS, Lucknow, India

Received: 25-09-2021 / Revised: 13-10-2021 / Accepted: 04-12-2021

## Abstract

**Background:**In December 2019, a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak occurred in Wuhan, China. Now infection named as corona virus disease 2019 (COVID19). According to WHO (updated up to 13 Oct 2020) more than 37 million people worldwide declared confirmed cases. And more than 1 million deaths occurred due to COVID19. **Objective:**To study the clinical features and laboratory parameters among patients infected with 2019-nCoV and to see any significant association of these clinical features and laboratory parameters with different age groups. **Methodology**-All clinical and laboratory parameters were collected from a cohort of patients with 2019-nCoV infection, who were hospitalised to our hospital between 20 April 2020 and 10 May 2020. Statistical analysis had been done to see any significant association of sputum history, headache and liver diseases in age group of 21-40 years was also statistically significant. Mean corpuscular volume(MCV) >100, Mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration (MCHC)<32, Serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT)>40, total protein >7.8 in patient age group 21-40 years, were also significant. **Conclusion**-Male population is more commonly affected and fever is not the most common presenting feature.

Keywords: COVID19, 2019-nCoV, cough, myalgia, MCV, MCHC, SGPT

This is an Open Access article that uses a fund-ing model which does not charge readers or their institutions for access and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0) and the Budapest Open Access Initiative (http://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read), which permit unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided original work is properly credited.

## Introduction

The novel corona virus, COVID-19, originated in Wuhan, China has spread rapidly across the globe and it was declared to be a pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. In the initial days, social distancing has emerged as the most widely adopted strategy for its mitigation and control. [1] Coronaviruses (CoVs) are enveloped, single positive stranded RNA viruses, which belong to the subfamily Coronavirinae. The CoVs genome, ranges from 26 to 32 kilo bases in length and is probably the largest viral RNA known. [2,3] Previously, there were six CoVs known to cause human diseases, and these can be divided into low pathogenic and highly pathogenic CoVs. [3,4]

The low pathogenic CoVs, includes 229E, HKU1, OC43 and NL63, which accounts for 10% to 30% of upper respiratory tract infections and typically causes mild respiratory diseases. [4,5] In contrast, the highly pathogenic CoVs, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) CoV, predominantly infect lower air- ways and cause fatal pneumonia. [3,6] The epidemiology of COVID-19 is still not clear despite extensive research. The clinical presentation of the disease ranges from asymptomatic carriers to the involvement of respiratory,

\*Correspondence

Dr. Bhanu Pratap Singh

Senior Resident, Department of Community Medicine, Dr. RMLIMS, Lucknow, India

E-mail: dr.bhanupratap.mpi@gmail.com

gastrointestinal, hepatic and neurologic systems that lead to hospitalization of patients in intensive care units and may lead to death. [4] Through this research an attempt was made to assess the organ function in the patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 and their outcome. For this, blood indices from 86 cases were collected.

#### Material and Methods

This is a hospital based retrospective cross-sectional and the data including clinical history, laboratory parameters were collected from the record files of the cases, starting from20<sup>th</sup>April 2020 to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 from Department of Haematology and Biochemistry and Medicine.

Inclusion criteria: Only COVID-19positive cases admitted in our institute were included in this study.

### **Exclusion criteria:**

- 1. The sample for laboratory parameters with clotted blood and insufficient quantity.
- 2. Cases who were not willing to participate.

# Methodology:

**SARS-CoV-2 testing:** Two samples (Nasopharyngeal and Oropharyngeal swab) were collected wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and both the swabs are put into the same Viral Transport Medium (VTM). This VTM was transported in a triple layer packing to the COVID-19 testing laboratory of our institution under cold chain. qRT-PCR (quantitative Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction) was done following the manufacturer's protocol for the diagnosis using COVIsure COVID-19 Real Time PCR kit (Genetix Biotech Asia Pvt Ltd., New Delhi, India).

For Haematology and Biochemistry samples: We follow the adequate standard operating procedures (SOPs) which suggest to train the stafffor appropriate specimen collection, storage, packaging, and

transport. All specimens collected for laboratory investigations should be regarded as potentially infectious hence precaution is necessary. The collected samples for haematology were processed on Medonic M-series M32 haematology analyzerand results were noted on patient's forms. For the biochemical parameters samples were centrifuged to separate the serum then processed on fully Automated Biochemistry AnalyzerSelectra PRO Lite machine and results are noted. All results were analyzed using SPSS version 23.Blood parameters like haemoglobin concentration (Hb), total and differential leukocyte count (TLC & DLC), platelet count, mean corpuscular volume (MCV), mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration (MCHC), serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT), Serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT), Blood urea nitrogen (BUN) etc were taken into consideration.

