

PEDIATRICS AND NEONATOLOGY

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Clinical characteristics, maternal and neonatal outcomes of COVID-19 positive pregnant mothers at a tertiary hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa

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Background: The global spread of the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) has been sudden shock to the world and resulted in many questions that remain unanswered. Limited data has been published in low-middle-income country settings (LMICS). The objective was to describe the clinical characteristics and outcome of mothers and neonates delivered from COVID-19 positive mothers, and to identify the incidence of COVID-19 positive. Results showed a total of 111 COVID-19 positive pregnant women delivered neonates at the tertiary hospital. In this study, only 28 of the 111 (25%) neonates born to COVID-19 positive mothers were admitted. The majority of the COVID-19 pregnant mothers were asymptomatic or had mild symptomatic disease (80%). Two (2/111 (2%)) mothers required ICU admission and three (3/111 (3%)) of them demised. In relation to neonatal outcomes, the majority of the neonates were delivered at a gestational age of 35 weeks with a birth weight of 2400 grams. The most common symptom was respiratory distress (89 %). The one (3%) neonate that tested positive for COVID-19 was born moderately preterm with a low birth weight and respiratory distress syndrome. Two (2/28 (7%)) neonates demised, however the cause of death was not related to COVID-19. All the remaining (26/28 (93%)) neonates were discharged and were well on follow up. Our study has shown that the risk of neonatal transmission from pregnant COVID-19 mothers is relatively low, and the majority of neonatal disease ranged from asymptomatic to mildly symptomatic disease. Further research efforts are essential to improve neonatal care in LMICS.

Biography:

Dr Ramdin is the Head of neonatology and paediatric intensive care unit at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH), one of Southern Africa's largest tertiary and academic hospitals, and is the coordinator of the National Neonatal Resuscitation program. She is the co-chair of the international COVID-19 mother and child coalition group and member of national COVID-19 task team. Dr Ramdin completed her MBBCh at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2002, qualified as a Paediatrician in 2010 and as a Neonatologist in 2015 at the College of Medicine South Africa. She is involved in various research projects at CMJAH.