

**IMPACTO DE LA FRAGILIDAD Y LA CARGA VIRAL EN LA
LESION RENAL AGUDA EN LOS PACIENTES
AFECTADOS POR COVID-19**

**IMPACT OF FRAILTY AND VIRAL LOAD ON ACUTE
KIDNEY INJURY EVOLUTION IN PATIENTS AFFECTED BY
COVID- 19**

Nombre: Lil Geraldine Avendaño Echávez
Cedula: 37440264
Correo: lil.avendano@unisimonbolivar.edu.co

Trabajo de Investigación del Programa
NEFROLOGIA

Tutor:
Dr. Gustavo Aroca Martinez
Dr. Carlos G. Musso

RESUMEN

Introducción: El COVID-19 puede afectar muchos otros órganos además del sistema respiratorio, particularmente en el riñón, el corazón, el tracto digestivo, la sangre y el sistema nervioso. En cuanto a las alteraciones renales, los informes preliminares indicaron una incidencia del 3% al 9% y cada vez hay más pruebas de que la lesión renal aguda (IRA) es frecuente en la infección por SARS-CoV-2, con una incidencia informada de 8-17%, llegando al 35% en pacientes críticos, y que esta condición se considera un factor de mal pronóstico. En este sentido, el desarrollo de IRA en el contexto de la COVID-19 tiene una mortalidad asociada del 91,7%.

Objetivos: Este artículo describe las principales características de los pacientes con COVID-19 que padecen insuficiencia renal aguda (IRA) atendidos en una clínica de alta complejidad en Barranquilla (Colombia), incluyendo sus características particulares, y evalúa el impacto de la carga viral y la fragilidad previa del paciente sobre la evolución clínica de la IRA.

Materiales y Métodos: Los pacientes incluidos en este estudio (n: 48) fueron aquellos con diagnóstico positivo de COVID-19 confirmado por detección PCR de SARS-CoV-2, que habían desarrollado DRA durante su estancia hospitalaria. Se registraron los parámetros séricos y de orina, así como la carga viral del paciente y la escala de fragilidad clínica (CFS). Se exploró un análisis estadístico de los parámetros registrados, como comparaciones y correlaciones entre las variables de interés.

Resultados: De una población de 762 pacientes ingresados en la Clínica de la Costa (Barranquilla, Colombia) con síntomas compatibles con COVID-19, 117 pacientes dieron positivo a SARS-CoV-2 confirmado por PCR, 48 desarrollaron FRA (41% de prevalencia), siendo el la mayoría de ellos clasificados como AKIN 3.

El IRA se documentó $4 \pm 3,4$ días después del ingreso, y la mayoría de estos pacientes se encontraban en la unidad de cuidados intensivos (75%). Con respecto al subgrupo que desarrolló DRA, la edad media fue de 61 ± 15 años, con un claro predominio del sexo masculino (79%), y valores medios de creatininemia y uremia de $3,35 \pm 1,74$ mg/dL y $106,91 \pm 26,9$ mg/dL al diagnóstico, respectivamente con un requerimiento de terapia de reemplazo renal del 29%, y una mortalidad asociada del 73%. La mortalidad de los pacientes con LRA mostró una correlación positiva significativa (33%) con la puntuación de CFS de los pacientes, pero no con su carga viral.

Las anomalías urinarias documentadas en asociación con AKI fueron, en orden decreciente, proteinuria (35%), hematuria (31%) y leucocituria (4%). En cuanto a los signos y síntomas secundarios a la COVID-19, en el subgrupo de DRA se destacaron: fiebre (100%), disnea (85%), astenia marcada (48%) y mialgia (40%). Entre los marcadores inflamatorios bioquímicos y de compromiso sistémico (directo e indirecto) que más cambiaron (aumentaron) se destacaron: proteína C reactiva, ferritina y dímero D. En relación a los antecedentes de los pacientes que desarrollaron LRA, el 69% eran robustos (SFC: 1-3), el 21% eran frágiles (SFC: 4-5) y el 10% eran muy frágiles (SFC: 6-7). En cuanto al impacto de la condición de fragilidad previa al desarrollo de LRA secundaria a COVID-19, se observaron recuentos de glóbulos blancos ($p = 0,007$), niveles de LDH sérica ($p = 0,003$) y mortalidad ($p = 0,006$) significativamente más altos documentado entre los pacientes frágiles en comparación con los de los robustos. La mortalidad aumentó un 33% con cada aumento en el grado de fragilidad del paciente (0,33, $p = 0,02$).