**Statistical Analysis:** For association of SARS-CoV-2 infection with clinical features and laboratory parameters, Pearson Chi-square test was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.

**Results:** The total 86 positive cases were included in this study out of which 63 (73.3%) were males and 23 (26.7%) were females. The

maximum number of positive cases 50 (58.1%) belonged to age group between 21-40 years.

### **Clinical Data**

Out of the total positive cases breathlessness accounted for the most common presenting feature accounting for 10.5% of cases followed by cough, myalgia, fever and headache.Among all, 4 (4.7%) patients died during their treatment.

Out of the totalCOVID-19 positive cases, cough and myalgiaweremore commonly seenbetween 41-60 years of age. The history of sputum production was statistically significant between the age group of 21-40 years. Headache was found in 4.7% of total cases out of which it was found to be statistically significant between the age group of 21-40 years. Diabetes mellitus was found only in 4.7% of cases out of which maximum number of cases 3 (3.5%) was found in age group between 40-61 years which is statistically significant. Liver disease was found in only2.4% of total cases and a significant correlation was found between in the age group of 21-40 years and 61-80 years. (Table-1)

SN	Clinical features			P Value and $\Box 2$			
					44 50	(1.00	value
			$\leq 20$ years	21-40 years	41-60 years	61-80 years	
1.	Fever	YES	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	03 (3.5%)	00	P=0.480
						(0.0%)	□2=2.474
		NO	08 (9.3%)	48 (55.8%)	23 (26.7%)	$\begin{pmatrix} 02\\ (2,3\%) \end{pmatrix}$	
2	Cough	VES	00 (0.0%)	02(2.3%)	03 (3.5%)	01	P-0.050 *
2.	Cough	1125	00 (0.070)	02 (2.570)	05 (5.570)	(1.2%)	$\Box 2=7.820$
		NO	08 (9.3%)	48 (55.8%)	23 (26.7%)	01	
						(1.2%)	
3.	Sputum	YES	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	00 (0.0%)	01	P=0.003 *
		NO	00(0.20()	40(55.00())	25(20,20())	(1.2%)	□2=14.119
		NO	08(9.3%)	48(55.8%)	26(30.2%)	(1, 20%)	
4	Breathlessness	VES	00 (0.0%)	04 (4 7%)	05 (5.8%)	00	P-0.305
	Dicumessiess	125	00 (0.070)	01(11/30)	05 (5.070)	(0.0%)	$\Box 2=3.625$
		NO	08 (9.3%)	46 (53.5%)	21 (24.4%)	02 (2.3%)	
5.	Myalgia	YES	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	03 (3.5%)	01(1.2%)	P=0.050 *
		NO	08 (9.3%)	48 (55.8%)	23 (26.7%)	01(1.2%)	□2=7.820
6.	Sore-throat	YES	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.688
		NO	08 (9.3%)	48 (55.8%)	26 (30.2%)	02 (2.3%)	□2=1.474
7.	Headache	YES	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	01(1.2%)	P=0.021 *
		NO	08 (9.3%)	48 (55.8%)	25 (29.1%)	01(1.2%)	□2=9.750
8.	Vomiting	YES	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.913
		NO	08 (9.3%)	49 (57.0%)	25 (29.1%)	02 (2.3%)	
9.	Hypertension	YES	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.161
		NO	07 (8.1%)	50 (58.1%)	25 (29.1%)	02 (2.3%)	□2=5.149
10.	Diabetes Meletus	YES	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	03 (3.5%)	01(1.2%)	P=0.002 *
		NO	08 (9.3%)	50 (58.1%)	23 (26.7%)	01(1.2%)	□2=14.885
11.	Liver disease	YES	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	01(1.2%)	P=0.000 *
		NO	08 (9.3%)	49 (57.0%)	26 (30.2%)	01(1.2%)	□2=20.845
12.	Coronary artery	YES	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.506
	disease	NO	08 (9.3%)	50 (58.1%)	25 (29.1%)	02 (2.3%)	□2=2.335
1		1					

Table 1:Association between age group and	d clinical symptoms of study cases
---	------------------------------------

(\*depict the statistically significant values)

