

AOU Policlinico di Bari - West China Hospital of Sichuan University. Global experience of medical profession, battle, health, friendship against COVID -19

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Summary. *Background:* The global context we are experiencing, characterized by the pandemic spread of SARS-CoV2, imposes strict containment, isolation and physical distance measures, necessary to control and contain the risk of contagion. Despite social distances and isolation in this context of threat to Global Health, the sharing of experiences, professionalism, scientific research and Public Health strategies is fundamental. Never before has telemedicine played a decisive role in supporting the healthcare organization, The University Hospital Consortium Policlinico of Bari has launched an experimental partnership project with West China Hospital of Sichuan University through periodic and scheduled video conferences. *Materials and Methods:* The Company Strategic Management, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Bari, Medical Executives of the Health Department, of the U.O of Infectious Diseases, Anesthesia and Resuscitation, Pulmonology, Emergency, Hygiene, Occupational Medicine, Psychiatry and Doctors Resident operating in the COVID Area. are involved in the Experimental Project., all adequately trained and instructed on the operating protocol. *Results:* From the preliminary data of this study, it appears that the Bari Polyclinic has adopted the same therapeutic strategies started in China in the previous months, believing early diagnosis and treatment to be a strength in the battle against COVID-19. The project makes it possible to make the management of COVID-19 patients optimal, safe and better, using the experience acquired in the field by Chinese doctors who, first caught by this health emergency, have obtained positive results. (www.actabiomedica.it)

Key words: COVID-19, care quality, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for healthcare, Communication channel, Global Health

Background

In the complex health emergency situation that our country is facing, the application of Information Technology tools has a decisive role in supporting the health organization, creating a highly performing and technologically advanced system capable of reducing distances and alleviating suffering of the disease and the consequent necessary isolation. The global context we are experiencing, characterized by the pandemic

spread of SARS-CoV2, imposes strict containment, isolation and physical distance measures, necessary to control and contain the risk of contagion. Despite social distances and isolation in this context of threat to Global Health, the sharing of experiences, professionalism, scientific research and Public Health strategies is fundamental. Never before has telemedicine played a decisive role in supporting the healthcare organization, creating a highly performing and technologically advanced system capable of reducing distances and

aiming at global healthcare threatened by the ongoing pandemic.

The most noble art in professional ethics is to share one's knowledge, the techniques acquired, the research carried out and the successes achieved. Medicine has never been an exact science and never as now, against COVID-19, there is no secret code that can reveal the mystery. The whole world must work together against the common enemy to save humanity. Believing that the Teleconsultation can mark a decisive step in the management of the health emergency, the University Hospital Consortium Policlinico of Bari has launched an experimental partnership project with West China Hospital of Sichuan University through periodic and scheduled video conferences that allow you to:

- to manage COVID-19 cases from a diagnostic-therapeutic point of view in a more certain and safe way, in line with Chinese clinical evidence;
 - reduce the time of clinical-therapeutic decision making use of the consolidated and positive Chinese experience;
 - reduce the workload of the Medical Executives of the AOU Policlinico of Bari in taking care of the patient, with an optimization of resources and a more organized management of COVID-19 cases; - implement a traceability system of clinical advice, ensuring "safe" clinical protocols, customized in relation to the intensity of treatment required;
 - compare the health strategies adopted and the implementation of experimental therapeutic protocols.
- There are countless advantages for the company, for doctors and for patients.

The purpose of this experimental project is to open a communication channel with West China Hospital of Sichuan University to collect their information and build on their experiences in order to improve the quality of the assistance offered, to create a medical team at the Bari Polyclinic highly trained and super specialized in the management of COVID-19 patients, provide the School of Medicine of the University of Bari with a powerful sharing tool, also useful for the near future.

It is a system of sharing and continuous updating that also provides valuable indications to the health management of the AOU Policlinico of Bari.

Materials and Methods

The Strategic Management of the AOU Policlinico of Bari has entered into an agreement with West China Hospital of Sichuan University, with a first day of confrontation held on April 10, 2020.

The Company Strategic Management, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Bari, Medical Executives of the Health Department, of the U.O. are involved in the Experimental Project. of Infectious Diseases, Anesthesia and Resuscitation, Pulmonology, Emergency, Hygiene, Occupational Medicine, Psychiatry and Doctors Resident operating in the COVID Area, all adequately trained and instructed on the operating protocol.

Each doctor, by logging in with his credentials, will be able to access the scheduled conference call and intervene by making specific requests to the respective colleagues of the West China Hospital, experts in the management of COVID patients.

The doctors of the Polyclinic of Bari can, through the computerized system, discuss clinical cases with the expert doctors of the West China Hospital, consult together in real time videos with diagnostic images, CT and laboratory reports and together build personalized therapeutic strategies and all 'vanguard.

It is an opportunity of high professional and academic profile that the Company Strategic Management wanted to offer to the Company staff and in particular to the Apulian patients affected by COVID-19.

The IT management system also allows you to record the entire video conference with the related contents that are the subject of study by our professionals and subsequent scientific publications. The collected data will be processed by the Company Strategic Management to evaluate the effectiveness of this project in terms of

- evaluation of clinical outcomes, medical time of hospitalization and clinical severity of COVID-19 patients admitted to the Asclepios Block of the AOU Policlinico of Bari;
- incidence of COVID-19 cases among the health workers of the AOU Policlinico di Bari;
- training and professional updating of the medical staff of the Bari Polyclinic;
- improvement of the perceived and offered quality, company performance in the clinical - care process.

Results

From the preliminary data of this study, it appears that the Bari Polyclinic has adopted the same therapeutic strategies started in China in the previous months, believing early diagnosis and treatment to be a strength in the battle against COVID-19.

The Polyclinic of Bari is also the first facility in Southern Italy to have started the plasma therapy protocol for COVID-19 patients in line with the positive Chinese experience.

There are no significant differences between the preventive and organizational strategies adopted by the West China Hospital of Sichuan University and the Bari Polyclinic.

We look forward to processing the data relating to the clinical efficacy of the protocols implemented and then comparing the results with the Chinese ones.

From the first opportunity for comparison and investigation, it emerged that it would be desirable to implement advanced Information Technology tools applied to the healthcare world, E-Health and Telemedicine services that would also allow the creation of a Hospital-Territory integration for the shared management of COVID-19 patients.

Conclusions

The experimental project “AOU Policlinico di Bari - West China Hospital of Sichuan University.

Global experience of medical profession, battle, health, friendship against COVID -19 “ proposes an innovative clinical-organizational model which, through Information and Communications Technology (ICT), intends to create a synergy between two worlds apparently distant but so united in the battle against the common enemy.

The project makes it possible to make the management of COVID-19 patients optimal, safe and better, using the experience acquired in the field by Chinese doctors who, first caught by this health emergency, have obtained positive results. It is an experience of high-profile professional, academic and human synergy that does not end in a single meeting but persists and persists over time in order to consolidate a fruitful and cutting-edge collaboration.

For the first time, Southern Italy is in continuous connection with doctors from overseas.

Conflict of interest: Each author declares that he or she has no commercial associations (e.g. consultancies, stock ownership, equity interest, patent/licensing arrangement etc.) that might pose a conflict of interest in connection with the submitted article

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