

TITLE: CLINICAL FEATURES AND CO-INFECTIONS OF PATIENTS OF THE COVID ICU OF A HOSPITAL IN THE NORTH OF RS

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ABSTRACT:

In December 2019, the city of Wuhan, a city in China's Hubei province, reported an outbreak of pneumonia from a new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, the etiological agent of coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19). Since then, the epidemic has spread around the world rapidly and on March 11, 2020 the WHO declared a pandemic. More than 174 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported worldwide by June 2021, according to WHO data. The United States of America has the highest number of cases, followed by India and Brazil. The present study aimed to identify the clinical characteristics and main co-infections in patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) COVID-19 of a public hospital in northern Rio Grande do Sul. The research was conducted by a retrospective cohort study, evaluating the period from March to October 2020. Data were collected from the medical records of patients hospitalized in the COVID-19 ICU, from the regional reference public hospital in the treatment of the disease, Santa Terezinha Hospital Foundation, from the city of Erechim (RS). Through the data obtained it was possible to report that most patients were male (56.3%), white and aged 65 years or older. Considering all patients, 91.5% had at least one comorbidity, 73.4% were submitted to intubation, and the mortality rate was 41.4%. The patients evaluated with radiography or computed tomography of the chest presented alterations with prevalence of opacity in matte glass (79.5%). Oxygen saturation was altered in 83%. Most patients had serum ferritin and C-reactive protein above the normal range. Among the 94 patients analyzed in this study, 19 had some co-infection during hospitalization, 75% by Gram-negative bacteria and 25% Gram-positive bacteria. Microorganisms isolated from patients and submitted to antimicrobial sensitivity test showed low resistance rate with the exception of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). In this context, the importance of knowing the clinical characteristics of patients contaminated by coronavirus and aggravation factors of cases is reaffirmed, improving their treatment and clinical outcome, helping to cope with the pandemic.

Keywords: clinical features, co-infections, comorbidities, coronavirus, ICU