



Risk of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission to Medical Staff and Patients from an Exposure to a COVID-19-Positive Ophthalmologist

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Disclosure

• None relevant

Summary and Conclusions

- No case of validated viral transmission was identified amongst 153 patients and medical staff exposed to COVID19+ ophthalmologist
- This low risk for SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the ophthalmic setting was observed while universal safety measures (extended breath shields, distancing, hygiene, use of masks) were employed
- Caution- potential for viral transmission may vary across SARS-CoV-2+ individuals

Introduction

 Global pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 --> Potential viral transmission in health care environments

- High risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the **Ophthalmic setting**:
 - Proximity during procedures
 - Long waiting hours
 - Conjunctivitis as the first sign of the disease
 - Viral RNA patients' tears





Purpose

To evaluate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission after exposure to a COVID-19+ physician in a retina clinic



Case Presentation

2 days headache

Dry cough and SOB

Highly positive RT-PCR

Mild disease course

Tested Negative 3w post-diagnosis

Methods and Data Collection

- Retrospective observational study
- 142 patients and 11 staff members from a single retina clinic
- All 153 individuals were placed in quarantine for 14 days
- Participants were contacted 14 days after the quarantine to inquire
 - 1. Did they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19
 - 2. Did they had a diagnostic test done for SARS-CoV-2
 - 3. Did they wear a mask during their visit

Methods and Data Collection – Cont.

- Demographics
- Type of procedure -
 - 1. Intravitreal Injection (IV Injection)
 - 2. Slit Lamp Exam (SLE)
 - 3. SLE + IV Injection
 - 4. Laser Treatment
 - 5. Surgery
- Date of visit Did the Covid-19+ physician was Symptomatic or Asymptomatic?



Results

- 54.2% were females (n=77)
- The mean Age±SD was 72.8 ±13.6 years (Median=74, range 21-98)
- 50% (n=71) were in contact with the COVID-19+ physician while he was symptomatic

Type of Contact



Use of Mask Amongst Patients



Proportion of patients having symptoms and SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test

	No. of patients (%)
All	142 (100%)
Symptoms consistent with COVID-19	
Yes	1* (0.7%)
No	141 (99.3%)
Missing	0
SARS-CoV-2 QPCR test	
Yes	16 (11.3%)
No	126 (88.7%)
Confirmed COVID-19 cases	
Yes	0
No	142 (100%)

*Had a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19

Results – Cont.

- Staff None developed symptoms, and all were tested negative for SARS-CoV-2
- 19 patients were cared for by a COVID-19+ physician while he was symptomatic and while both parties did not wear masks - None had developed COVID-19

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Thank You For Your Attention

