



Cause of low COVID 19 detection and mortality rate in Pakistan

Sajjad Baber

Craniofacial Research Center, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, School of Dentistry, International Campus, Shariati Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

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*Corresponding author:

Sajjad Baber

Craniofacial Research Center, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, School of Dentistry, International Campus, Shariati Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Tel: +98-901-3243277

Fax: +98-21-84902473

Email: drsajjad_khan@Yahoo.com

Dear Sir, COVID 19 is spreading rapidly throughout the whole world especially in United States of America and some European countries such as Italy, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Belgium, and Netherlands. More than 276,000 and 4 million people have been killed and infected, respectively. The author wants to emphasize the reasons of low COVID 19 detection and mortality rate in Pakistan. Pakistan came into being on 14 and 15 August 1947, respectively. Now let's come to the point. Pakistan confirmed its first case on 26 February 2020.

Till now on 7 May 2020, Pakistan confirmed a total of 24,073 cases, 564 deaths and 6,464 recoveries. Pakistan has implemented a complete lock down for first three weeks and five weeks, respectively [1,2]. Extensive testing and effective lockdown are the main key points to stop covid 19 infection chain. One of the important reasons behind low COVID 19 detection is limited testing.

That is why the low number of cases has been reported in Pakistan. Even the director general of World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said 'Without testing, it's like moving blind folded. A minimum ratio of 10 per positive case was recommended by World Health Organization [3].

One of the main reasons regarding low mortality rate in Pakistan is the presence of malaria and dengue fever in these countries. Both are mosquito borne diseases and are responsible for causing viral fever. The severity of COVID 19 is low in patients having a past history of malaria and dengue fever. According to the author point of view, the main reason of low testing is not to create an environment among the general public which would result in panic buying of basic commodities.

Also in order to avoid financial constraints, general authorities would be hoping of minimizing the transmission of corona virus disease in summer. There is no solid evidence about the low transmission of virus in summer. Another reason is due to faulty Chinese kits which show false

negative in early stage of corona virus disease infection [4]. There should be a complete and thorough investigation from the Chinese government and responsible authorities in this matter.

Proposals

1. Increase the daily number of tests.
2. Contact tracing and tests of relatives of positive patients.
3. Always use standard and good quality kits.
4. Take advantage from experience of other countries.

5. Proper education and awareness to general public for undergoing tests.
6. Avoid stigma or blame. This will encourage people to undergo tests.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest to declare.

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