

# Covid -19 Evidence Update

06/04/2020

*The following resources are available via electronically or in print. Please follow links to access full text online, or contact the library if you have any difficulties with the links.*

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## Royal College/Society Guidance

*Latest information and guidance*

### **Royal College of Emergency Medicine**

[Covid-19 resources](#)

### **Royal College of Obstetrics & Gynaecologists**

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\), pregnancy and women's health](#)

### **Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health**

[Key topics COVID 19](#)

### **Royal College of Surgeons**

[COVID 19 Information Hub](#)

### **British Society of Gastroenterology**

[COVID 19 updates](#)

### **British Society of Echocardiography**

[COVID-19 clinical guidance](#)

### **British Society for Haematology**

[COVID-19 Updates](#)

**British Society for Rheumatology**

[COVID-19 updates for members](#)

**Combined Intensive Care Society, Association of Anaesthetists, Royal College of Anaesthetists, Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine guidance**

[Clinical Guidance](#)

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## Don't forget the Bubbles

*An Evidence Summary of Paediatric Covid-19 Literature*

[Executive Summary \(updated 3 April\)](#)

Research – 44 articles listed

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## Dynamed Plus - [COVID-19 \(Novel Coronavirus\)](#)

Latest updates

### 3 APR 2020

hydroxychloroquine sulfate with or without azithromycin may increase viral clearance of SARS-CoV-2 within 6 days in adults with COVID-19 (Int J Antimicrob Agents 2020 Mar 20 early online)

[View in topic](#)

### 3 APR 2020

896,450 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) including 45,525 deaths worldwide reported by World Health Organization (WHO) as of April 2, 2020 (WHO Situation Report 2020 Apr 2)

[View in topic](#)

### 2 APR 2020

acute respiratory distress syndrome and sepsis reported in 100% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 who died (BMJ 2020 Mar 26)

[View in topic](#)

### 1 APR 2020

FDA issues Emergency Use Authorization permitting emergency usage of Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (Battelle CCDS) for use in decontaminating compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators for reuse by healthcare personnel to prevent exposure to pathogens when respirators are in short supply during the COVID-19 pandemic

[View in topic](#)

### **1 APR 2020**

convalescent plasma transfusion reported to resolve acute respiratory distress syndrome in 4 of 5 critically ill adults with confirmed COVID-19, with weaning from mechanical ventilation in 3 patients within 2 weeks of transfusion (JAMA 2020 Mar 27 early online)

[View in topic](#)

### **1 APR 2020**

FDA authorizes investigational usage of convalescent plasma through single-patient emergency Investigational New Drug process in patients with severe or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections (FDA Investigational New Drug Communication 2020 Mar 26)

[View in topic](#)

### **1 APR 2020**

FDA issues Emergency Use Authorization permitting emergency usage of hydroxychloroquine sulfate from National Strategic Stockpile for treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized adults and adolescents weighing  $\geq 50$  kg for whom clinical trials are not available or participation not feasible (FDA Fact Sheet 2020 Mar 28)

[View in topic](#)

### **1 APR 2020**

case fatality rate 33.7% reported among nursing facility residents in King County, Washington (N Engl J Med 2020 Mar 27 early online)

[View in topic](#)

### **30 MAR 2020**

bilateral ground glass opacities common finding on chest computed tomography in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia (AJR Am J Roentgenol 2020 Mar 14 early online)

[View in topic](#)

### **30 MAR 2020**

mild or moderate respiratory disease reported in almost 90% of children with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (Pediatrics 2020 Mar 16 early online)

[View in topic](#)

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## **Public Health England**

[COVID-19: investigation and initial clinical management of possible cases](#) - 3 April 2020

[COVID-19: management of exposed healthcare workers and patients in hospital settings](#) - 4 April 2020

[COVID-19: infection prevention and control \(IPC\)](#) - 4 April 2020

[COVID-19: personal protective equipment use for non-aerosol generating procedures](#) - 3 April 2020

[COVID-19: guidance for sampling and for diagnostic laboratories](#) - 3 April 2020

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## World Health Organisation – Rolling Updates

### **Falsified medical products, including in vitro diagnostics, that claim to prevent, detect, treat or cure COVID-19**

31 March 2020

This Medical Product Alert warns consumers, healthcare professionals, and health authorities against a growing number of falsified medical products that claim to prevent, detect, treat or cure COVID-19.

