Neurologic manifestations of COVID-19

Manifestaciones neurológicas por COVID-19

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The COVID-19 pandemic, which started in China, has spread rapidly to affect the entire world in a matter of months. Main manifestations of the disease include a febrile syndrome accompanied by respiratory symptoms; however, cases of systemic involvement are increasingly being reported, including cardiac and central nervous system compromise. In the series by Ling M. et al., 214 patients with COVID-19 were studied; 78 (36.4 %) had neurologic manifestations, which were classified into four main groups: acute cerebrovascular disease, impaired consciousness, peripheral nervous system involvement and muscular manifestations.¹ Another report published by Li et al. describes that, out of 221 patients with COVID-19, 13 developed acute cerebrovascular disease with cerebral infarction, venous thrombosis and intracerebral hemorrhage.²

Acute respiratory distress syndrome is the main cause of death in COVID-19 patients, which is explained by an intense pulmonary inflammatory reaction.³ There is evidence that the virus might be able to invade the central nervous system through the brain stem and affect the regulation of respiratory centers, thus contributing to refractory respiratory failure, as well as to the development of some manifestations such as hyposmia and dysgeusia.⁴

In Mexico, COVID-19 cases are increasingly being identified, and thus we must bear in mind infectious and

non-infectious complications that affect the nervous system such as encephalitis, seizures, Guillain-Barré syndrome, disseminated encephalomyelitis and hemorrhagic leukoencephalitis, which are disorders that can occur during or after viral infections. A neurological symptom could be the first manifestation of COVID-19.

Conflict of interests

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