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**Covid 19 infection in pediatric cancer children****Isha Deshmukh**

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**P**ediatric cancer patients with covid-19 were mainly asymptomatic or with mild symptoms. A high index of suspicion and regular screening with nasopharyngeal swab in asymptomatic hospitalized cancer patients is recommended. The incidence of covid-19 is remarkably less in the pediatric population than in the adult population, with children accounting for 1-5% of diagnosed cases.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the fact those children with cancer are considered high-risk patients for the covid-19 infection leads to thorough and repeated testing in this population, even in asymptomatic patients. This is not the case for the general pediatric population, as most healthy children are not being tested for covid-19 unless they require hospitalization.

In this review, a clinical spectrum of covid-19 infection in pediatric cancer population was studied. A worrisome finding is the high proportion of patients (27%) that presented with nosocomial infection. Eligible patients tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). The primary end-point was death, discharge or end of active care for covid-19 for those remaining in hospital. While the impact of SARS-CoV-2 in this population is yet to be defined, the international paediatric oncology community has acted at pace to provide guidance and support to childhood

cancer patients to minimise their risk of infection during the pandemic. <sup>2</sup> The majority of patients (85%) did not require admission to hospital or were admitted for a period of time and subsequently discharged following their diagnosis with covid-19. These patients with an isolated fever were admitted to be monitored for signs of serious bacterial infections and, when deemed clinically fit for discharge, were allowed to go home, in accordance with routine practice for children with a fever on chemotherapy.

While this paper focuses on the risks to children and adolescents with cancer who develop proven SARS-CoV-2 infection rather than the risk of being infected, the results have informed precautionary advice given to healthcare professionals and parents. The initial advice was highly protective of those thought to be at high risk due to their immunocompromised status.

**Speaker Biography**

Isha Deshmukh, have 10 years of experience as medical professional in the field of Pediatrics. There are many case reports and articles including research articles submitted for national and international pediatric and neonatology journals. She fundamental interest includes pediatrics, nutrition, neonatology, pediatric oncology, haematology and many more.

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