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2) has increased demand for medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and reagents, all related to COVID-19, creating an opportunity for ill-intended persons to distribute falsified medical products

Due diligence is required from all actors in the procurement, use and administration of medical products, in particular those affected by the current crisis of, or related to, COVID-19.

At this stage, WHO does not recommend any medicines to treat or cure COVID-19. However, the SOLIDARITY trial, led by WHO, is reviewing potential treatments for COVID-19.

#### **Key documents:**

[News Release](#)

[Medical Product Alert N°3/2020](#)

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## Novel Coronavirus Information Center – Elsevier

Early-stage research

Preprints on SSRN

- [Matrix Analysis of Clinical Characteristics and Dynamic Observation of Immunological Features in 90 Cases of COVID-19](#), *Preprints with The Lancet* (April 2, 2020)
  - [Epidemiological and Clinical Characteristics of 74 Children Infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Family Clusters in Wuhan, China](#), *Preprints with The Lancet* (April 2, 2020)
  - [Evolutionary Analysis of SARS-2-CoV: How Mutation of Non-Structural Protein 6 \(NSP6\) Could Affect Viral Autophagy](#), *Preprints with The Lancet* (April 2, 2020)
  - [Lessons After the Early Management of the COVID-19 Outbreak in a Pediatric Transplant and Hemato-Oncology Center Embedded within a COVID-19 Dedicated Hospital in Lombardia, Italy. Estote Parati. \(Be Ready.\)](#), *Preprints with The Lancet* (April 2, 2020)
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## Wiley Online Library Coronavirus & News

### **Paediatrics**

[How to safeguard children's mental health during emergencies](#)

Pediatric Investigation

“The typical responses of children of different ages to emergencies include fear of future disasters, loss of interest in school, degenerative behaviors, sleep disorders and fear of the dark, and fear of natural phenomena related to disasters”

## **Adult**

### [COVID-19 Pneumonia as a Cause of Acute Chest Syndrome in an Adult Sickle Cell Patient](#)

American Journal of Hematology

Correspondence: We report on the first documented case of a hospitalized patient with SCD who developed ACS in the setting of COVID-19.

### [COVID-19 in post-transplantation patients- report of two cases](#)

American Journal of Transplantation

Case Study: We describe here, two cases of COVID-19 infection in a post-transplant setting. First one is a 59-year old renal transplant recipient; the second is a 51-year old allogeneic bone marrow transplant recipient.

### [Respiratory Support for Adult Patients with COVID-19](#)

JACEP Open

“A number of non-invasive options exist to avert mechanical ventilation and ICU admission. This is a clinical review of these options and their applicability in adult COVID-19 patients. ”

## **General**

### [COVID-19 and diabetes](#)

Diabetic Medicine

Editorial: Whether people with diabetes have a higher susceptibility to COVID-19 is currently unknown, but there is a perception that the risk is higher both of infection and severe disease. For example, the first three deaths related to COVID-19 in Hong Kong all occurred in people with diabetes.

### [Converting gas-driven ventilators from oxygen to air](#)

Anaesthesia

Correspondence: During our preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic we identified that our GE Healthcare anaesthetic machines (GE Healthcare, Amersham Place, Little Chalfont, UK) had a ventilator which was gas-driven, using oxygen. This resulted in a large amount of wasted oxygen. Our anaesthetic department has 52 anaesthetic machines which form part of our plan to increase our ITU capacity

### [Fecal Transmission in COVID-19: A Potential Shedding Rout](#)

Journal of Medical Virology

Letter to the editor: the present method for the diagnosis of viral RNA of SARS-CoV-2 in oral swabs is not perfect because live SARS-CoV-2 may exist in fecal while oropharyngeal specimen is negative.

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## **Cochrane Library**

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): evidence relevant to critical care](#)

# Healthcare Databases

## Children and Neonates

### [Lessons unfolding from pediatric cases of COVID-19 disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)

#### Pediatric Pulmonology

Editorial: “Children are less likely to report symptoms of COVID-19 and more likely to have mild or asymptomatic presentations. However, asymptomatic individuals can still actively shed the virus, transmitting disease.<sup>6</sup> Further, the incubation period of the illness, following exposure to the virus can range upward of 24 days,<sup>8</sup> leading to prolonged periods of viral shedding.”

