

Keywords: COVID-19, otitis media with effusion, acute otitis media, otitis media with effusion, acute otitis media

Introduction

COVID-19 (AA -) is a highly contagious respiratory virus that has caused a global pandemic (8,2020.3 A). The virus is primarily transmitted through respiratory droplets and can cause a wide range of symptoms, from mild illness to severe respiratory distress. In children, COVID-19 can present with various clinical manifestations, including fever, cough, and sore throat. Additionally, there is growing concern about the potential for COVID-19 to exacerbate or cause complications in children with pre-existing conditions, such as otitis media with effusion (OME) and acute otitis media (AOM). This study aims to explore the relationship between COVID-19 and OME/AOM in children, focusing on the clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of these conditions in the context of the pandemic.

The study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital in Sunnyvale, California, from March 2020 to June 2020. A total of 100 children with OME/AOM were enrolled in the study. The children were divided into two groups: Group A (n=50) and Group B (n=50). Group A consisted of children with OME/AOM who were also positive for COVID-19, while Group B consisted of children with OME/AOM who were negative for COVID-19. The children in Group A were treated with a combination of antibiotics and antiviral therapy, while the children in Group B were treated with antibiotics alone. The clinical course and outcomes of the children in both groups were compared. The results of the study showed that children in Group A had a significantly higher rate of resolution of OME/AOM compared to children in Group B. Additionally, the children in Group A had a shorter duration of illness and a lower rate of complications. These findings suggest that COVID-19 may have a beneficial effect on the resolution of OME/AOM in children. However, further research is needed to confirm these findings and to explore the underlying mechanisms of this relationship.

The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the hospital. All participants provided informed consent. The results of the study are presented in the following sections. [1-3].

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