

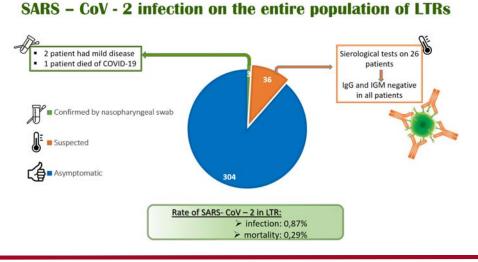
TITLE: Impact of COVID-19 on the entire population of liver transplant recipients of an Italian Centre based in a high risk area

Principal investigator: Prof. Marco Vivarelli, mail: <u>vivarelli63@libero.it</u> tel. +39 071 5965099

UNIVPM Research Group: HPB and Transplantation Surgery; Clinic of Gastroenterology; Clinic of Tropical Infective Diseases, Parassitology, Chronic Hepatitis; Unit of Digestive Diseases, Digestive Endoscopy and Chronic Bowel Diseases; Unit of Emerging Infectious Disease and immunosuppressed patients; Obesity Centre; Intensive Care Unit of Transplantation and Major Surgery; Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology.

Research activity description: Liver transplant recipients (LTR) might be at high risk of COVID 19 due to pharmacological immunosuppression. Some deaths of LTRs due to COVID 19 have been reported however, there is

no figure on the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in this population. The aim of the present study was to try and quantify the impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on the entire population of LTRs of a single centre based in a high-incidence area.





RESEARCH AREA:

VIRUS

Result: Among 343 patients whose clinical status was updated, 3 had SARS-CoV-2 infection confirmed by nasopharyngeal swab: 2 experienced mild disease while one died of COVID-19. Another 36 patients reported symptoms, that were no longer present, potentially attributable to COVID 19 but not confirmed with nasopharyngeal swab. On 26 of these 36 (72.2%) "suspected cases", we performed serological tests to detect anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and no positivity for IgM and/or IgG was detected. Rate of SARS-CoV-2 infection and mortality in the LTRs were 0.87% and 0.29% respectively versus 0.42% and 0.06% of the general population in Marche region.

Conclusion: the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 in LTRs was similar to that of the general population