### [COVID-19 in children and altered inflammatory responses](#)

#### Pediatric Research

Editorial: “in disorders such as juvenile immune arthritis it appears that IL-6 blockade alone is insufficient to control the inflammatory cascade, especially in patients who are afebrile with lower cell counts and ferritin levels, and higher liver enzymes”

### [How young patients with cancer perceive the Covid-19 \(coronavirus\) epidemic in Milan, Italy: is there room for other fears?](#)

#### Pediatric Blood & Cancer

“While in our centre we did not change our approach to the treatment of our young cancer patients, we developed a qualitative survey to assess their perception of the risk and level of stress. The survey showed that a relatively large proportion of them felt personally at risk of severe complications.”

### [Early advice on managing children with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic and a call for sharing experiences.](#)

#### Pediatric Blood & Cancer

Commentary: “As far as the general management of patients is concerned, there is no reason to discontinue daily activities in pediatric hematology/oncology units or to turn away children with suspected cancer during this pandemic.”

### [US NICUs and donor milk banks brace for COVID-19](#)

#### Lancet Child & Adolescent Health

Feature: “Pasteurised donor milk is a vital resource for babies in NICUs whose mothers cannot provide breast milk. But donor supplies have become a concern as more US cities and states issue stay-at-home orders.”

### [Novel coronavirus in a 15-day-old neonate with clinical signs of sepsis, a case report](#)

#### Infectious Diseases

Case report: A 15-day-old neonate was admitted with fever, lethargy, cutaneous mottling, and respiratory distress without cough. His mother had symptoms of Novel coronavirus. So Reverse-Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) assay was done for the neonate and showed to be positive. The newborn was isolated and subjected to supportive care. Antibiotic and antiviral treatment was initiated. Eventually, the baby was discharged in good general condition

### [Environment and Personal Protective Equipment Tests for SARS-CoV-2 in the Isolation Room of an Infant With Infection](#)

#### Annals of Internal Medicine

Letter: A 6-month-old infant was admitted for isolation in our hospital because both parents were in the isolation units of other hospitals for confirmed COVID-19. On admission, the infant was asymptomatic, but nasopharyngeal swabs confirmed COVID-19 infection with very high viral load.

## Healthcare workers

### [The COVID-19 pandemic: major risks to healthcare and other workers on the front line](#)

#### Occupational & Environmental Medicine

Editorial “Apart from the direct infection risks arising from close contact with patients and/or potentially infectious co-workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers are also under increasing stress and mental health risks, as was the case with the SARS epidemic”

### [Nuclear Medicine Operations in the Times of COVID-19: Strategies, Precautions, and Experiences](#)

Journal of Nuclear Medicine

“The apparent common denominators are (a) triage patients, (b) reduce elective studies, (c) increase hygiene, and (d) establish rotations to put in place back-up teams. We are all facing the beginning of COVID-19. None of us has the “best” solutions. This is new to all of us. Let us keep communicating and learning from each other.”

### [COVID-19 and experiences of moral injury in front-line key workers](#)

Occupational Medicine

“Moral injury is defined as the profound psychological distress which results from actions, or the lack of them, which violate one’s moral or ethical code [5]. Morally injurious events can include acts of perpetration, acts of omission or experiences of betrayal from leaders or trusted others”

### [Just the Facts: Protecting frontline clinicians during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine

“To ensure the sustained delivery of emergency care during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential to protect frontline healthcare workers from contracting the disease”

### [Endonasal instrumentation and aerosolization risk in the era of COVID-19: simulation, literature review, and proposed mitigation strategies](#)

International Forum of Allergy and Rhinology

“Procedures requiring drill use should carry a special designation as an “Aerosol Generating Surgery” to convey this unique risk, and support the need for protective PPE”

### [COVID-19 pandemic and cardiac imaging: EACVI recommendations on precautions, indications, prioritization, and protection for patients and healthcare personnel](#)

European Heart Journal Cardiovascular Imaging

- Cardiac imaging should be performed if appropriate and only if it is likely to substantially change patient management or be lifesaving
- Use the imaging modality with the best capability to meet the request, but consider also the safety of medical staff regarding exposure

### [Medical Masks vs N95 Respirators for Preventing COVID-19 in Health Care Workers A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Trials](#)

Influenza

“Low certainty evidence suggests that medical masks and N95 respirators offer similar protection against viral respiratory infection including coronavirus in health care workers during non-aerosol generating care.”