# Laboratory Findings

Out of 86 COVID-19 positive cases, mild anaemia (9.5 to 10.9 gm/dl) was found in maximum number of cases 19 (22.1%) in the age group between 21-40 years which is statistically insignificant. Statistically significant difference was observed for MCV, MCHC and total protein between study participants of various age groups. The difference of other haemato-biochemical parameters between the age groups was not statistically significant. (Table 2)

$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	SN	Laboratory parameters			P Values			
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$				$\leq$ 20 years	21-40 years	41-60 years	61-80 years	_
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	1.	Hb (gm/dl)	≥11.0	05 (5.8%)	29 (33.7%)	10 (11.6%)	00 (0.0%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		(8)	9.5-10.9	03 (3.5%)	19 (22.1%)	15 (17.4%)	02 (2.3%)	_
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			8.0-9.4	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.676
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			6.5-7.9	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	2.	WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	<4	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.105
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			4-11	07 (8.1%)	47 (54.7%)	25 (29.1%)	02 (2.3%)	
$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $			>11	00 (0.0%)	03 (3.5%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	3.	Absolute Neutrophils	<1.6	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.116
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		(x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	1.6-8.8	07 (8.1%)	48 (55.8%)	25 (29.1%)	02 (2.3%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			>8.8	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	4.	Absolute Lymphocytes	1.6-8.8	08 (9.3%)	47 (54.7%)	24 (27.9%)	02 (2.3%)	P=0.852
$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $		(x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	>8.8	00 (0.0%)	03 (3.5%)	02 (2.5%)	00 (0.0%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	5.	Platelets	<150	01 (1.2%)	16 (18.6%)	08 (9.3%)	01 (1.2%)	D 0 (50
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		(X10 <sup>2</sup> /L)	150-450	07 (8.1%)	34 (39.5%)	18 (20.9%)	01 (1.2%)	P=0.650
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	6.	ESR	≤20	08 (9.3%)	46 (53.5%)	24 (27.9%)	02 (2.3%)	D 0 007
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		(mm/hr)	>20	00 (0.0%)	04 (4.7%)	02 (2.3%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.837
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	7.	RBC	<3.5	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	<b>D</b> _0 100
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		(Willion/cullin)	3.5-5.5	07 (8.1%)	46 (53.5%)	24 (27.9%)	01 (1.2%)	P=0.199
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			>5.5	01 (1.2%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	01 (1.2%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	8.	Haematocrit (%)	≤39	03 (3.5%)	21 (24.4%)	15 (17.4%)	02 (2.3%)	P=0.239
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			>39	05 (5.8%)	29 (33.7%)	11 (12.8%)	00 (0.0%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	9.	MCV (fl)	<80.0	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	P=0.009*
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			80-100	08 (9.3%)	49 (57.0%)	24 (27.9%)	01 (1.2%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			>100.0	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	10.	MCH (pg)	<27.0	01 (1.2%)	04 (4.7%)	08 (9.3%)	01 (1.2%)	P=0.192
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		10	>32.0	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	_
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	11	МСНС	<32.0	05 (5.8%)	34 (39 5%)	12 (14.0%)	00 (0.0%)	
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	11.	(gm/dl)	32-35	01 (1 2%)	16 (18 4%)	12 (14.0%)	02 (2 3%)	P<0.001*
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		,	>35.0	02 (2.3%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	12	Albumin	<35	00 (0 0%)	03 (3 5%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		(gm/dl)	3.5-5.2	08 (9.3%)	46 (53.5%)	24 (27.9%)	02 (2.3%)	P=0.973
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			>5.2	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	1
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	13.	SGPT(IU/L)	≤40	06 (7.0%)	11 (12.8%)	07 (8.1%)	02 (2.3%)	P=0.003*
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$			>40	02 (2.3%)	39 (45.3%)	19 (22.1%)	00 (0.0%)	
	14.	SGOT(IU/L)	≤40 >40	06 (7.0%) 02 (2.3%)	25 (29.1%) 25 (29.1%)	14 (16.3%)           12 (14.0%)	01 (1.2%) 01 (1.2%)	P=0.627

Table 2: Association between age group and different laboratory parameters of study cases.

