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A Review of Current Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management of COVID-19 Infection, What We Have Learnt So Far

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 that is caused by the organism known as SARS-COV-2. It causes severe acute respiratory syndrome in infected patients. It originated from Wuhan, China in December 2019. It soon spread across many countries including India, Europe and USA. Hence it was declared as a global pandemic by World health Organization (WHO) in March 2020. It escalated to such an extent that Intensive care units and wards in hospitals became overwhelmed forcing countries to enter national lockdowns. It posed a huge threat to life as well as livelihood causing collapse of not only the economy but also the health care system. A definitive vaccine is yet to be made publicly available even though several vaccine candidates having the potential to eradicate the pandemic are under clinical trials. Hence it becomes imperative to devise a strong diagnostic as well as treatment protocol in order to reduce hospital admission and hospital stay for admitted in-patients and tackle its everincreasing spread. Diagnosis of COVID-19 is still a dilemma due to lower sensitivity and specificity of the RT-PCR testing kits. Since the beginning of the pandemic a lot of research has been conducted on providing supportive and pharmacological therapy to patients suffering from COVID-19. This article reviews the current guidelines and treatment protocols followed locally in Mumbai, India. It also addresses the amount of knowledge gained so far in this battle against COVID-19 infection as mass production of a definitive vaccine is still far from reach.

Keywords: COVID-19, Diagnosis, Guidelines, Treatment protocols

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