## **Pregnancy**

### [Novel corona virus disease \(COVID-19\) in pregnancy: What clinical recommendations to follow?](#)

Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

Special Editorial: “Here is our attempt to summarize some important practical clinical aspects of managing COVID-19 in pregnancy”

### [Vertical Transmission of Coronavirus Disease 19 \(COVID-19\) from Infected Pregnant Mothers to Neonates: A Review](#)

Fetal and Pediatric Pathology

Review: Currently, based on limited data, there is no evidence for intrauterine transmission of COVID-19 from infected pregnant women to their fetuses. Mothers may be at increased risk for more severe respiratory complications.

### [Does COVID-19 affect pregnant women?](#)

British Journal of Midwifery

Editorial: “Although there is not an abundance of research available on COVID-19 as of yet, from the data we do have readily available, pregnant women do not appear to be severely affected by the virus. What we can expect is pregnant women may experience symptoms in the form of mild flu.”

[Breastfeeding and Coronavirus Disease-2019. Ad interim indications of the Italian Society of Neonatology endorsed by the Union of European Neonatal & Perinatal Societies](#)

Maternal and Child Nutrition

Review: "Besides the possible consequences of COVID-19 infection on a pregnant woman and the fetus, a major concern is related to the potential effect on neonatal outcome, the appropriate management of the mother-newborn dyad and finally the compatibility of maternal COVID-19 infection with breastfeeding."

[An Uncomplicated Delivery in a Patient with Covid-19 in the United States](#)

New England Journal of Medicine

Case report: "Delayed cord clamping was not performed, and skin-to-skin contact between the mother and infant was not permitted. There was no evidence of neonatal or intraamniotic infection. After delivery, the neonate was placed in a radiant warmer bed away from the mother and was moved to a separate room once the condition was stabilized, to remain there until discharge. The neonate was nourished with formula and expressed breast milk."

## **Adults and older patients**

[Protected Code Stroke Hyperacute Stroke Management During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)  
Stroke

"We introduce the concept of a protected code stroke during a pandemic, as in the case of COVID-19, and provide a framework for key considerations including screening, personal protective equipment, and crisis resource management."

[Palliative Care Pandemic Pack: a Specialist Palliative Care Service response to planning the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management

"Specialist Palliative Care services (SPCS) have a vital role to play in the global COVID-19 pandemic. Core expertise in complex symptom management, decision-making in uncertainty, advocacy and education, and ensuring a compassionate response are essential, and SPCS are well positioned to take a proactive approach in crisis management planning."

[Recommendations for the surgical management of gynecological cancers during the COVID-19 pandemic - FRANCOGYN group for the CNGOF](#)

Journal of Gynecology Obstetrics and Human Reproduction

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, management of a patient with cancer should be adapted to limit the risks associated with the virus without incurring loss of chance."

[Diagnostic Evaluation of Pulmonary Embolism During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Journal of Nuclear Medicine

"tectonic upheavals in our clinical world necessitate a change in our approach to previously settled diagnostic algorithms; we suggest reverting to a nonventilation approach for the evaluation of pulmonary embolus to minimize potential exposure of aerosolized secretions to others in the nuclear medicine suite."

[Lessons from the Experience in Wuhan to Reduce Risk of COVID-19 Infection in Patients Undergoing Long-Term Hemodialysis](#)

CJASN

"Here, we have summarized our approach for prevention and control of COVID-19 in dialysis centers in the worst affected areas"

[Gastrointestinal symptoms of 95 cases with SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)

Gut

"GI tract may be a potential transmission route and target organ of SARS-CoV-2"

[The Variety of Cardiovascular Presentations of COVID-19](#)

Circulation

"we present four cases that illustrate a variety of cardiovascular presentations of COVID19 infection. In addition to discussing the basic clinical physiology, we also discuss clinical decision making in the current environment, while considering resource allocation and the welfare of health care professionals"

### [SARS Cov2 infection in a renal transplanted patients. A case report](#)

American Journal of Transplantation

Case Study: A kidney transplanted patient infected with SARS CoV2 infection showed a mild disease despite immune suppression. It is possible that Immunosuppression can “be protective” as the cytokine storm is an important factor in the disease story

### [Successful Treatment of Severe COVID-19 Pneumonia in a Liver Transplant Recipient](#)

American Journal of Transplantation

Case Study: A therapeutic regime with temporary immunosuppression withdrawal and systemic low-dose corticosteroid as principle was involved in the management of the patient which made him recover from severe COVID-19 pneumonia.