15.	T. bilirubin	0.2-1.2	08 (9.3%)	47 (54.7%)	26 (30.2%)	02 (2.3%)	P=0.524
	(mg/dl)	>1.2	00 (0.0%)	03 (3.5%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	
16.	BUN	8.0-25.0	06 (7.0%)	38 (44.2%)	25 (29.1%)	01 (1.2%)	P=0.101
	(mg/dl)	>25.0	02 (2.3%)	12 (14.0%)	01 (1.2%)	01 (1.2%)	
17.	S. Creatinine	<0.5	01 (1.2%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	
	(mg/dl)	0.5-1.5	07 (8.1%)	46 (53.5%)	24 (27.9%)	02 (2.3%)	P=0.948
		>1.5	00 (0.0%)	02(2.3%)	01(1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	
18.	LDH	<125	01(1.2%)	01 (1.2%)	01(1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	
	(U/L)	125-220	03 (3.5%)	10 (11.6%)	05 (5.8%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.586
		>220	04 (4.7%)	39 (45.3%)	20 (23.3%)	02 (2.3%)	
19.	Total protein	<6.0	01 (1.2%)	06 (7.0%)	02(2.3%)	02 (2.3%)	
	(gm/dl)	6.0-7.8	06 (7.0%)	40 (46.5%)	22 (25.6%)	00 (0.0%)	P=0.024*
		>7.8	01 (1.2%)	04 (4.7%)	02 (2.3%)	00 (0.0%)	
20.	ALP	<50	00 (0.0%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)	
	(IU/L)	50-270	06 (7.0%)	38 (44.2%)	20 (23.3%)	02 (2.3%)	P=0.969
		>270	02 (2.3%)	11 (12.8%)	06 (7.0%)	00 (0.0%)	
21.	СРК	<15	00 (0.0%)	02 (2.3%)	01 (1.2%)	00 (0.0%)	
	(IU/L)	15-130	07 (8.1%)	46 (53.5%)	20 (23.3%)	01 (1.2%)	P=0.232
		>130	01(1.2%)	02 (2.3%)	05 (5.8%)	01(1.2%)	

The mean haemoglobin value  $\pm$  SD for male study subjects was  $13.03 \pm 1.71$  gm/dl while for females it was  $12.2 \pm 1.77$  gm/dl and this difference was statistically significant. (P= 0.042). Similarly, statistically significant difference in the mean haemato-biochemical parameters was observed for Haematorit (P= 0.04), while other parameters like WBC, platelet count, ESR, MCHC etc did not have any significant difference. (Table 3) **Table-3 Comparison of mean values of laboratory parameters with Gender** 

SN	Various Lab Parameter	Mean Values ± SD	Unpaired T test, P	
		Male	Female	Values
1.	Haemoglobin (gm/dl)	$13.03 \pm 1.71$	12.20±1.77	P=0.042*
2.	WBC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	7.60±3.66	7.63±2.38	P=0.975
3.	Neutrophils (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	4.53±3.40	4.00±1.27	P=0.462
4.	Lymphocytes (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	2.66±0.77	3.20±1.83	P=0.057
5.	Platelet $(x10^{9}/L)$	200.35±82.11	173.22±55.93	P=0.147
6.	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (mm/hr)	11.19±6.79	12.09±5.75	P=0.575
7.	RBC (million /cumm)	4.66±0.68	4.50±0.48	P=0.324
8.	Haematocrit (%)	39.16±5.15	36.53±5.30	P=0.041*
9.	MCV (fl)	88.23±5.32	87.17±3.47	P=0.391
10.	MCH (pg)	28.73±2.16	28.22±1.13	P=0.290
11.	MCHC (gm/dl)	31.62±1.56	30.94±1.43	P=0.068
12.	Albumin (gm/dl)	4.54±0.49	4.32±0.40	P=0.059
13.	SGPT (IU/L)	68.05±56.36	49.17±22.56	P=0.123
14.	SGOT (IU/L)	42.89±26.28	51.61±25.20	P=0.172
15.	Total bilirubin (mg/dl)	0.72±0.82	0.64±0.38	P=0.638
16.	Blood urea nitrogen (mg/dl)	19.62±18.33	24.30±8.91	P=0.244
17.	S. Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.91±0.34	0.87±0.25	P=0.625
18.	LDL (U/L)	293.29±152.66	288.39±70.01	P=0.883
19.	Total protein (mg/dl)	6.87±0.73	6.58±0.75	P=0.112
20.	Alkaline phosphatase (IU/L)	229.56±126.90	189.26±63.90	P=0.150
21.	Creatinine phosphokinase (IU/L)	102.00±131.69	71.91±80.03	P=0.308

