Background: Almost a year has passed since the start for Covid 19 pandemic, however with no human immunity and no vaccine for prevention early diagnosis remains the mainstay to contain the infection and prevent the spread of the virus. RT-PCR is said to be the most sensitive test currently. However, Truenat is also widely used being approved by ICMR, hence a comparative study of RT-PCR & Truenat was taken up in this study.

Methods: A total of 200 samples were taken from patients having signs and symptoms (clinically suspected) of COVID 19. Samples obtained via oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabs were analyzed on both RT-PCR and Truenat. Viral load in samples were evaluated using Ct value of targeted genes by both the techniques.

Results: Out of 200 samples, 184 showed similar results via RT-PCR and Truenat i.e., 61 positive and 123 negatives. 16 samples showed discordant results. Out of 16 samples, 5 were positive and 11 were negative by RT -PCR. However, by Truenat 11 were positive and 5 were negative. The Ct values of targeted genes range between 13-30 for E-gene and 16-32 for RdRp gene.

Conclusions: The detection of SARS COV-2 patients with mild form of disease (which were persistently negative by RT- PCR) was higher by Truenat. P value being 0.077 which is significant at 90% level of significance. Hence though identifi- cation of viral RNA by RT-PCR is the gold standard, its sensitivity is lower compared to Truenat. Hence, we can suggest that Truenat is a diagnostic method with higher sensitivity, closed system hence lower chances of contamination and at the same time providing faster results at low cost, easy to perform as a point of care test, portable and requiring lower expertise to operate compared to RT-PCR

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COMPARABILITY OF THE SENSITIVITY OF DIFFERENT REAL TIME PCR KITS USED IN THE DETECTION OF SARS COV -2

Akshatha Ravindra, Baijayantimala Mishra, Sutapa Rath, Monalisa Mohanty, Jai Ranjan, Vinay Kumar Hallur, Bijayini Behera, Srujana Mohanty, Ashoka Mahapatra. Department of microbiology, AIIMS, Bhubaneshwar

Background: COVID-19 pandemic is posing a major burden on society. Measures taken to reduce its spread critically de- pend on timely and accurate identification of virus-infected individuals by the most sensitive and specific method availa- ble, i.e. real-time reverse transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR). RT PCR can detect SARS-CoV-2 as early as day one of symptom onset. There are various RT PCR kits approved by FDA & ICMR, performance of which vary widely. Here, we assessed the performance of four PCR kits with the ICMR NIV Screening & Confirmatory assay used for diagnosis of COVID -19 in Od- isha.

Methods: A total of 20 samples, which included five positives, one inconclusive & 14 negative samples by NIV assay were evaluated in the four commercially available RT-PCR kits ie; Q-line Molecular (Q-line), Allplex™ 2019-nCoV Assay (Allplex), Liferiver Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Multiplex RT PCR (Liferiver), LabGun™ COVID-19 kit (LabGun).

Results: The sensitivity of the four PCR kits varied with the high cycle threshold (Ct) value (30-35 by NIV) & the lower Ct value (<30 by NIV). Among the negative results of NIV (n=14), LabGun, Allplex kits showed 100% concordance, while Q - line & Life river were shown to have 92.8% & 50% concordance respectively. In the inconclusive results (n=1), only All- plex Assay documented a concordance of 100% with the NIV assay, while the Q -line (n=6) & Life river (n=7) showed higher number of inconclusive results. The different kits showed lesser variations with positive results (n=5), with Life river, Allplex & LabGun showing 100% concordance for positive results with NIV assay. However, Q -line was able to de- tect only 1 positive out of all positives.

Conclusions: PCR kits vary in sensitivity & it is imperial to evaluate the various kits in order to deliver accurate results at optimum time in order to detect the cases to initiate adequate treatment & control measures

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INVENTION IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR: A UNIQUE DATA ACCUMULATION AND ANALYSIS PLATFORM FOR COVID REPORTING

Abhishek Yadav, Vikas Manchanda, Sanchita Tuteja, Devyani Puri, Sonal Saxena. Maulana Azad Medical College

Background: A calamity in Wuhan, China would reach our doorstep was never thought and we were never prepared for it. Healthcare sector in India was stretched to its limits and manual processes in place were prone to errors and time consuming. ICMR has taken initiative for data management and develop portal for tracking testing and positive cases. However, mechanisms are required to reduce double data entries from already resource constrain laboratories. There was need for a software for automated report dispatch and real time analysis based on artificial intelligence for timely dissemination of reports to patients and health authorities for prompt containment measures.