### [First case of COVID-19 in a patient with multiple myeloma successfully treated with tocilizumab](#)

Blood Advances

“We speculate that tocilizumab might also have potential benefit for MM as an immunotherapy in the future. This case is the first to prove that tocilizumab is effective in the treatment of COVID-19 in MM with obvious clinical recovery; however, randomized controlled trials are needed to determine the safety and efficacy of tocilizumab.”

## **General**

### [A Practical Approach to the Management of Cancer Patients During the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: An International Collaborative Group](#)

The Oncologist

“In this review, the potential challenges associated with managing cancer patients during the COVID-19 infection pandemic will be addressed, with suggestions of some practical approaches”

### [The Rapid Assessment and Early Warning Models for COVID-19](#)

Virologica Sinica

Review: This paper reviews the current model analysis methods and conclusions from both micro and macro perspectives. The establishment of a comprehensive assessment model, and the use of model analysis prediction, is very efficient for the early warning of infectious diseases.

### [Case Report - Implications for Online Management: Two Cases with COVID-19](#)

Telemedicine and eHealth

“The multidisciplinary selfquarantine model provides early judgment, identification, and treatment of disease, improves compliance with early rehabilitation, increases confidence in recovery, and enhances self-management capabilities. This model is applicable to the current novel coronavirus pneumonia epidemic and can actively promote the management of suspected or confirmed mild cases, monitoring of critical cases, and self-management of discharged patients”

### [Virological assessment of hospitalized patients with COVID-2019.](#)

Nature

“Here we provide a detailed virological analysis of nine cases, providing proof of active virus replication in upper respiratory tract tissues. Pharyngeal virus shedding was very high during the first week of symptoms (peak at  $7.11 \times 10^8$  RNA copies per throat swab, day 4). Infectious virus was readily isolated from throat- and lung-derived samples, but not from stool samples, in spite of high virus RNA concentration. Blood and urine never yielded virus.”

### [Isolation and rapid sharing of the 2019 novel coronavirus \(SARS-CoV-2\) from the first patient diagnosed with COVID-19 in Australia](#)

The Medical Journal of Australia

“An important aspect of the scientific response to the COVID-19 outbreak has been the rapid sharing of information about diagnostic assays and genomic data, enabling rapid elucidation of the emergence and spread of the novel virus. In addition, a major principle of our laboratory response in Australia was to immediately share the viral isolate with the WHO and other laboratories to facilitate rapid validation of diagnostic testing.”

### [Universal Masking in Hospitals in the Covid-19 Era](#)

The New England Journal of Medicine

“We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes).”

### [Evidence of the COVID-19 Virus Targeting the CNS: Tissue Distribution, Host–Virus Interaction, and Proposed Neurotropic Mechanisms](#)

ACS Chemical Neuroscience

“Here, we investigate the density of the expression levels of ACE2 in the CNS, the host–virus interaction and relate it to the pathogenesis and complications seen in the recent cases resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. Also, we debate the need for a model for staging COVID-19 based on neurological tissue involvement.”

### [Pathological findings of COVID-19 associated with acute respiratory distress syndrome](#)

The Lancet Respiratory Medicine

Case Report: “Our clinical and pathological findings in this severe case of COVID-19 can not only help to identify a cause of death, but also provide new insights into the pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2-related pneumonia, which might help physicians to formulate a timely therapeutic strategy for similar severe patients and reduce mortality”

### [Potential Legal Liability for Withdrawing or Withholding Ventilators During COVID-19](#)

JAMA

Viewpoint: US article – “In this Viewpoint, we assess the legal risks that physicians, other health care workers, and hospital systems confront in such scenarios and recommend that states explicitly and immediately adopt legal protections for health care workers, modeled on provisions in place in Maryland”

### [Differences between COVID-19 and suspected then confirmed SARS-CoV-2-negative pneumonia: a retrospective study from a single center](#)

Journal of Medical Virology

“COVID-19 patients were also more likely to have decreased or normal urea and creatinine levels than control patients”

### [Treating COVID-19 with Chloroquine](#)

Journal of Molecular Cell Biology

“In sum, our preliminary results suggest that Chloroquine could be an effective and inexpensive option among many proposed therapies, e.g. Lopinavir/Ritonavir. Considering the severe epidemic, short supply of medical resource, our study was limited by small sample size.”

