SYNOPSIS
04/08/2020

Review of “Preliminary estimates of the prevalence of selected underlying health conditions among patients with coronavirus disease 2019 — United States, February 12–March 28, 2020”


One-minute summary

- Of the 7,162 patients with reported data on underlying factors, 2,692 (37.6%) had at least one underlying condition or risk factor:
  - The most prevalent conditions were: diabetes mellitus: 784 (10.9%), chronic lung disease: 656 (9.2%), cardiovascular disease: 647 (9.0%).
- The percentage of patients with at least one underlying condition or risk factor was higher among those hospitalized compared to non-hospitalized patients: ICU admissions (358/457; 78.3%) and non-ICU hospital admissions (732/1,037; 70.6%) vs. not hospitalized (1,388/5,143; 27.0%).
- Among patients aged ≥19 years, the percentage of cases that resulted in hospitalization was higher among those with underlying health conditions compared to those without:
  - ICU admissions: 13.3-14.5% in those with underlying conditions, 2.2-2.4% in those without underlying conditions.
  - Non-ICU admissions: 27.3-29.8% in those with underlying conditions, 7.2-7.8% in those without underlying conditions.
- Of the 7,162 patients with data on underlying conditions, 184 (2.6%) died. The vast majority of those who died (173/184; 94.0%) were reported to have at least one underlying condition.

Additional information

- Unknown whether severity or level of control of underlying health conditions affects the risk for severe disease with COVID-19.
Limitations include:
- Data are preliminary and findings might change as additional data and information become available.
- Short follow-up period may lead to underestimated outcomes and long-term outcomes cannot be assessed.
- Due to limited testing in the US, this analysis is likely biased towards more severe cases.
- No conclusions could be made about conditions not included in the case report form or about different conditions that were reported in a single, umbrella category (e.g., asthma and COPD in chronic lung disease).
- No conclusions could be made about risk for severe COVID-19 among persons with some underlying health conditions and risk factors (e.g., pregnancy, current smoker) because few severe outcomes were reported in these data.

PHO reviewer’s comments
- None.

Citation

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