Table 1 : Patients’ characteristics

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|  | COVID-19-patients (n=20) | Control patients (n=22) |
| **Demographic characteristics** |
|  | Median (95% CI) |
| Age (years) | 66,5 (62,0-75,0) | 70 (58,0-80,0) |
|  | No (%) |
| Male | 16 (80,0) | 12 (54,5) |
|  |
| **Comorbidities** |
|  | No (%) |
| Any comorbidity | 19 (95,0) | 21 (95,5) |
| former or current smoker | 2 (10,0) | 8 (36,4) |
| Hypertension | 14 (70,0) | 14 (63,6) |
| Obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m2) | 9 (45,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m2, < 30 kg/m2) | 7 (35,0) | 2 (9,1) |
| Diabetes | 7 (35,0) | 2 (9,1) |
| Hyperlipoproteinemia | 3 (15,0) | 2 (9,1) |
| Chronic heart disease | 8 (40,0) | 14 (63,6) |
| Peripheral arterial disease | 0 (0,0) | 2 (9,1) |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) | 0 (0,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Asthma  | 1 (5,0) | 0 (0,0) |
| Chronic renal disease | 3 (15,0) | 7 (31,8) |
| Rheumatic diseases | 2 (10,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Neurological and neuromuscular diseases | 8 (40,0) | 7 (31,8) |
| Malignant tumor | 5 (25,0) | 6 (27,3) |
| Immunodeficiency | 4 (20,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Liver disease  | 2 (10,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Thyroid disease | 2 (10,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Gastrointestinal disease | 8 (40,0) | 6 (27,3) |
| Allergic disease  | 3 (15,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Mental illness  | 2 (10,0) | 6 (27,3) |
| Addiction | 3 (15,0) | 2 (9,1) |
|  |
| **Current medication** |
|  | No (%) |
| Antidiabetic drugs | 7 (35,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) | 6 (30,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Beta-blockers | 7 (35,0) | 11 (50,0) |
| Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) | 2 (10,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Lipid-lowering drugs | 4 (20,0) | 5 (22,7) |
| Platelet agglutination inhibitors | 5 (25,0) | 7 (31,8) |
| Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOAK) | 3 (15,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Phenprocoumon | 0 (0,0) | 0 (0,0) |
| Calcium channel blockers (CCB) | 4 (20,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Diuretics | 4 (20,0) | 11 (50,0) |
| Systemic corticosteroids | 0 (0,0) | 5 (22,7) |
| Anti-infective drugs (antibiotic, antiviral and antifungal medication) | 2 (10,0) | 2 (9,1) |
| Analgesic  | 3 (15,0) | 8 (36,4) |
| Proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs) | 8 (40,0) | 8 (36,4) |
| Immunosuppressive drugs | 2 (10,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Inhaled corticosteroids  | 1 (5,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Inhaled adrenergic β2 receptor agonists | 1 (5,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Inhaled anticholinergics | 0 (0,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Thyroid drugs | 1 (5,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Anticonvulsants | 0 (0,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Psychotropic drugs | 3 (15,0) | 5 (22,7) |
| Antineoplastic drugs | 1 (5,0) | 2 (9,1) |
|  |
| **Symptoms at admission** |
|  | No (%) |
| Fever | 9 (45,0) | 14 (63,6) |
| Cough | 8 (40,0) | 10 (45,5) |
| Shortness of breath | 9 (45,0) | 14 (63,6) |
| Abdominal pain | 1 (5,0) | 2 (9,1) |
| Nausea and vomiting | 2 (10,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Diarrhoea | 4 (20,0) | 0 (0,0) |
| Headache | 1 (5,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Fatigue | 2 (10,0) | 3 (13,6) |
| Myalgia or arthralgia | 2 (10,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Tachycardia  | 1 (5,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Edema  | 0 (0,0) | 5 (22,7) |
| Deterioration of general condition | 5 (25,0) | 4 (18,2) |
|  |
| **Vital signs at admission** |
|  | Median (95% CI) |
| Heart rate (1/min) | 84,5 (76,0-100,0) | 90,0 (77,0-100,0) |
| Systolic blood pressure (mmHg) | 139,0 (127,0-165,0) | 140,0 (128,0-156,0) |
| Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg) | 78,5 (62,0-85,0) | 76,0 (70,0-92,0) |
| Respiratory rate (1/min) | 20,0 (16,0-28,0) | 19,0 (16,0-26,0) |
| Body temperature (°C) | 37,1 (36,8-37,8) | 37,15 (36,7-37,8) |
|  | No (%) |
| Need for supplemental oxygen | 6 (30,0) | 11 (50,0) |
|  |  |  |
|  |
| **Chest auscultation at admission**  |
|  | No (%) |
| Any abnormal breath sounds | 8 (40,0) | 17 (77,3) |
| Crackling | 6 (30,0) | 12 (54,5) |
| Diminished breath sounds | 0 (0,0) | 5 (22,7) |
| No pathological findings | 5 (25,0) | 5 (22,7) |
|  |
| **CT findings**  |
|  | No (%) |
| Abnormalities on chest CT consistent with viral pneumonia | 20 (100,0) | 10 (45,5) |
|  |
| **Treatment** |
|  | No (%) |
| Admission to intensive care unit | 15 (75,0) | 12 (54,5) |
| Oxygen therapy or non-invasive ventilation | 12 (60,0) | 14 (63,6) |
| Invasive ventilation | 11 (55,0) | 5 (22,7) |
| Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) | 1 (5,0) | 0 (0,0) |
| Prone positioning | 10 (50,0) | 1 (4,5) |
| Catecholamines | 13 (65,0) | 5 (22,7) |
| Hemodialysis | 7 (35,0) | 2 (9,1) |
| Antibiotic treatment | 17 (85,0) | 19 (86,4) |
| Antiviral treatment | 5 (25,0) | 4 (18,2) |
| Antifungal treatment | 3 (15,0) | 1 (4,5) |
|  |
| **Treatment duration** |
|  | Median (95% CI) |
| Length of hospital stay (days) | 28,5 (19,0-39,0)  | 13,5 (8,0-23,0) |
| Duration of ventilation (days) | 27,0 (18,0-41,0) | 4,0 (2,0-9,0) |
|  |
| **Complications**  |
|  | No (%) |
| Respiratory complications | 17 (85,0) | 17 (77,3) |
| Sepsis | 16 (80,0) | 19 (86,4) |
| Organ dysfunction | 17 (85,0) | 10 (45,5) |
| Electrolyte imbalance | 10 (50,0) | 10 (45,5) |
|  |  |  |
| **Clinical outcome** |
|  | No (%) |
| Discharged | 16 (80,0) | 21 (95,5) |
| Died | 4 (20,0) | 1 (4,5) |

n = sample size, No = Number of patients, CI = confidence interval