



Healthcare Workers: A Prospective Observational Study



Keywords: Healthcare workers; Non-contact infrared thermometers (NCITs); Serology test; RT-PCR; COVID-19; Fever screening

Background

In the global battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, effective fever screening has emerged as a pivotal strategy to mitigate viral transmission and prevent potential outbreaks. Fever, acknowledged as a cardinal symptom of COVID-19, serves as a crucial indicator of infection, playing a pivotal role in facilitating prompt screening, isolation, and containment—particularly in the absence of vaccination [1-3].

Several studies have underscored the importance of early fever detection among healthcare workers (HCWs), highlighting its potential to mitigate nosocomial transmission and ensure patient safety. HCWs, situated on the frontline of the pandemic, confront an elevated risk of infection due to their frequent contact with patients and the high density of healthcare settings.

data exists, especially from developing nations, regarding their effectiveness for fever detection, particularly among HCWs in varying environmental conditions [10, 11].

This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of non-contact infrared thermometers (NCITs) for fever screening among healthcare workers (HCWs) in the hospital setting during the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective was to compare the results obtained from NCIT screening with serology and reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests to study the utility of NCITs as a fever screening tool in the healthcare setting.

Methodology

Study design and setting

This prospective observational study was conducted at a dedicated COVID-19 250-bed tertiary care referral hospital in South India. Convenience sampling was employed to recruit 736 healthcare workers (HCWs) actively working in the hospital between April 2020 and December 2020.

Fever screening

Daily fever screening using non-contact infrared thermometers

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Aim and Objective



