



Global Study Reports Updated COVID-19 Outcomes in People with CF

RELEASED by the Cystic Fibrosis Registry Global Harmonization Group

9 November 2020

The Cystic Fibrosis Registry Global Harmonization Group, including the Cystic Fibrosis Australia, published in the *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis* updated data on the impact of COVID-19 on people with cystic fibrosis. The data are part of an international consortium to better understand the CF experience and outcomes with the novel coronavirus. The manuscript reports on 181 people with cystic fibrosis from 19 countries diagnosed with COVID-19.

Consistent with data published in April 2020 which included 40 cases, today's publication suggests that outcomes for most people with cystic fibrosis are less severe than originally anticipated at the start of the global pandemic. However, in some cases COVID-19 can cause serious illness in people with CF. In particular, the analysis showed that CF patients with advanced lung disease (who had a best FEV₁ % predicted the year prior to infection of less than 40%) and those who are post-lung transplantation are at risk of severe outcomes, including hospitalization and death.

"These updated data reaffirm initial findings on the impact of COVID-19 in people living with CF, though more data are needed. While COVID-19 infection in people with CF is associated with a range of outcomes based on the individual, these latest findings provide preliminary insights into who may be most vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19," said Bruce Marshall, MD, chief medical officer of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and an author of the paper. "It is important for the CF community to continue to take precautions to reduce risk, including mask wearing, physical distancing, and frequent handwashing."

Precautions for people with CF remain imperative.

Of the 181 cases collected, including patients aged 1-74 years, before June 13, 2020, 11 people with CF were admitted to intensive care and six deaths were reported as being related to COVID-19. There was one additional death in the cohort that was related to advanced CF disease and not COVID-19.

While there is no evidence to suggest that people with underlying health conditions are at higher risk of becoming infected, there is evidence to show that they might be at greater risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19 if they become infected. It is recommended that people with CF and those close to them continue taking precautions to protect their health.

The Australian Cystic Fibrosis Data Registry is monitoring COVID-19 cases in Australia which includes more than 3,500 people with CF and gathers data from a network of 23 CF Centres across the country.

About the study

The paper, *The global impact of SARS-CoV-2 in 181 people with cystic fibrosis*, includes case reports from 19 countries: Argentina, **Australia**, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K., and U.S. The full manuscript is [available online](#).

Kind regards



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