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Age, Multiple Chronic Conditions, and COVID-19: A literature review

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Abstract

Background: Various patient demographic and clinical characteristics have been associated with poor outcomes for individuals with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). To describe the importance of age and chronic conditions in predicting COVID-19 related outcomes.

Methods: Search strategies were conducted in PubMed/MEDLINE. Daily alerts were created.

Results: A total of 28 studies met our inclusion criteria. Studies varied broadly in sample size (n=21 to more than 17,000,000). Participants mean age ranged from 48 years to 80 years and the proportion of male participants ranged from 44%-82%. The most prevalent underlying conditions in patients with COVID-19 were hypertension (range: 15% - 69%), diabetes (8% - 40%), cardiovascular disease (4% - 61%), chronic pulmonary disease (1% - 33%), and chronic kidney disease (range 1% - 48%). These conditions were each associated with an increased in-hospital case fatality rate ranging from 1% to 56%. Overall, older adults have a substantially higher case fatality rate (CFR) as compared with younger individuals affected by COVID-19 (42% for those <65 vs 65% > 65 years). Only one study examined the association of chronic conditions and the risk of dying across different age groups; their findings suggested similar trends of increased risk in those < 65 and those > 65 years as compared to those without these conditions.

Conclusions: There has been a traditional, single condition approach to consideration of how chronic conditions and advancing age relate to COVID-19 outcomes. A more complete picture of the impact of burden of multimorbidity and advancing patient age is needed.

Keywords: multimorbidity, COVID-19, epidemiology

Introduction

The first known cases of pneumonia identified as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2),(1) or COVID-19, were identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. COVID-19 has unfortunately spread rapidly throughout the world since that time.(2) As of November 23, 2020, the number of cases in the United States has increased to more than 11.8 million with more than 250,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19.(3) Based on recent CDC reports, approximately 8 out of every 10 COVID-19-related deaths in the United States have been among adults aged 65 years and older.(4)

Some early case reports and small clinical studies suggested a greater impact of COVID-19 in older adults with underlying chronic conditions as compared with younger individuals without these conditions.(5-8) Numerous studies have that COVID-19 positive older adults presenting with specific conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and obesity are at a higher risk for hospitalization and mortality than older adults without these chronic conditions.(6,9-12)

The overall aim of this literature review was to summarize the rapidly evolving literature on the patient characteristics associated with poor outcomes for individuals with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), specifically focusing on the relative importance of age and burden of multiple chronic conditions, with a specific focus on their interaction, in predicting COVID-19 related outcomes.

Methods

Search Strategy and Information Sources

This rapid review followed the basic Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.(13) “Rapid reviews ‘are literature reviews that use methods to accelerate or streamline traditional [systematic review] processes’ in order to meet the needs and timelines of the end-users (health care institutions, health professionals, and patient associations’).” In keeping with the methodology of a rapid review, it was conducted with a shortened timeline and

omitted stages of the PRISMA systematic review process, but the process maintained transparent and used reproducible methods.(14) A health sciences librarian (C.C.) developed the search strategies and conducted unique searches in PubMed/MEDLINE. Major concepts included, but were not limited to, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, COVID-19, mortality, case fatality rate, hospitalization, chronic conditions, comorbidity, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, obesity, aged and older adults.

A combination of medical subject heading (MeSH) terms and text words was created to search PubMed. The full search algorithm is detailed in Supplement eMethods 1. Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, a PubMed alert was set up using the original search strategy to capture relevant and significant newly published literature. Daily monitoring of these results contributed to a selection of studies being included until October 30, 2020. Bibliographic references were hand searched to identify additional possible studies to include.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Studies were included if (i) the articles were published between December 1, 2019 and October 30, 2020, (ii) cases of COVID-19 were confirmed, (iii) patients' demographic and clinical characteristics were described, and (iv) prevalence of chronic conditions were included and the (v) articles were written in English.

Data Abstraction

A detailed data abstraction form was developed a priori allowing two reviewers to independently abstract data in duplicate from these studies. Data abstraction began when there was a minimum of 80% agreement between reviewers in the sample of pilot studies; any disagreements were resolved either by consensus or by consulting a third reviewer.

Results

Search Results

A total of 70 studies were identified in our initial literature search. Among these, 31 studies were removed based on abstract review, leaving 39 studies for detailed review. Of these 39 studies, 28 met our inclusion criteria and were included in this review Supplement eFigure 1. Studies were excluded if they included less than 10 patients, did not report the prevalence of comorbidities, did not report adverse outcomes, or were not published in the English language.