Methods: Once the result for a specimen was concluded, lab facilities would enter test details into the ICMR's portal. DAAP - Data Accumulation and Analysis Platform was designed to timely disseminate institution specific reports in en- crypted manner. Once the data is entered into the ICMR Portal, an excel is exported from the same which is uploaded to the DAAP. Every patient's ingested data is verified by laboratory. Validated reports are published which can only be viewed by the respective collection centres from where a particular specimen was collected. The analytic dashboard provides cumulative real time data.

Results: Prior to DAAP, data entry engaged 20 manhours per day to disseminate reports, which was reduced to less than two manhours due to DAAP. DAAP has not only reduced the challenges posed by the double data entry, confidentiality and security but also assisted in providing real time insights into the trends and laboratory quality systems.

Conclusions: DAAP empowers the clinicians and the authorities to view data statistics real time. Data insights such as hospitalization rate, positivity rate, symptoms distribution and distribution based on various parameters like age group, gender, ward, district etc can be sought real time by DAAP.

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INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY ON COVID POSITIVITY IN ODISHA

Poesy Payal, Baijayantimala Mishra, P. Prashanth, Bijayini Behera, Swarnatrisha Saha, Punyatoya Kar, Sutapa Rath, Mo- nalisa Mohanty. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar

Background: The spread of COVID 19 has not been uniform across various states of India, which encounters significant spatio-temporal variations in the climatic conditions. As, seasonal cycle plays a dynamic role in spread of respiratory In- fections, we aimed to ascertain the Influence of temperature, humidity and seasonal variability on COVID positivity in a tertiary care testing hospital of Odisha

Methods: Samples collected from patients attending AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and from other districts for detection of Covid-19 were tested at our lab by RTPCR. A retrospective month wise comparative analysis of the Covid -19 positivity rate of samples tested during the months of March to November 2020 was done with temperature and humidity

Results: Out of 56,874 samples tested, 9,484(16.6%) were positive by real time reverse transcriptase PCR. As Odisha is a costal state it has high humidity and temperature as compared to rest of India. The mean humidity along with the mean temperature were com- pared to COVID positivity

SEASONS	MONTHS	AVG.LOW TEMP	AVG.HIGH TEMP	AVG. HUMIDITY	SAMPLE TESTED(AIIMS)/ Total Positives		%
SUMMER	MARCH	22.2∘C	34.9∘C	63%	74	0	0
	APRIL	25∘C	36.9∘C	66%	1913	3	0.15
	MAY	26.2∘C	37∘C	66%	6977	172	2.4
MONSOON	JUNE	26.1∘C	35.3∘C	74%	7878	338	4.3
	JULY	25.2∘C	32.3∘C	83%	5962	557	9.34
	AUGUST	25.1∘C	31.6∘C	85%	10870	2592	23.8
	SEPTEMBER	24.8∘C	32.1∘C	83%	11833	4500	38
AUTUMN	OCTOBER	23∘C	32.2∘C	76%	7423	1092	14.7
	NOVEMBER (15th)	19.4∘C	30.4∘C	66%	3944	230	5.8

*Temperature and Humidity data- https://mausam.imd.gov.in/

*Sample tested and positive case data-JHU CSSE COVID-19 data

Conclusions: In our study period over 9 months, Mon- soon months showed surge in positive cases peaking in August and September, and autumn months showed a downward trend.

