The scientific literature on COVID-19 is rapidly evolving and these articles were selected for review based on their relevance to Washington State decision making around COVID-19 response efforts. Included in these Lit Reps are some manuscripts that have been made available online as pre-prints but have not yet undergone peer review. Please be aware of this when reviewing articles included in the Lit Reps.

Key Takeaways

- A randomized trial found comparable outcomes for 5-day and 10-day courses of remdesivir for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- Black patients are disproportionately represented among COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths (>70%) in Louisiana. Black race was associated with increased odds of hospitalization, even after controlling for age, comorbidities, and socioeconomic status.
- Screening of pediatric patients at Seattle Children's Hospital found a low prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity (1%); however, 8 out of 10 seropositive children were not suspected of having had COVID-19.
- Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Paris, France doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic. This increase may be due to a direct effect of COVID-19 infections, as well as an indirect effect of the lockdown and its impact on health-care services.

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

- The World Health Organization-recommended alcohol-based hand rub formulations do not meet the European standards for hygienic hand sanitizers or surgical hand preparation. However, modified formulas that use alcohol concentrations of 80% ethanol or 75% isopropanol in combination with a reduced glycerol concentration (0.5%) meet these requirements and may be useful alternatives to unavailable commercial hand hygiene products.
  

- [pre-print, not peer reviewed] A systematic review of automated and partially-automated contact tracing methods found no empirical evidence of effectiveness. However, several modelling studies suggest that epidemic control would require high population-level uptake of automated contact-tracing apps in combination with other control measures.
  
  Braithwaite et al. (May 28, 2020). Automated and Partially-Automated Contact Tracing a Rapid Systematic Review to Inform the Control of COVID-19. Pre-print downloaded May 28 from https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.27.20114447

Testing and Treatment

- A randomized trial among hospitalized COVID-19 patients who did not require mechanical ventilation found no differences between a 5-day course and a 10-day course of remdesivir. By day
14, clinical improvement was observed in over half of patients in both treatment arms. However, this trial lacked a placebo control and could not determine if this improvement that was attributable to remdesivir.


Clinical Characteristics and Health Care Setting

- Baker et al. report on a case in which 44 healthcare workers (HCW) were exposed to a single undiagnosed COVID-19 patient over a 13-day period. During this period, the patient stayed in a single room and HCWs did not use contact and droplet precautions. On the 13th day of hospitalization, the patient developed sudden acute respiratory failure and subsequently tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 after being transferred to the ICU. The authors found that 2 (5%) HCW contacts developed COVID-19, potentially attributable to this exposure.
  

- Black patients disproportionately accounted for COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in a Louisiana integrated-delivery health system: 77% of hospitalizations and 71% of deaths were patients who were black, despite black residents comprising only 31% of the total population. Black race was associated with increased odds of hospitalization, even after controlling for age, comorbidities, use of public insurance (e.g. Medicare or Medicaid), residence in a low-income area, and obesity.
  
  - Black race was not associated with higher in-hospital mortality compared to white race, after adjustment for differences in sociodemographic and clinical characteristics on admission.
  

- Among 78 SARS-CoV-2 positive patients who were exposed to the Hunan seafood market or had close contact with other patients with COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, 42% were asymptomatic and 58% were symptomatic. Those who were asymptomatic were younger and more likely to be women (67% v 31%), compared to symptomatic patients. Asymptomatic patients also had a shorter duration of viral shedding from nasopharynx swabs (median duration of 9 vs. 15 days).
  

- [pre-print, not peer reviewed] Dingens et al. serologically screened residual samples from 1,076 pediatric patients at Seattle Children's Hospital for evidence of past SARS-CoV-2 infection. Only 10 (1%) children were seropositive; however, most seropositive children (8/10) were not suspected of having had COVID-19.
  
Mental Health and Personal Impact

- Jacobson et al. examine whether stay-at-home orders produced changes in mental health search queries on Google during March 16-23, 2020. They found that mental health search queries (including search terms measuring anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive, negative thoughts, irritability, fatigue, anhedonia, concentration, insomnia, and suicidal ideation) increased rapidly prior to the issuance of stay-at-home orders, and that these changes dissipated following the announcement and enactment of these orders.
  

- Lee et al. developed and evaluated a Coronavirus Anxiety Scale (CAS) using an online survey of 398 US adults. The CAS was correlated with coronavirus diagnosis, history of anxiety, coronavirus fear, functional impairment, alcohol/drug coping, religious coping, hopelessness, suicidal ideation, as well as social attitudes (e.g., satisfaction with President Trump). These findings support the validity of this mental health screener for COVID-19 related research and practice.
  

- McIntyre and Lee predict the number of excess suicides in Canada resulting from the impact of COVID-19 on unemployment. They estimate that an incremental 1-percentage point increase in unemployment from 2020 to 2021 would be associated with a 1.0% increase in the suicide rate. Assuming a small increase in unemployment (1.2-1.6%), they predict a total of 418 excess suicides in 2020-2021. Assuming a large increase in unemployment (8.9-10.7%), they predict a total of 2,114 excess suicides in 2020-2021.
  

Modeling and Prediction

- [pre-print, not peer reviewed] Firth et al. simulated contract tracing and testing strategies for SARS-CoV-2 using a real-world social network generated from GPS data. They found that tracing 2nd degree contacts (e.g. contacts-of-contacts) was more effective than only tracing 1st degree contacts, but would result in almost one third of the local population being quarantined at a single point in time. Testing and releasing non-infectious individuals would reduce the number of quarantined individuals, but would require high testing capacity.
  

Public Health Policy and Practice

- Marijon et al. found that out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) in Paris, France doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic. Weekly OHCA incidence increased from 13.4 to 26.6 per million inhabitants in the control and pandemic time periods, respectively. They also observed a higher rate of OHCA at
home. The authors hypothesize that these results may be due to a direct effect of COVID-19 infections, as well as an indirect effect of the lockdown and its impact on health-care services.

https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30117-1

- Kudchadkar et. al evaluated a social media campaign that promoted the joint usage of #Ped ICU and #COVID19 on Twitter for posts relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic and pediatric critical care. During the time period monitored, 69% #Ped ICU tweets included COVID-19 content.
- The most popular tweets shared on Twitter were open-access resources, links for updated literature, narrative reviews, and educational videos relevant to clinical care. Tweets including #Ped ICU were shared 49,865 times across six continents between February and May, 2020, suggesting that social media hashtag campaigns may be effective for rapid information dissemination, collaboration, and for combating misinformation.

https://doi.org/10.1097/PCC.0000000000002474

Other Resources and Commentaries
- Conducting Clinical Research During the COVID-19 Pandemic – JAMA (May 28)
- Opening Hospitals to More Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic-Making It Safe and Making It Feel Safe – JAMA Internal Medicine (May 27)
- Potential Therapeutic Targeting of Coronavirus Spike Glycoprotein Priming – Molecules (May 22)
- Promoting Healthy Movement Behaviours among Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic – The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health (Apr 29)
- Use of Apps in the COVID-19 Response and the Loss of Privacy Protection – Nature Medicine (May 26)
- Excess mortality in men and women in Massachusetts during the COVID-19 Pandemic – The Lancet (May 27)
- Ratio, Rate, or Risk? – The Lancet Infectious Diseases (May 27)

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