

Review of: "Medical students' disease status of COVID-19: A multicenter study"

Giovanni Bruno¹

¹ University of Padua

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Introduction:

The introduction provides a clear overview of the COVID-19 pandemic, its origins, and global impact.

The declaration of the pandemic and its stages of spread are well-defined.

The focus on Pakistan, particularly the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, is well-established.

The introduction effectively sets the context for the study and highlights the prevalence and risk factors of COVID-19 in the region.

Methods:

The study's methodology is described, emphasizing a cross-sectional descriptive survey.

Inclusion criteria and ethical considerations are mentioned.

The questionnaire design, data collection methods (both manual and digital), and the use of SPSS for analysis are outlined.

The relative risk calculation between clinical and preclinical years is detailed.

Details on sample size calculation or representativeness of participants could enhance the validity of the study.

Results:

The sample size and participation from various regions are highlighted.

The frequency of COVID-19 cases among medical students and the vaccination rate are presented clearly.

The finding that clinical year students have a higher relative risk of COVID-19 is a key outcome.

However, the distribution of cases across different years and the statistical significance of the relative risk are not provided.

The presentation of additional results, such as symptoms during reinfection and healthcare-seeking behaviors, adds depth

to the findings.

Discussion:

The discussion starts by addressing the impact of COVID-19 on medical education and healthcare systems globally.

The study's results are compared and contrasted with similar studies in other countries.

The possible sources of infection among students, including shared accommodations and hospital exposure, are well-explained.

The study acknowledges its limitations, such as lack of explored reasons for vaccine hesitancy and the reliance on a survey approach.

More discussion could be dedicated to the implications of the findings for medical education, healthcare policies, and strategies to mitigate the spread among students.

Conclusion:

The conclusion summarizes the main findings, emphasizing the higher risk among clinical year students.

While the conclusion is concise and consistent with the study's results, it could benefit from linking the findings to broader public health implications.

Recommendations for targeted interventions to reduce infection risk, enhance vaccination coverage, and improve adherence to preventive measures could strengthen the conclusion.

Overall, the paper presents important insights into the COVID-19 situation among medical students in Pakistan. Clarifying certain aspects in the Methods section, providing more detailed statistical results, and expanding the discussion's practical implications could enhance the quality and impact of the paper.