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COVID-19 IN DIABETES MELLITUS: A CASE SERIES IN TERTIARY CARE CENTRE

C. Ranjani, Ananthi, Sopia Abigail. ACS Medical College & Hospital, Chennai

Background: A novel RNA beta coronavirus causing covid-19 disease has been declared pandemic disease by WHO. The report of blood sugars in patients with diabetes & further risk that this disease can determine in progression of covid -19.
Methods: A retrospective study was done over a period of 2 months from Oct 2020 – Nov 2020.Out of 184 patients who was tested for covid-19 in ACS Medical College & hospital Chennai, 32 were positive. Out of those 32 positive cases 7 were having high Random blood sugar most of them aged >50yrs & the severity was correlated with Chest CT.
Results: The study shows that out of 7 patients with higher RBS (>200mg/dl), 5 patients had their Chest CT severity score moderate to severe (>9/25)

Age (yrs)	RBS (mg/dl)	Chest CT severity Score (out of 25)
56	301	22
60	289	16
84	207	10
58	241	9
40	305	15
44	273	5
45	214	2

Conclusions: The interaction between covid-19 & dia- betes could be bi-direc- tional, with SARS-Cov 2 poten- tially worsening pre-existing diabetes. A further study needs to be done to know the severity/outcome of covid-19 in diabetes

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CLINICO-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF COVID-19 PATIENTS IN ODISHA – A RETROSPECTIVE SINGLE CENTRE STUDY

Baijayantimala Mishra, Akshatha Ravindra, Poesy Payal, Sutapa Rath, Jai Ranjan, Bijayini Behera, Vinay Kumar Hallur, Srujana Mohanty, Ashoka Mahapatra. Department of microbiology, AIIMS, Bhubaneshwar

Background: From the day of the detection of 1st case in India on 30th January 2020, COVID -19, has infected 8.96 mil- lion people in India, from around 128 million samples tested. The clinico -epidemiological characteristics of COVID 19 have been varied in different countries. The present study was undertaken to understand the clinico -epidemiological characteristics of COVID-19 in Odisha.
Methods: This was a retrospective, single centre study. The epidemiological, demographic & clinical parameters were analysed of the samples tested in AIIMS Bhubaneswar between March 2020 to November 2020.
Results:A total of 56,547 samples were tested for SARS CoV-2 by RT-PCR from March 24th 2020 till 15th November 2020. Of the total samples tested, 9754 were tested positive, with an average positivity rate of 17.25%. The mean age of the patients 38.21 years, with male to female ratio of 3:1. Among the various age groups, the majority affected were the middle ages (31-50 years) constituting around 38.77% (n = 3782) of the total cases followed by 15 -30 years (31.48%, n=3071) &> 50 years (23.64% n = 2305) & was least in children (<14years) with 6.11% (n = 596). Among the COVID -19 positives, 64.5% (n=6295) were asymptomatic & only 35.5% (n=3459) were symptomatic. Of the symptomatic patients, 81.1% (n=2805) presented with mild, 17.7 %(n=612) cases moderate, and only around 1.12% (n=39) had severe COVID - 19 disease. Of the severe cases, majority belong to the age group 31-50 (38.46%, n = 17), followed by 15-30 (15.3%, n=11). The monthly trend showed an increasing trend up to September, with maximum positivity rate of 38%, followed by a decline during October (14.7%) & November (5.8%)
Conclusions: In this study of 9754 patients with confirmed COVID-19 in Odisha, the characteristic findings included younger age, male predominance, high proportion of asymptomatic patients & a declining trend in the positivity rate over the months

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COVID-19 SEROPOSITIVITY AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS OF TERTIARY CARE CENTER AT THE PEAK OF PANDEMIC OF UTTAR PRADESH.

Suruchi Shukla, Anuragini, Amita Jain. King Georges Medical University, Lucknow

Background: Across the world, health care workers (HCWs') are at a higher risk of infection by corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) due to the nature of their work. HCWs' include those who are working with patients or their sample as well as those who do not work with patients like office workers. Due to asymptomatic and oligo symptomatic infections, testing only symptomatic individuals can lead to a significant underestimation of the SARS -CoV-2 seroprevalence. This study was to determine presence of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies (IgG) in serum samples of HCWs' engaged in manage- ment of COVID-19 patients. The prevalence of antibody positivity will make an indicator of exposure in HCWs'.
Methods: 500 HCWs' of the King George's Medical University India were recruited in this prospective observational study. All HCWs, including consultant, resident, nursing staff, lab worker, ward boy, guard and others were enrolled in this study. Participants were grouped depending on the COVID-19 test result. (i) HCWs' with COVID 19 positive history (ii) HCWs' with COVID 19 negative history. The period of sampling was first week of September 2020 which co-incides with high positivity of the city.