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Impact of COVID-19 related lockdown measures on stroke care quality in Careggi University Hospital, Florence

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Background and aims

The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions has been disruptive for healthcare systems, especially for time-sensitive emergencies. During the viral outbreak, a reduction of stroke patients' volume in hospitals in Italy and worldwide has been extensively reported, as well as a severe delay in all integrated steps of hyperacute treatments and management.

Methods

This was a single-centre, observational cohort study performed in Careggi University Hospital, a Tertiary Stroke Center with endovascular facilities of the integrated "Hub and Spoke" stroke organisation in Area Vasta Centro of Tuscany. We retrospectively analysed system processes timings, treatment and clinical variables between early pandemic phase (from 1st of March to 30th of April 2020) and pre-pandemic (the same period of 2019), to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on performance metrics and overall stroke care efficiency at our center.

Results

In 2020 the number of acute stroke patients admitted to our Hospital and those receiving tPA showed a mild decline (114vs94 stroke patients and 22%vs20% receiving rtPA), while the proportion receiving EVT raised (from 23% to 31%, p = 0.190). A slight delay in patients' shipment and treatment administration was generally detected in 2020 (an increase of 45 min p = 0.484 in symptom 1st Hospital door time. 19 min p = 0.192onset to in door to needle and 18 min p = 0.220 in door to groin puncture). but some intrahospital parameters improved regarding during pandemic: mean door to neurological evaluation and to CT Scan timings were significantly lower in 2020 (12minvs0 min, p = 0.005and 93vs58, p = 0.01, respectively).

Conclusions

Overall quality of care performance at our comprehensive stroke center was not affected during lockdown period.

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Clinical, neurophysiological and neuroradiological characteristics of 30 cases of SARS-COV-2-associated encephalitis in Lombardia

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Background and aims

The number of cases of encephalitis in COVID-19 pandemic is increasing. We describe characteristics and outcome of encephalitis in COVID-19 (COV-ENC) patients in one of the most affected regions by COVID-19 of the world, Lombardia, during the first pandemic wave.

Methods

A multi-center observational study on neurological complications in COVID-19 patients was conducted by the Italian society of Hospital Neuroscience (SNO). Adult patients admitted to 20 Neurological Departments in Lombardia between February-April 2020 with COV-ENC have been included.

Results

30 COV-ENC patients had a mean age of 66.5 years and male frequency of 56.6%. Altered consciousness was characterized by