### [Master Regulator Analysis of the SARS-CoV2/Human Interactome](#)

Journal of Clinical Medicine

“In this paper, we set out to shed light on the SARS-CoV-2/host receptor recognition, a crucial factor for successful virus infection. Based on the current knowledge of the interactome between SARS-CoV-2 and host cell proteins, we performed Master Regulator Analysis to detect which parts of the human interactome are most affected by the infection.”

### [Novel Coronavirus COVID-19](#)

Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery

“A number of major institutions, surgical associations, and physicians with direct experience treating patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 have recently released statements or published recommendations to offer guidance to surgeons, in particular, and all frontline health-care workers<sup>75-81</sup>. We summarize their guidance here”

### [The COVID-19 pandemic calls for spatial distancing and social closeness: not for social distancing!](#)

International Journal of Public Health

“We suggest that spatial distancing should be the term used when distance between individuals or objects addressed. Grounded in biological and epidemiological data, spatial distance means physical extent: 2 m. Shared responsibilities inhering in people’s social and cultural contexts afford social closeness. Public health should approach the threat of COVID-19 by promoting spatial distance together with social closeness.”

### [Guidance for Cardiac Electrophysiology During the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic from the Heart Rhythm Society COVID-19 Task Force; Electrophysiology Section of the American College of Cardiology; and the Electrocardiography and Arrhythmias Committee of the Council on Clinical Cardiology, American Heart Association](#)

HeartRhythm

“Many patients with arrhythmias are among the sickest of those with cardiovascular disease. To protect

patients (many of whom are high risk due to coexisting comorbidities) and healthcare teams from COVID-19 exposure, preserve resources and maintain access to necessary cardiovascular care, it is important that nonessential encounters, tests and procedures be postponed”

### [European Society For Emergency Medicine position paper on emergency medical systems response to COVID-19](#)

European Journal of Emergency Medicine

“Under the perspective of European Society For Emergency Medicine, the recommendations provided by the health authorities are reviewed focus on the emergency department’s activity.”

### [Our Italian Experience Using Lung Ultrasound for Identification, Grading and Serial Follow-up of Severity of Lung Involvement for Management of Patients with COVID-19](#)

Echocardiography

“Lung ultrasound (LU) has rapidly become a tool for assessment of patients stricken by the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Over the past two and a half months (January, February and first half of March 2020) we have used this modality for identification of lung involvement along with pulmonary severity in patients with suspected or documented COVID-19 infection. Use of LU has helped us in clinical decision making and reduced the use of both chest x-rays and computed tomography (CT).”

### [Fast reshaping of intensive care unit facilities in a large metropolitan hospital in Milan, Italy: facing the COVID-19 pandemic emergency](#)

Critical Care and Resuscitation

“In a few days, a COVID-19 emergency department was created, improving the general ward capacity to a total number of 279 beds dedicated to patients with COVID-19. Moreover, the number of intensive care unit (ICU) beds was increased from 28 to 72 (54 of them dedicated to patients with COVID-19, and 18 to cardiology and cardiac surgery hub emergencies), both converting pre-existing areas and creating new high technology spaces.”

### [Inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 \(previously 2019-nCoV\) infection by a highly potent pan-coronavirus fusion inhibitor targeting its spike protein that harbors a high capacity to mediate membrane fusion](#)

Cell Research

“Intranasal application of EK1C4 before or after challenge with HCoV-OC43 protected mice from infection, suggesting that EK1C4 could be used for prevention and treatment of infection by the currently circulating SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging SARSr-CoVs”

### [Mobile field hospitals, an effective way of dealing with COVID-19 in China: sharing our experience](#)

BioScience Trends

“This article describes some of our experiences operating mobile field hospitals in order to provide a reference and to better inform countries that are dealing with this crisis.”

### [Potential covalent drugs targeting the main protease of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus](#)

Bioinformatics

“We recently developed a computational protocol named as SCAR for discovering covalent drugs. In this work, we used the SCAR protocol to identify possible covalent drugs (approved or clinically tested) targeting the main protease (3CLpro) of SARS-CoV-2. We identified 11 potential hits, among which at least 6 hits were exclusively enriched by the SCAR protocol.”

