

## Posters

### Scientific Presentation: Epid (Epidemiology)

#### 112 OUTCOMES AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF COVID-19 DISEASE IN THE FRAIL, ELDERLY POPULATION OF TAYSIDE

R. Shedden, A. McCulloch, S. Laidlaw, S. Love, S. McLuckie, W. Jones, J. Taylor, R. Pennington, C. Tipton

*Ninewells Hospital, Dundee*

**Introduction:** With advancing age, frailty, multi-morbidity and need for care, elderly patients are some of the most vulnerable to Covid-19 disease. In NHS Tayside, a dedicated Covid-19 Medicine for the Elderly (MFE) Team was formed to care for patients identified as frail and likely to benefit from comprehensive geriatric assessment.

**Methods:** All Covid-19 patients meeting frailty criteria<sup>1</sup>, cared for by the Covid-19 MFE Team were identified. Data on outcomes and clinical characteristics for all (140) patients

admitted during the first pandemic wave (March–July 2020) was collected using electronic patient records and analysed.

**Results:** Patients were predominantly male (58.6%). Ages ranged from 65–99 years, with 43.6% aged  $\geq 85$  years. 82.1% had one or more of cough, fever and anosmia on admission fitting Covid-19 case definition 2. Lymphopenia was present in 92.1%. Of note, 26.5% of patients had a normal or unchanged chest x-ray report, with only 10.2% showing bilateral peripheral infiltrates. 28-day mortality was 37.1% with Covid-19 Disease listed as primary cause of death in 90.4%.

**Conclusion(s):** Entering further “waves” of infection, it is vital that we understand the clinical presentation and course of Covid-19 disease in elderly patients. Our data highlights that any Covid-19 symptom, even in isolation, should raise suspicion of disease. Chest x-rays should not be used alone as a diagnostic tool. The presence of lymphopenia should raise suspicion of Covid-19 infection. In developing an understanding of how elderly patients with Covid-19 present, we can ensure early identification and initiation of appropriate infection control measures.

#### References:

1. Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Think Frailty. 2014. <http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/his/idoc.ashx?docid=8abd8530-48f3-4152-bbfb-d0918b870ec9&version=-1>
2. Scottish Government. Update to Coronavirus Symptoms 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/update-to-coronavirus-symptoms>