

COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin

10th August 2020

Details of new guidance and evidence relating to the response to COVID-19. Please check SaTH, NHS and Government guidance in conjunction with these resources where necessary.

General

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Epidemiology, virology, and prevention [evidence summary from UpToDate]

Available [here](#). Last updated 6th August.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [evidence summary from BMJ Best Practice]

Available [here](#). Last updated 4th August

Coexisting Conditions

Guidelines recommend measures to manage acute and chronic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic [evidence summary from BMJ Best Practice]

[Further guidelines have been published to inform the management of patients with coexisting conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.]

Available [here](#). Last updated 5th August.

Convalescent Plasma Therapy

Safety Update: COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma in 20,000 Hospitalized Patients [Joyner MJ. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*]

[These updated data provide robust evidence that transfusion of convalescent plasma is safe in hospitalized patients with COVID-19, and support the notion that earlier administration of plasma within the clinical course of COVID-19 is more likely to reduce mortality.]

Available [here](#)

Dermatology

COVID-19 and cutaneous manifestations: A systematic review [Zhao Q. *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology*]

[Our review systematically presented the clinical characteristics of 507 patients and showed that skin might be the potential target of the infection according to ACE2 expression. More work should be done to better understand the underlying pathogenesis.]

Available [here](#)

Diagnosis

Systematic review with meta-analysis of the accuracy of diagnostic tests for COVID-19 [Boger B, et al. *American Journal of Infection Control*]

[RT-PCR remains the gold standard for the diagnosis of COVID-19 in sputum samples. However, the combination of different diagnostic tests is highly recommended to achieve adequate sensitivity and specificity.]

Available [here](#)

Drug Therapy

A systematic review on the efficacy and safety of IL-6 modulatory drugs in the treatment of COVID-19 patients [Solis-García Del Pozo J. *European Review for Medical and Pharmacological Sciences*]

[We found very little published clinical experience with these drugs, consisting mainly of case reports or case series with few patients. The results of clinical trials are necessary to clarify the role of these drugs in patients with COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

Efficacy of Corticosteroids in Patients with SARS, MERS and COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis [Lee KH. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*]

[To our knowledge, this study is the first comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis providing the most accurate evidence on the effect of steroids in coronavirus infections. If not contraindicated, and in the absence of side effects, the use of steroids should be considered in coronavirus infection including COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

Haematology

COVID-19 and coagulation dysfunction in adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis [Lin J. *Journal of Medical Virology*]

[Coagulation dysfunction is closely related to the severity of patients with COVID-19, in which low platelet, high d-dimer, and fibrinogen upon admission may serve as risk indicators for increased aggression of the disease. These findings are of great clinical value for timely and effective treatment of the COVID-19 cases.]

Available [here](#)

Mouth Care

Guidance: COVID-19: mouth care for patients with a confirmed or suspected case [Public Health England]

[Guidance on mouth care for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 who are non-ventilated, ventilated and those having step down or end of life care.]

Available [here](#)

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Pregnancy issues [evidence summary from UpToDate]

Available [here](#). Last updated 4th August.

Paediatrics

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Clinical manifestations and diagnosis in children [evidence summary from UpToDate]

Available [here](#). Last updated 7th August.

Rehabilitation

Recovery From Severe COVID-19: Leveraging the Lessons of Survival From Sepsis [Prescott HC. *JAMA*]

[Approximately 80% of patients hospitalised with COVID-19, and 60% admitted to ICUs, survive.

Viewpoint discusses possibility that survivors will experience persistent symptoms similar to those of post-sepsis syndrome, and reviews best practices for promoting recovery.]

Available [here](#)

Remdesivir

Remdesivir for severe covid-19: a clinical practice guideline [Rochweg B. *BMJ*]

[Most patients with severe covid-19 would likely choose treatment with remdesivir given the potential reduction in time to clinical improvement. However, given the low certainty evidence for critical outcomes and the fact that different perspectives, values, and preferences may alter decisions regarding remdesivir, the panel issued a weak recommendation with strong support for continued recruitment in randomised trials.]

Available [here](#)

Restarting Services

Remodelling elective hospital services in the COVID-19 era: designing the new normal [King LA. *Future Healthcare Journal*]

[The writers suggest six major themes which could affect the design and delivery of elective clinical services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: hospital avoidance, separation of high- and low-risk groups, screening, maintenance of adequate infection control, and new ways of working.]

Available [here](#)

COVID-19 rapid guideline: arranging planned care in hospitals and diagnostic services [NICE]

[The purpose of this guideline is to help healthcare professionals deliver efficient planned care while minimising the risk of COVID-19 in the context of increasing or decreasing local prevalence. It also aims to help patients make decisions about their planned care.]

Available [here](#)

Staffing

Supporting staff to return to the workplace [NHS Employers]

[As we move through the pandemic, there will be greater numbers of staff returning to the workplace, either following a period of sickness absence, self-isolation, working from home and, in the longer-term, returning from shielding. This guidance outlines the organisational considerations when planning for staff to return, tips for managers and signposts to useful resources.]

Available [here](#)

KnowledgeShare Evidence Alerts

KnowledgeShare contains many updates on COVID-19 that can be accessed from the [KnowledgeShare website](#) without a password. If you'd like to receive these by email (along with updates on any other topics of interest) please complete the [form](#).

About this bulletin

The COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin is prepared by Shrewsbury and Telford Health Libraries. Links to the full-text of items listed is provided where available, but if you need copies of any items where no full-text is available, please request them the [Article Request](#) form. Some items require an [NHS OpenAthens](#) account.

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