Conclusiones: En este estudio, el IRA secundario a COVID-19 (COVAN) mostró una prevalencia del 41% en una población hospitalizada con diagnóstico positivo de SARS-CoV2 por PCR. La mayoría de los casos fueron AKIN 3, con un requerimiento de reemplazo renal del 29% y una mortalidad del 73%. La fragilidad clínica de los pacientes se correlacionó significativamente con la mortalidad por COVAN pero no con la carga viral.

Palabras clave: COVID 19, lesión renal aguda y fragilidad.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: COVID-19 can affect many other organs in addition to the respiratory system, particularly in the kidney, heart, digestive tract, blood, and nervous system. As for the kidney alterations, preliminary reports indicated an incidence of 3%–9% and there is growing evidence that acute kidney injury (AKI) is prevalent in SARS-CoV-2 infection, with a reported incidence of 8%–17%, reaching 35% in critical patients, and that this condition is considered a poor prognostic factor. In this sense, the development of AKI in the context of COVID-19 has an associated mortality of 91.7%.

Objective: This paper describes the main characteristics of COVID-19 patients suffering from acute kidney injury (AKI) assisted at a high complexity clinic in Barranquilla (Colombia), including their particular features, and evaluates the impact of viral load and prior patient frailty on the clinical evolution of AKI.

Materials and Methods: The patients included in this study (n: 48) were those with a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 confirmed by PCR detection of SARS-CoV-2, who had developed AKI during their hospital stay. Serum and urine parameters, as well as patients' viral load and clinical frailty scale (CFS) were recorded. A statistical analysis of the recorded parameters, such as comparisons, and correlations between variables of interest, were explored.

Results: From a population of 762 patients admitted to Clínica de la Costa (Barranquilla, Colombia) with COVID-19-compatible symptoms, 117 patients tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 confirmed by PCR, 48 developed AKI (41% prevalence), being the majority of them classified as AKIN 3.

AKI was documented 4 ± 3.4 days after admission, and most of these patients were in the intensive care unit (75%). With respect to the subgroup that developed AKI, the mean age was 61 ± 15 years, with a clear predominance of males (79%), and average creatinemia and uremia values of 3.35 ± 1.74 mg/dL and 106.91 ± 26.9 mg/dL at diagnosis, respectively with a renal replacement therapy requirement of 29%, and an associated mortality of 73%. AKI patients' mortality showed a significant positive correlation (33%) with patients' CFS score but not with their viral load.

Documented urinary abnormalities in association with AKI were, in decreasing order, proteinuria (35%), hematuria (31%), and leukocyturia (4%). Regarding signs and symptoms secondary to COVID-19, the following stood out in the AKI subgroup: fever (100%), dyspnea (85%), marked asthenia (48%), and myalgia (40%). Among the inflammatory biochemical and systemic compromise markers (direct and indirect) which changed (increased) the most, the following stood out: C-reactive protein, ferritin, and D-dimer. In relation to the background of the patients who developed AKI, 69% were robust (CFS: 1–3), 21% were frail (CFS: 4–5), and 10% were very

frail (CFS: 6–7). In terms of the impact of the frailty condition prior to the development of AKI secondary to COVID-19, significantly higher white blood cell counts ($p=0.007$), serum LDH levels ($p=0.003$), and mortality ($p=0.006$) were documented among frail patients when compared with those in robust ones. Mortality increased by 33% with each rise in the patient's degree of frailty (0.33, $p=0.02$).

Conclusions: In this study, AKI secondary to COVID-19 (COVAN) showed a prevalence of 41% in a hospitalized population with a positive diagnosis of SARS-CoV2 by PCR. Most cases were AKIN 3, with a renal replacement requirement of 29%, and a mortality of 73%. The clinical frailty of patients was significantly correlated with COVAN mortality but not with the viral load.

KeyWords: COVID-19, acute kidney injury, frailty

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