

Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

02 October- 08 October 2020

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 02 to 08 October 2020. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of N studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 4 studies on Epidemiology; 1 studies on Transmission; 0 studies on Drugs; 2 studies on Vaccines, 1 studies on Equipment and Devices; 0 studies on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 1 studies on Traditional Medicine; and 0 studies on Preventive & Promotive Health.

The following report notes that 0 studies have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.



Sections

Epidemiology

Transmission

Drugs

Vaccines

Equipment & Devices

Medical & Surgical Procedures

Traditional Medicine

Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Epidemiology

Local COVID-19 Tracker: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker>Local COVID-19 Case Tracker: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid-19/case-tracker>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
05 Oct 2021	WHO Global	Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 5 October 2021	WHO Global (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 3.1 million new cases and just over 54 000 new deaths were reported during the week of 27 September to 3 October 2021. Cases this week decreased by 9% as compared to the previous week, while deaths remained similar. All regions reported a decline in the number of new cases this week apart from the European Region which remained like the week before. The largest decrease in new weekly cases was reported from the African Region (43%), followed by the Eastern Mediterranean Region (21%), the South-East Asia Region (19%), the Region of the Americas (12%) and the Western Pacific (12%). The cumulative number of confirmed cases reported globally is now over 234 million and the cumulative number of deaths is just under 4.8 million.
03 Oct 2021	Kyriakopoulus et al.	Tocilizumab administration for the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This systematic review and meta-analysis aimed to evaluate the efficacy of tocilizumab in the management of hospitalized COVID-19 patients. In both RCTs and observational studies, the use of tocilizumab was associated with a reduction in mortality; 11% in RCTs (risk ratio [RR] 0.89, 95% CI 0.82 to 0.96) and 31% in observational studies (RR 0.69, 95% CI 0.58 to 0.83). The need for IMV was reduced by 19% in RCTs (RR 0.81, 95% CI 0.71 to 0.93), while no significant reduction was observed in observational studies. Tocilizumab improved mortality both in ICU and non-ICU patients. Tocilizumab was associated with lower mortality and other clinically relevant outcomes in hospitalized patients with moderate-to-critical COVID-19.

Evidence on Epidemiology (cont.)

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
07 Oct 2021	Hou et al.	Smoking Is Independently Associated With an Increased Risk for COVID-19 Mortality: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis Based on Adjusted Effect Estimates	Society for research on Nicotine and Tobacco: Carlton Vic. Respiratory Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This systematic review utilized a quantitative meta-analysis on the basis of adjusted effect estimates to explore the association between smoking and mortality of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patients. • The results indicated that smoking was significantly associated with an increased risk for death in patients with COVID-19 (pooled relative risk = 1.19, 95% CI = 1.12-1.27). • Smoking was independently associated with an increased risk for mortality in COVID-19 patients.

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
06 Oct 2021	Matta et al.	COVID-19 transmission in surgical smoke during laparoscopy and open surgery: a systematic review	Minimally Invasive Therapy & Allied Technologies(MIT AT) Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This systematic review was performed to evaluate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in surgical smoke and aerosols during laparoscopy and open surgery. • No case of SARS-CoV-2 transmission to operating room personnel during open or minimally invasive surgery was identified at the time the review was conducted. • There is no significant difference was observed between smoke and aerosols generated from open surgery and those generated from minimally invasive surgery. • Given the potential risk of viral transmission, caution should be exercised when performing surgery to ensure the safety of the operating room personnel. When clinically indicated and when protective measures can be implemented, minimally invasive surgery should be performed instead of open surgery to ensure optimal patient outcomes.

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Vaccines

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
08 Oct 2020	Zhu et al.	Is there a difference in the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccine in males and females? - A systematic review and meta-analysis	Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This systematic review is conducted to compare gender differences in the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination. • COVID-19 vaccine was significantly effective in both males and females. Slightly more SARS-CoV-2 infections were recorded in females than in males, but the difference was not significant (RR 1.064 [0.888-1.274]; p = .502, I² = 5.7%; p = .367, 643,127 participants). • Despite significant biological and behavioral differences between males and females, there is no significant gender differences in the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines, especially in younger populations.
05 Oct 2021	Palaiodimou et al.	Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis and Thrombotic Events After Vector-Based COVID-19 Vaccines: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	2021 American Academy of Neurology Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are accumulating evidence supporting an association between the "thrombosis and thrombocytopenia syndrome" (TTS) and adenovirus vector-based vaccines against SARS-CoV-2. This systematic review aimed to systematically evaluate the proportion of CVST among TTS cases and assess its characteristics and outcomes. • Thrombotic complications developed within 2 weeks of exposure to vector-based SARS-CoV-2 vaccines (mean interval:10 days; 95%CI:8-12) and affected predominantly women (69%, 95%CI:60-77%), under the age of 45, even in the absence of pro-thrombotic risk factors.

Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
05 Oct 2021	Sanfilippo et al.	Tracheal intubation while wearing personal protective equipment in simulation studies: a systematic review and meta-analysis with trial-sequential analysis	Brazilian Journal of Anesthesiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This systematic review and meta-analysis of simulation studied to the influence of wearing PPE as compared to standard uniform regarding time-to-intubation (TTI) and success rate. Subgroup analyses were conducted according to device used and operator's experience. • The TTI was prolonged when wearing PPE (eight studies): Standard Mean Difference (SMD) -0.54, 95% Confidence Interval [-0.75, -0.34], $p < 0.0001$. • The success rate of tracheal intubation was not influenced by PPE: Risk Ratio (RR) 1.02 [1.00, 1.04]; $p = 0.12$. • Under simulated conditions, wearing PPE delays the TTI as compared to dressing standard uniform, with no influence on the success rate. However, certainty of evidence is very low.

Evidence on Medical & Surgical Procedures

Link to Living CPG: <http://www.linktolivingcpghere.com>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
08 Oct 2021	Wu et al.	Traditional Chinese medicine as an adjunctive therapy for mild and common COVID-19: A systematic review and network meta-analysis	Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This systematic study aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) assisted in conventional treatment in the treatment of mild and common COVID-19. ● Compared with the control group, TCM can improve the main index clinical effective rate (odds ratio (OR) = 2.64, 95% Confidence interval (CI) [1.94,3.59], P < .00001). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Toujie Quwen (OR = 4.9, 95%CI [1.9,14.0]) ○ Shufeng Jiedu (OR = 2.9, 95%CI [1.5,5.7]) ○ Lianhua Qingwen (OR = 2.4, 95%CI [1.6,3.6]) ● It can improve the main clinical symptoms (fever, cough, fatigue, and the regression time of the 3 symptoms), severe conversion rate, and computed tomography improvement rate. ● In terms of safety of a single TCM, Shufeng Jiedu (OR = -0.86, 95%CI [-1.89,0.09]) and Lianhua Qingwen (OR = -0.49, 95%CI [-0.94, -0.05]) were lower than those of conventional treatment. ● TCM as an adjuvant therapy combined with conventional treatment has good curative effect on mild and common type of COVID-19 patients. In terms of clinical efficacy and safety, Shufeng Jiedu and Lianhua Qingwen have obvious advantages, which are worthy of clinical promotion.

Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Screening

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
06 Oct 2021	WHO Global	Antigen-detect on in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection	WHO (Interim guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum performance requirements for Ag-RDTs (\geq 80% sensitivity and \geq 97% specificity) compared to a nucleic acid amplification test in suspected COVID-19 cases • The number of tests examined in published reports is still limited relative to the hundreds of test brands available on the market. • Transmissibility of the virus depends on the amount of viable virus being shed and expelled by a person, the type of contact they have with others, the setting and what infection prevention and control (IPC) measures are in place. SARS-CoV-2 infections can be symptomatic or asymptomatic and both symptomatic and asymptomatic infected persons can transmit SARSCoV-2.

Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Personal Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
07 Oct 2021	UK Health Security Agency	COVID-19 vaccine surveillance report Week 40	UK HSA Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented are data on COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations and deaths by vaccination status. Based on antibody testing of blood donors, 98.0% of the adult population now have antibodies to COVID-19 from either infection or vaccination compared to 19.0% that have antibodies from infection alone. Over 96% of adults aged 17 or older have antibodies from either infection or vaccination. The rate of COVID-19 cases, hospitalisation, and deaths in fully vaccinated and unvaccinated groups was calculated using vaccine coverage data for each age group extracted from the National Immunisation Management Service It is expected that a large proportion of cases, hospitalisations and deaths would occur in vaccinated individuals, simply because a larger proportion of the population are vaccinated than unvaccinated and no vaccine is 100% effective.