

COVID Patients With Pneumomediastinum Prompt Tough Talks



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Critically-ill COVID19 positive patients who develop a Pneumomediastinum (PM), had a 88.5% mortality rate.

INTRODUCTION

Severe pulmonary disease (pneumonia and fibrosis) is associated with the COVID-19 illness. Non- COVID pulmonary diseases have a 2-5% incidence of PM with a benign mortality rate. As the incidence during the COVID pandemic appeared higher, investigation was commenced.

OBJECTIVE:

This study investigated the incidence of PM in those presenting to the ICU needing intubation and their mortality outcome. In addition, investigation into vaccination status prior to admission was reviewed.

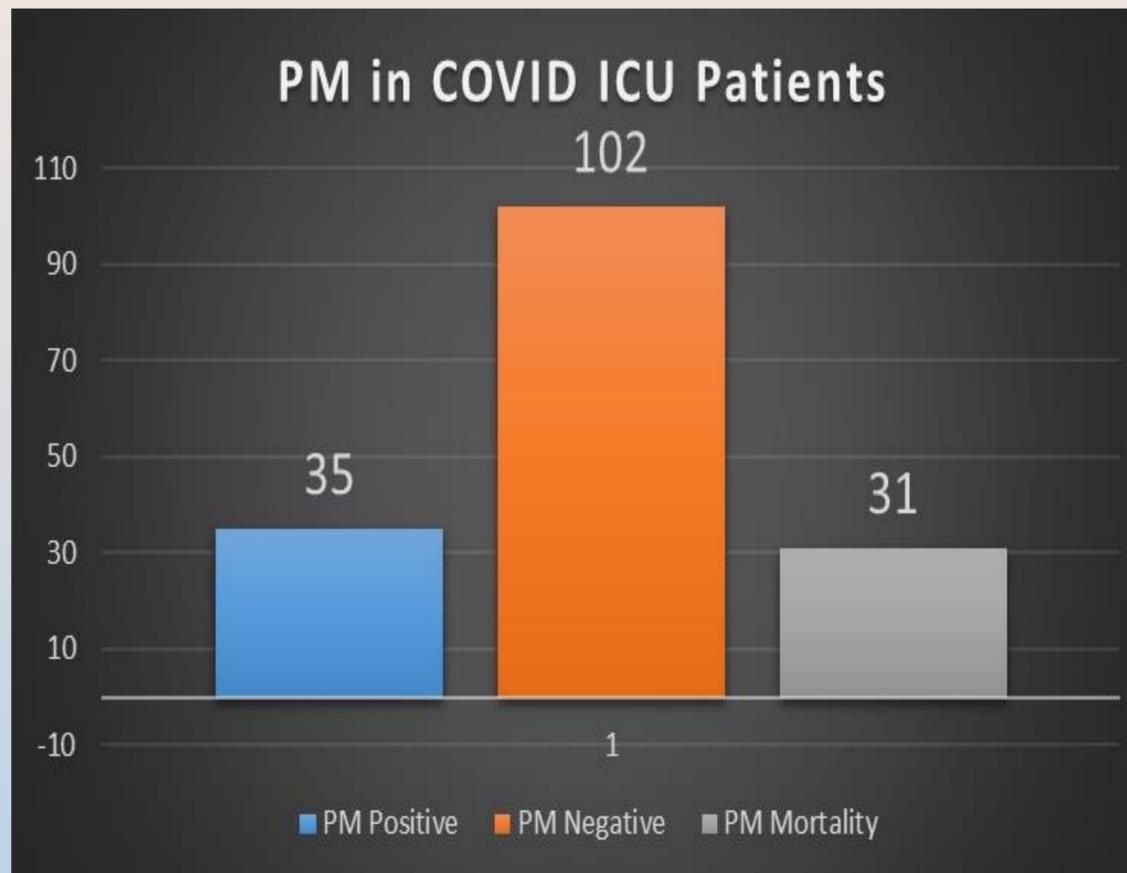
METHODS

1. Retrospective, electronic chart review.

ALL patients met the following:

COVID positive, intubated, ICU, plus/minus PM.

2. Dates: January 1 – Oct 18th, 2021



RESULTS

- 137 were admitted to the ICU meeting criteria. Of these:
- 35/137 (25.5%) developed a PM. Out of those 35:
 - 31/35 died in the ICU for a mortality rate of 88.5%
- Vaccination rate prior to admission was 1/35 (2.8)
- In addition of the 4/35 (11%) that survived, all required long-term care as each required a gastric tube and ventilator-dependent tracheostomy.

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The author has nothing to disclose.

Resources:

1. CCMjournal.org January 2022. Vol 49, No 1
2. Ccejournal.org 2020. Vol 2. e0210

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This sub-population has a very high mortality and non-vaccination rate. This information provides prognostic evidence for preventative measures, and the importance of early, effective communication.