

Dear IAP Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the second issue of the *Pediatric Infectious Disease* of the year 2020. Since the first case of coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) reported in Wuhan, China on December 8, 2019, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has spread rapidly nationwide and to other countries across the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 disease as pandemic. It is a novel infection with serious clinical manifestations, including death.¹

The epidemic characteristics of the COVID-19 in children are not yet clear, posing a serious challenge to pediatric medical healthcare workers. Compared to infected adults, most of the infections in children are familial clusters with mild clinical symptoms, the infected children seem to be having significantly milder disease, with faster recovery and better prognosis.

Following aspects should be given special attention: First, most children are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. Even if there are no symptoms, children from families with clustered infections should be screened for SARS-CoV-2 to eliminate potential source of infection.⁷

Secondly, children with underlying diseases should be protected by isolation as soon as possible. Mother-to-child vertical transmission, though documented is a rarity. A neonate may contract infection following exposure postnatally.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused worldwide shortage of hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators. Up-to-date, no effective anti-SARS-CoV-2 drug has been successfully confirmed in clinical practice.

More and more epidemiologic studies are needed to address risk factors for infection, severity of disease and the efficacy of infection-control measures. These types of studies should help us refine and focus our efforts to control and treat COVID-19.

The SARS-CoV-2 has a large economic and social impact on the human population. Several aspects of the COVID-19 outbreak are not yet fully understood, including transmission dynamics and the full spectrum of clinical illness. We need to save lives now while also improving the way we respond to outbreaks in general. Prevention is the ultimate solution for saving lives from such a disastrous pandemic.

This issue carries several articles related to COVID-19. The review article on COVID-19 and more takes you through the story of corona viruses so far highlighting the virology evolution and the spectrum of disease, effect of COVID-19 on pregnancy, newborn and children testing and preventive strategy, herd immunity and the way forward in this ongoing battle have been discussed. In the article on laboratory diagnosis, the author has discussed the microbiological confirmation with real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) which plays an important role in the patient management and pandemic control measures. The importance of serological methods in population surveillance has been reviewed.

The article on SARS coronavirus vaccine, describes the present status of vaccines which is a futuristic option. The types and stages of development of various coronavirus disease vaccines has been discussed. There is an interesting case report of COVID-19-associated acute encephalopathy reported which is probably the first case report from India.

Impact of lockdown on vaccinations and vaccination coverage has been studied and described in the article. In the section on immunology corner, the cytokine storm syndrome has been discussed with specific relevance to COVID-19. The pathophysiology and clinical features, laboratory markers and therapeutic options have been dealt with in detail. Better understanding of cytokine storm would go a long way in treating many diseases, where it seems to play pivotal role.

Wishing you all a happy reading
Stay safe

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