### [The impact of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak on the safety and availability of blood transfusions in Italy](#)

Vox Sanguinis

“In our country, so far, blood donation, after an initial fall (-10%) has been maintained during SARS-CoV-2 emergency, having been recognized by the government as a priority in order to maintain basic healthcare services”

### [Collecting and evaluating convalescent plasma for COVID-19 treatment: why and how](#)

Vox Sanguinis

Plasma provided by COVID-19 convalescent patients may provide therapeutic relief as the number COVID-19 cases escalate steeply world-wide. Prior findings in various viral respiratory diseases including SARS-CoV related pneumonia suggest that convalescent plasma can reduce mortality, although formal proof of efficacy is still lacking.

### [Pivotal Role of Convalescent Plasma in Managing Emerging Infectious Diseases.](#)

Vox Sanguinis

Commentary: Though convalescent plasma was obtained from patients who had confirmed recovery from infection and developed humoral immunity, for the safety, those willing to participate must meet donor selection criteria as well as in compliance with existing policies and routine procedures

[Practice of endoscopy during COVID-19 pandemic: position statements of the Asian Pacific Society for Digestive Endoscopy \(APSDE-COVID statements\)](#)

Gut  
“Our objective is to provide recommendations for endoscopy centres on management and preventive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic”

[In-silico approaches to detect inhibitors of the human severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus envelope protein ion channel](#)

Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics  
“Belachinal, Macaflavanone E & Vibsanol B, have passed the ADMET (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion and Toxicity) property as well as “Lipinski’s Rule of 5s”, they may be utilized as drugs in controlling disease caused via SARS-COV2, after further investigation”

[Identification of Chymotrypsin-like Protease Inhibitors of SARS-CoV-2 Via Integrated Computational Approach](#)

Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics  
“Our results indicate that the identified compounds can inhibit the function of Chymotrypsin-like protease (3CLpro) of Coronavirus.”

[Difference of coagulation features between severe pneumonia induced by SARS-CoV2 and non-SARS-CoV2.](#)

Journal of Thrombosis and Thrombolysis  
“Patients with severe pneumonia induced by SARS-CoV2 had higher platelet count than those induced by non-SARS-CoV2.”

[Critical health literacy and the COVID-19 crisis](#)

Health Promotion International  
“In the exploding market of COVID-19 facts and fiction, individuals need to know how to assess critically the information with which they are overwhelmed”

[Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 RNA Detected in Blood Donations](#)

Emerging Infectious Diseases  
Research Letter: “Having donors call the blood donation center if they have any symptoms after donating is essential to avoid the risk of donation during the COVID-19 incubation period. Moreover, as more asymptomatic cases occur, screening donors for viral RNA with high-sensitivity assays, as we are doing in Hubei Province, will be critical to ensure blood safety.”

[Potential false-negative nucleic acid testing results for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 from thermal inactivation of samples with low viral loads](#)

Clinical Chemistry  
“Thermal inactivation adversely affected the efficiency of RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 detection. Given the limited applicability associated with chemical inactivators, other approaches to ensure the overall protection of laboratory personnel need consideration”

[Do Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors/Angiotensin Receptor Blockers Have a Biphasic Effect?](#)

Journal of the American Heart Association  
“At present, we cannot rule out that long-term intake of ACEIs and/or ARBs may facilitate SARS-CoV-2 entry and virus replication. Conversely, it is yet unknown whether intake of ACEIs and/or ARBs, when infected, is beneficial with regard to pulmonary outcome.”

[Anosmia and ageusia: common findings in COVID-19 patients](#)

The Laryngoscope  
“In a not negligible number of patients affected by COVID-19, especially if paucisymptomatic, ageusia and anosmia can represent the first or only symptomatology present.”

**Animals and risk of infection**

[Coronavirus can infect cats — dogs, not so much](#)

Nature

News: The results are based on lab experiments in which a small number of animals were deliberately given high doses of the virus, SARS-CoV-2, and do not represent real-life interactions between people and their pets, says virologist Linda Saif at the Ohio State University in Wooster.

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## Useful Links

[BMJ – latest news and resources for COVID-19](#)

[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)

[GOV.UK](#)

[Health protection Scotland](#)

[NHS UK](#)

[Oxford University Press](#)

[Patient.Info](#)

With thanks to Rebecca Howes, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

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