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RECOVER Work Package 2 and the national coordinating team

# Extended Point Prevalence Audit Survey (PPAS)

Results for Spain





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# Extended PPAS Spain

## General information

The point prevalence audit survey (PPAS) was initiated in January 2020 in 18 European countries to capture information with respect to antibiotic prescribing and diagnostic testing for patients presenting in primary care with symptoms of an acute respiratory tract infection. The anonymous registration of patients' characteristics, signs and symptoms, physical examination results and the management of general practitioners with respect to diagnostic testing, prescribing of antibiotics and other medicines, and provided self-care advice was very smoothly implemented in about 125 primary care practices throughout Europe.

This first PPAS was nearly finished when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Europe. Given the success of the PPAS, it was decided to extend the initial survey with COVID-19 specific items. Running this extended PPAS throughout Europe will provide information of how patients with respiratory tract infection are managed during the pandemic, what medicines are prescribed and advice provided, and will reveal marked differences between countries with respect to patient management.

## Country information

- Country: SPAIN
- Registration period: 01 April 2020 to 31 May 2020
- Total number of patient consultations: 250

## Additional remarks from interview study with GPs and patients:

- More than half of the patient contacts were by telephone only
- One third of patients had a chronic condition
- Over 70% of patients had mild symptoms
- In the vast majority of patients the GP was confident about the his/her assessment of disease severity
- In half of the patients an additional test was ordered, almost always a chest X-ray
- In 78% of patients COVID was suspected by the GP
- In the vast majority of patients preventive measures and home isolation were recommended, and almost never an antibiotic was prescribed
- 9.6% of patients were referred to hospital

Consultation (N=250)				
Consultation at	Practice	43.2%		
	Home	0.8%		
	Protective measures: yes	100%	apron/body protection	99.1%*
			face, nose/mouth protection	100%
			safety glasses	95.5%
			gloves	100%
Telephone	56.0%			
Video/skype	0.0%			
Has patient already been tested for COVID?	Yes	16.4%	Result:	
			Positive	65.9%*
			Negative	22.0%
			Unknown	12.2%
	No	83.2%		
Patient characteristics				
Age	Median (IQR)	46 (34-56)		
Comorbidity	Yes	33.6%	chronic respiratory condition	28.6%*
			diabetes	17.9%
			cardiovascular disease	45.2%
Measured:				
Fever	Yes	84.5% <sup>''</sup>	Temp ≥38 or <36	17.6%*
O <sub>2</sub>	Yes	96.4% <sup>''</sup>	Saturation <96%	9.1%*
Resp. rate	Yes	77.3% <sup>''</sup>	Resp. rate >20 or <12	14.1% <sup>^</sup>
Signs and symptoms				
Rhinitis	Yes	7.2%		
Sore throat	Yes	25.6%		
Cough	Yes	75.6%	short of breath (dyspnoea)	20.4%#
			abnormal auscultation	12.7% <sup>''</sup>
			(pleuritic) chest pain	7.2%#
			tachypnoea	0.8%#
General symptoms	Yes	72.4%	headache	42.0%#
			altered mental status	0.8%

			fatigue	37.6%
			diarrhoea	16.4%
Overall illness severity	Mild	70.8%		
	Moderate	26.0%		
	Severe	3.2%		
Confidence in assessment of the patient's condition	Very confident	4.8%	Very confident	4.8% <sup>§</sup>
	Confident	68.4%	Confident	70.8% <sup>§</sup>
	Moderately	24.9%	Moderately	23.0% <sup>§</sup>
	Unconfident	1.6%	Unconfident	1.4% <sup>§</sup>
Additional diagnostic tests	Yes	50.0% <sup>”</sup>	CRP CRP Median (IQR)	0.0%*
			COVID-19 test	10.9%
			Total white blood cell count	1.8%
			Chest X-ray	94.5%
Suspected aetiology	viral (no COVID-19)			15.6%
	COVID-19			78.4%
	bacterial			2.4%
	allergic			0.4%
	not clear			5.6%
Initial working diagnosis	acute pharyngitis/tonsillitis/abscess		6.4%	
	laryngitis/laryngotracheitis		0.0%	
	influenza-like-illness		3.2%	
	bronchiolitis		0.0%	
	acute bronchitis		2.8%	
	CAP		1.6%	
	exacerbation COPD/asthma		1.6%	
	upper RTI		4.4%	
	COVID-19		84.0%	
			Contacted public health authorities?	2.9%*
Would you recommend testing?			70.0%	
GP provided	advice for home isolation	82.4%	how many days? Median	14 (14-14)
	advice for symptomatic treatment	85.2%	(ICQ)	

	a scheduled follow-up visit/call	76.0%		
	prescribed medication	17.2%	inhaled medication	4.4%#
			antibiotic	4.4%
			antiviral medication	0.4%
			antihistamines	1.2%
	advice for family members	70.4%	home isolation	66.8%#
			social distancing	52.0%
			other	1.2%
	preventive measures for patient	81.2%	extra handwashing	78.8%#
			sneezing in sleeve	40.8%
			social distancing	58.4%
			nose/mouth protection	56.0%
	staying in separate room	63.6%		
	where to find reliable information	21.6%		
GP prescribed	Antibiotics if working diagnose was COVID-19	Yes		3.3%
Confidence that provided advice/treatment will benefit this patient	Very confident	8.4%	Very confident	8.4% <sup>§</sup>
	Confident	72.8%	Confident	76.4% <sup>§</sup>
	Moderately	15.6%	Moderately	14.8% <sup>§</sup>
	Unconfident	0.4%	Unconfident	0.5% <sup>§</sup>
	Very unconfident	0.0%	Very unconfident	0.0% <sup>§</sup>
	Referral to hospital	9.6%		
	Advise contact/refer to COVID-specific authority	8.0%		

\* percentage from yes

" percentage from F2F contact

# percentage from total (n=240)

^ percentage from adults and yes

§ if suspected etiology is COVID-19

