

Evaluation of coronavirus in tears and conjunctival secretions of patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection

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Objective: This study aimed to assess the presence of novel coronavirus in tears and conjunctival secretions of SARS-CoV-2 infected patients.

Methods: A prospective interventional case series study was performed, and 30 confirmed novel coronavirus pneumonia (NCP) patients were selected at the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University from January 26, 2020 to February 9, 2020. At an interval of 2-3 days, tear and conjunctival secretions were collected twice with disposable sampling swabs for reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay.

Results: 21 common type and 9 severe type NCP patients were enrolled. Two samples of tear and conjunctival secretions were obtained from the only one patient with conjunctivitis yielded positive RT-PCR results. 58 samples from other patients were all negative.

Conclusion: We speculate that SARS-CoV-2 may be detected in the tears and conjunctival secretions in NCP patients with conjunctivitis.

Biography

Dongyu Guo is a renowned ophthalmology surgeon in China gaining his BSc and MBBS from the Zhejiang University, China. Dongyu Guo is working in Department of Ophthalmology, Zhejiang University School of Medicine Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China. He publishes many articles in reputed journals.