

**GASTROINTESTINAL BLEEDING IN PATIENTS WITH SARS-COV-2**Dr. R. Tamburic\*<sup>1</sup> and J. Petkovic-Dabic<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Gastroenterohepatology, University Clinical Centre of the Republic of Srpska.<sup>2</sup>Dermatovenerology Clinic, University Clinical Centre of the Republic of Srpska.**\*Corresponding Author: Dr. R. Tamburic**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Gastrointestinal symptoms are common and frequently reported in Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19). It is unclear if SARS-CoV-2 is associated with increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding (GIB).<sup>[3,4]</sup> GIB in COVID-19 patients poses unique challenges to patients due to high-risk of concomitant respiratory failure and to endoscopy personnel due to risk of airborne transmission during endoscopic procedures. We had one patient with severe bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract.<sup>[5,6,7]</sup>

**CASE REPORT**

We report patients with severe bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract and severe COVID-19. A 67-year-old patient was hospitalized in the COVID ward with a clinical picture of respiratory failure. Upon admission, it is immediately connected to a complete non-invasive monitoring, samples are taken for biochemical and microbiological tests. The laboratory findings are dominated by an increase in inflammatory parameters with reduced values of the absolute number of lymphocytes. Chest CT scan visualizes massive bilateral consolidations by type of milk glass. On the third day of hospitalization, there is massive bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract in the form of melena and hemorrhagic shock. After resuscitation measures, endoscopic evaluation can be performed to diagnose and potentially treat the source of bleeding.<sup>[1]</sup> Risk factors that increase the propensity for recurrent bleeding should be identified and addressed. Gastroscopy does not visualize the cause of the bleeding and colonoscopy — fresh blood along the entire mucosa of the colon. An abdominal surgeon is consulted who indicates conservative treatment.<sup>[2]</sup> The patient died within 24 hours. It was not possible to stop the bleeding.

**DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION**

It could be concluded that COVID-19 is a multisystem disease for manifestation on all organ systems. For now, the mechanism of bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract is unknown. It could be considered whether it is ischemia or some other cause. The use of low molecular weight heparin in bleeding is certainly controversial. There are a lot of ambiguities that require further monitoring as well as the experience we will gain.

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