



Diagnostic approach to COVID-19 pneumonia (SARS-CoV-2) at Angeles Lomas Hospital

Abordaje diagnóstico de neumonía por COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) en el Hospital Ángeles Lomas

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Since the beginning of the pandemic of COVID-19 pneumonia (SARS-CoV-2) at the end of last year, the first case in Mexico was reported in the last week of february 2020. In the period from march 4th to 31th, 550 rt-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) tests were performed in our Hospital, of which 128 were positive (23%). The first case diagnosed in our Hospital was on march 4th. This case, as

well as the first 51 remaining, were imported cases (individuals presenting clear antecedent of having been in affected geographical areas: Italy, Spain, United States and Korea). The rest of the 80 patients with positive tests (that is 28 cases),

Table 1: Findings computed tomography.

	Global frequency (%)	Hospital Angeles Lomas frequency (%)
Ground-glass opacity	86	97
Consolidation	29	25
Crazy-paving pattern	19	13
Linear	14	12
Cavitation	0	0
Non-calcificated nodules	0	2
Pleural effusion	0	0
Lymphadenopathy	0	0
Bilateral distribution	76	60
Peripheral distribution	33	91

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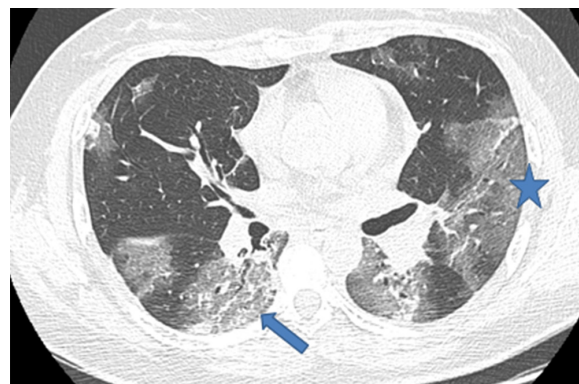


Figure 1: Crazy-paving pattern (arrow) and ground-glass pattern (star); linear opacities also coexist.



Figure 2: Consolidation. Virtually the entire lower left lobe is affected.

were already considered as community acquired infections: 44 women and 36 men (55 and 45%, respectively), the age varied between 10 and 80 years (with an average of 44.3 years).

Eighty of the 128 patients (63%) met clinical criteria that required chest computed tomography (CT). Of the total 80 CT scans, 45 were abnormal and 35 were normal (55 and 45%, respectively). The *Table 1* compares the most frequent tomographic findings that have been reported in the world literature and ours.

CONCLUSIONS

CT is a highly sensitive but not specific tool for diagnosing SARS-CoV-2. It has the advantage of providing results in minutes in contrast to days of the rt-PCR test. In our series, we agree that the most frequent data is the “ground-glass” opacity, however, we found that the peripheral distribution is 260% more frequent in our population than the global data.

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