The COVID-19 Connection

Did you know? COVID-19 and other viral infections like the flu can cause sepsis or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)—sometimes called COVID pneumonia. In most cases, patients who die as a result of COVID-19 actually die from these severe complications.

ARDS & COVID-19

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is the result of fluid collecting in the lung’s air sacs. Patients with ARDS frequently experience severe shortness of breath and require the assistance of a ventilator.

Sepsis & COVID-19

Sepsis is the body’s overwhelming response to an infection that may lead to multi-organ dysfunction and, sometimes, death. Though COVID-19 is often associated with respiratory failure, it can also lead to the damage of other organ systems including the heart, kidneys, liver, and brain.

There is no cure for COVID-19—or sepsis. Both rely on supportive care such as oxygen or IV fluids.

The Lancet reports that 17% of COVID-positive patients in China developed ARDS.1

In Lombardy, Italy, of the 1300 COVID-positive patients admitted to the ICU, 88% required mechanical ventilation.2

Respiratory Failure was the most common complication in COVID-19 patients who died in Wuhan, China.3

A case series of 191 COVID-positive patients (Wuhan, China)

59% had sepsis

31% had ARDS

BMJ: 6

A case series of COVID-positive patients who died (Wuhan, China)

Among 113 patients with fatal COVID-19 infections...

...all had sepsis or ARDS during their hospitalization.

References:

4. The Sepsis Alliance: Sepsis.org