

CLINICAL PROFILE, COVID POSITIVITY AND IMMEDIATE OUTCOME IN NEONATES BORN TO COVID POSITIVE MOTHERS - A HOSPITAL BASED OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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Background: There are serious concerns regarding the potential adverse effects of COVID-19 infection during pregnancy. There is limited data on the COVID-19 positivity and outcome in neonates born to COVID-19 positive mothers in the Indian context.

Objective: To study the clinical profile and immediate outcome in neonates born to COVID positive mothers and to assess the vertical transmission of COVID infection among them.

Methods: A descriptive observational study was carried out on a total of 212 neonates born to COVID-19 positive mothers admitted in Government Medical College, Ernakulam during 1st April 2020– January 15th 2021. A detailed history of both mother and baby and results of the COVID-19 RT-PCR done at 24hrs of age were collected. The neonate was followed up till discharge to study the immediate outcome.

Results: Among the 212 neonates, 46 (22%) were symptomatic and 166 (78%) were asymptomatic. Among the symptomatic neonates, Transient Tachypnea of Newborn had maximum incidence (6.6%) followed by Clinical Sepsis (5.6%). Of the total 212 neonates born to COVID positive mothers, only 5 were COVID positive (2.35%), of which, only one baby developed symptoms.

Conclusion: Vertical transmission of COVID infection can occur in neonates but it is less common than anticipated. If the neonates do become COVID infected, they are more likely to be asymptomatic. Symptomatic newborns generally recover in one or two weeks and the immediate outcome is favorable. Severe neonatal complications are not observed in pregnant women with COVID-19 infection. However they need to be under follow up for evaluating the long-term outcomes.