

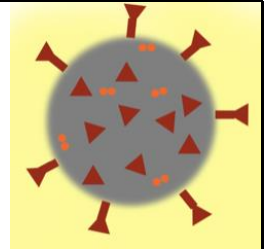


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# Non-ICU Inpatient Management of COVID-19

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## 1. COVID-19 Symptoms = *highly variable*

- Outside the hospital: rhinorrhea, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, anosmia, ageusia, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea, confusion etc.
- Presenting to ED: profound dyspnea > fevers, abdominal pain, diarrhea, altered mental status + the above
- Helpful this time of year, positivity of other respiratory viruses has nearly gone to zero

## 2. Diagnosis:

- RT-PCR on [nasopharyngeal swab](#). Test characteristics unclear
  - *Viral load highest at onset of illness, goes down after ~ 5 days in mild illness*
  - *High viral load in nasopharynx even in pre-symptomatic phase of illness*
  - Later on, sputum and lower respiratory samples may have better test characteristics
- Other labs:
  - Serology (not widely available yet), unclear association with immunity
  - Inflammatory markers: ferritin, CRP, ESR, D-dimer, LDH
  - Low pro-calcitonin
  - Lymphopenia
  - Elevated troponin and elevated CK in some cases
- Imaging: CXR/CT scans: most often interstitial opacities

## 3. Treatment: *supportive care is the cornerstone*

- Oxygenation: patients can worsen rapidly. Biggest predictor for severity is age. Other comorbidities may contribute: pulmonary disease, CKD, DM, HTN, CV disease, immunosuppressed states, rising inflammatory markers
- Favoring non-re-breather > HFNC/BPAP due to concern for aerosolization
- Experimental: *rapidly evolving*
  - Remdesivir: nucleotide analog. Clinical trial ongoing. [Case report](#)
  - Hydroxychloroquine: early data with some confounders, trials ongoing
  - IL-6 inhibitors: tocilizumab etc. no high-quality data to guide treatment

## 4. Brigham & Women's Hospital COVID-19 [Clinical Guidelines](#)