# Discussion

In this study we included a total of 86 confirmed cases of COVID-19 to understand the effect of SARS-CoV-2 on various organs of human body. In our study, we found that males were predominantly affected and most of the patients were middle aged between 21 to 40 years. This is supported by a study done by Verma RK, et al. [7] in Uttar Pradesh which concluded that 78.6% of the study population were males and the most affected age group was 21 to 30 years. This could be due to males spending more time outdoors in the conservative Indian society or due to differential seeking of medical care by different sexes.In our study, breathlessness was the most common presenting feature accounting for 10.5% of the total cases. Only 6% of cases were febrile which contrasts with the initial studies on COVID 19 that reported >98% patients presented with fever on admission. [8] The CBC findings of our study showed lower haemoglobin concentration in females (12.20  $\pm$  1.77 gm/dl) than males (13.03  $\pm$ 1.71 gm/dl).We also observed reduced HCT (36.53  $\pm$  5.30) and slightly lower RBC (4.50  $\pm$  0.48) levels in females. In addition, there

was a significant difference of haemoglobin and HCTlevels between males and females with the following respective P-values: (P=0.042 and P=0.041). The abnormalities of Haemoglobin, HCT, and RBC observed in patients can be explained by the inability of the bone marrow to produce enough RBCs to carry oxygen and due to lung damages induced by the COVID-19 which makes gaseous exchange difficult. These abnormalities correlate to breathlessness being the most common presenting feature observed in the study population. Similar findings were seen in a study done by Djapko, et al. [9] at Hubei, China. The SGOT was elevated in 46.6% cases similar figures were seen in a study done by Kaushik A, et al. [10] at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh in which elevated SGOT was seen in 45.71% of cases.Various studies have shown that SARS-CoV-2 virus uses Angiotensin 2 converting enzyme (ACE2) for its entry into the cell and ACE2 is mainly expressed on the cholangiocytes. [11] This can possibly explain the deranged liver enzymes. Our study has some limitations. First, it is a retrospective study which was done using the data collected from a single city. Second, history of liver function test

of the patients was not available for the comparative evaluation of the effect of the virus on liver.

From this study, we concluded that male population is more commonly affected and fever is not the most common presenting feature of this infection. Baseline laboratory indices of the patients can assist the clinicians to formulate treatment approach during the disease.

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to express my profound gratitude to all the participants. **References** 

- Ferguson NM, Laydon D, Nedjati-Gilani G, Imai N, Ainslie K, Baguelin M et al., "Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (npis) to reduce covid-19 mortality and healthcare demand," London: Imperial College COVID- 19 Response Team, March 16 (2020), 10.25561/77482.
- Fehr AR and Perlman S. Coronaviruses: an overview of their replication and pathogenesis. Methods Mol Biol.2015;1282:1-23.
- Li G, Fan Y, Lai Y, Han T, Li Z, Zhou P, et al. Corona virus infections and immune responses. J Med Virol.2020;92:424-32.
- 4. Cui J, Li F and Shi ZL. Origin and evolution of pathogenic corona viruses. Nat Rev Microbiol.2019;17(3):181-92.
- Su S, Wong G, Shi W, Liu J, Lai ACK, Zhou J, et al. Epidemiology, genetic recombination, and pathogenesis of corona viruses. Trends Microbiol.2016;24:490-502.
- 12.

#### Conflict of interest:Nil Source of support:None

- Channappanavar R and Perlman S. Pathogenic human corona virus infections: causes and consequences of cytokine storm and immunopathology. Semin Immunopathology. 2017;39:529-39.
- Verma RK, Kannaujia S, Khurana N, Singh A, Singh DP and Kumar A. Clinical correlation of severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2 cases in selected districts of Uttar Pradesh: A cross-sectional hospital-based study. J Edu Health Promot.2020;9:357
- Huang C, Wang Y, Li X, Ren L, Zhao J, Hu Y, et al. Clinical featuresof patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China.Lancet.2020;395:497-506
- Djapko DK, Wang Z, Zhang R, Chen X, Chen P and Antoine MMLK. Blood routine test in mild and common 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) patients. Bioscience reports. 2020;40.
- Kaushik A, Wani SN, Baba MH and Agarwal AK. Prevalence of Abnormal Liver Function Tests in COVID-19 Patients at a Tertiary Care Centre. J Assoc Physicians India. 2020;68:73-5.
- Chai X, Hu L, Zhang Y, Han W, Lu Z, Ke A, et al. Specific ACE2 expression in cholangiocytes may cause liver damage after 2019-nCoV infection [PREPRINT]. bioRxiv. 2020, doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.02.03.931766