

Covid-19 (SARS-NCoV-2) Viral Pneumonia Management at Eternal Hospital:

An overview

In late 2019 & early 2020, several cases of pneumonia of unknown origin were reported from China, which in early January 2020 were announced to be caused by a novel coronavirus. The virus was later denominated Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Novel Coronavirus 2 (SARS-NCoV-2) and defined as the causal agent of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Despite massive attempts to contain the disease in China, the virus has spread globally, and COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020.

At the same time, parallel measures for the identification, containment, and treatment of Covid-19 cases were being planned by the Health Department Govt. of Rajasthan involving private sector healthcare organizations. A series of advisories and notifications were circulated by MOHFW, ICMR & Health Department Govt. of Rajasthan to have planned management of COVID-19 patients at both govt. and private hospitals.

In March 2020, with the fall of winters, we were welcoming Springs and with all kinds of thoughts that with the rise in temperature by the Apr-May 20, SARS-NCoV-2 Virus will disappear and the world will be free from this deadly virus. But this thought didn't turn into reality. When we were in the primary stage of learning about the NCoV-2 virus causing COVID-19, and on the evening of 8th March 2020 the first suspected patient came to the emergency department of Eternal Hospital. The patient was evaluated thoroughly by the critical care and cardiac team. On evaluation with presenting signs & symptoms, doctors' provisional diagnosis was H1N1 viral pneumonia. Considering all conditions and COVID-19's blur image admission in isolation, ICU was advised, and the patient was referred to the Infectious Diseases Centre at SMS hospital for further evaluation. On March 10 morning, the festival of colors – Holi celebrations were on, we got the news from health authorities that the patient who came in an emergency on the evening of 8th March 2020 is tested positive for COVID-19, an extensive contact tracing of healthcare workers who came in close contact of this patient must be done, and all of these must be quarantined for 14 days, with this an exercise of identification of hospital staff who attended the patient in close proximity and a place where they can be quarantined in the hospital or at their home was initiated. A series of meetings and directives started following from govt. authorities. Very soon, on March 22, a countrywide lockdown for containment of the SARS-NCoV-2 virus was announced by the union government, and state authorities started preparing private sector hospitals for management of COVID-19 patients.

Initially, till Apr 2020, suspected patients screening and confirmed cases were managed in govt. sector only. Sooner with the increasing no. of cases and requirement for screening larger population groups, private sector laboratories were given permission for RT-PCR testing. Simultaneously at Eternal Hospital, we were evolving with our new normal protocols for the treatment of Non-communicable and metabolic disorder patients. There was a steep fall observed at this time in non-Covid patients, which was mainly due to fear of COVID-19 infection and its outcomes. Team of Clinicians and hospital managers soon developed the protocols and pathways for screening and safe management of non-Covid patients meeting NABH and JCI health care norms.

The next level of challenge was the state govt. Health authorities asked private hospitals to start COVID treatment units in their respective hospitals. Eternal Hospital, being well known in the society for its patient care and with the huge demand of patients for Covid care in EHCC, a brainstorming exercise to develop the treatment protocols for Covid patients and treating team of doctors and clinicians was formed as COVID warriors by the hospital management. By June 21, Eternal Hospital started admitting Covid patients and was managed with the best nursing care for which ETERNAL is known. With time and the latest clinical information, treatment protocols keep on evolving. Today, at the verge of the year 2020, almost 1000 Covid patients have been treated at our hospital, having a mortality rate at 0.82 of this deadly viral disease compared to the world's death rate of around 3% and India's death rate is around 1%.



Dr. Vrajesh Shah
Medical Superintendent



Dr Bhawani Shankar Mishra
Medical Administration

EHCC hospital in Covid era has been working in close proximity to state health authorities and has implemented all patient care & revenue policies in accordance with the directives issued by the Health Department, Govt. of Rajasthan at various time points.