Study Characteristics

The characteristics of the reviewed studies are detailed in Table 1. Thirteen studies were case series,(5,7,8,10,15-23) fourteen were retrospective cohort investigations,(6,9,11,12,16,24-33) and one was a prospective cohort study.(34) Ten studies were conducted in China,(10,12,16,18,24,30-32,34) and 9 of these studies utilized data gathered from patients in Wuhan.(10,12,16,18,24,30-32,34) Eleven were U.S. based studies (three in Washington State,(5,15,35) two in California,(27,28) one in Georgia,(25) one in Michigan,(23) one in New York (21) and three nationwide).(22,26,29) Four studies were based in Italy,(6,8,17,33) one in Korea,(7) and two in the United Kingdom.(9,11)

Study sample sizes ranged from 21 (5) to 17,278,392 (11) patients. Five out of 28 studies had less than 100 participants,(5,7,10,18,24) 11 studies had between 100 and 1,000 participants,(8,12,15,16,23,25,30-32,34,35) 10 studies had between 1,000 and 1,000,000 participants,(6,9,10,21,26-29,33) and 2 studies had more than 1,000,000 participants.(11,22) Participants age varied widely among the included studies with the mean age ranging from 48 years (22) to 80 years.(8)

Prevalence of chronic conditions

Eighteen studies reported the percentage of patients presenting with one or more chronic conditions (Figure 1)(5-8,10,12,15-18,21-25,29-32) Three studies reported the average number of previously diagnosed chronic conditions at the time of hospitalization for COVID-19.(8,9,23) Three studies provided information using the Charlson Comorbidity index. One reported a median score of 4, noting that 88% of patients had more than one comorbidity. (8) The second study reported a Charlson comorbidity index of 1, 2 and ≥ 3 in 17%, 8% and 15% of the study cohort, respectively.(26) The third study reported an overall median score for the study sample of 2.8, a median score of 4.4 in non-survivors and 2.6 in survivors.(33)

A majority of studies (n=23) reported the prevalence of particular chronic conditions present in study participants (Figure 2).(5-10,12,15-18,21-23,25,26,28-30,32,33,36,37) The most commonly reported chronic conditions were hypertension (6,9-11,15-21,23,25,27,28,30-33) with a prevalence ranging from 15% (18) to 69% (20), diabetes mellitus (5-11,15,16,18-30,32-34,38) ranging from 8% (10) to 40%,(25) cardiovascular disease (6-10,12,15,16,18-20,22,24,25,29-34) ranging from 4% (10) to 61% (29), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (5-7,9-11,15,16,18,20-24,26-30,32,33) ranging from 1% (24) to 33%, (5) and chronic kidney disease (5-7,9-11,15,16,20-23,26,27,29,30,32,33) with a prevalence ranging from 1% (10,16,29,31) to 48%.(5)

Association between comorbidities and risk of dying

All but two studies reported overall case-fatality rates during hospitalization for COVID-19 (Supplement eTable 1).(5-11,15,17-26,28,30-34,39) Case-fatality rates (CFRs) ranged from less than 1% (7) to 56% (31) during a follow-up period of 28 days post-hospital admission.

Thirteen studies reported in-hospital CFRs related to particular chronic conditions (Supplement eTable 1).(6,10,11,17,22,26,28,30-32,34,39) The most common conditions associated with high CFRs were hypertension, cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes, COPD, chronic kidney disease and heart

failure (HF). There was a considerable variation in the CFRs associated with each particular condition, as an example CFRs for those with hypertension ranged from 0.1% (11) to 78% (31) CFRs for those individuals with diabetes ranged from 0.2% (11) to 81% (31) and CFRs for those with chronic kidney disease ranged from 0.4% (11) to 100%.(16,32)

Fourteen studies reported CFRs across different age groups (Supplement eTable 1).(6-8,10-12,16,21,25,26,28,34) Case fatality rates for those aged <65 years ranged from 0% (11) to 42%; (6) and for those aged \geq 65 years ranged 0% (11) to 56%.(6) Only one study reported CFRs by age group and compared those with and without underlying conditions.(22) The CFRs during COVID-19 hospitalization for those presenting with at least one comorbidity were 8%, 17%, 32% and 50% for individuals aged 50-59 years, 60-69, 70-79, and > 80 years old, respectively.(22)

Eleven out of the 28 included studies examined the association between underlying conditions and the risk of dying during hospitalization for COVID-19 (Table 2).(6,9-12,26,28,30-32,34) Among these studies, 9 out of 12 examined the association between hypertension and the risk of dying;(6,9-11,28,30,32-34) risks ranged from a HR of 0.89 (95% CI 0.85;0.93)(11) to an OR of 4.08 (95% CI 1.58; 10.5).(34) Ten out of 12 studies (6,9-11,26,28,30-33) examined the association between diabetes and the risk of dying; risks ranged from RR 1.23 (95% CI 0.77; 1.95) (28) to OR 2.85 (95% CI 1.35; 6.05).(32) The association between COPD and the risk of dying was examined in 8 out of 12 studies;(6,9-11,26,28,32,33) the risks of dying ranged from RR 1.05 (95% CI 0.67;1.65)(28) to OR 2.68 (95% CI 1.42; 5.05).(10) Four of the 12 studies (9,12,33,34) examined the association between CVD and risk of dying during the COVID-19 hospitalization; the risks of dying ranged from HR 0.95 (0.74; 1.21)(9) to OR 2.46 (95% CI 0.76;8.04).(34) Lastly, 5 out of 12 studies (6,9,11,26,33) examined the association of chronic kidney disease with the risk of dying; these risks ranged from HR 1.49 (0.96; 2.31) (9) to HR 2.78 (95% CI 2.19; 3.53)].(6)

Ten out of the 12 studies reported an association between older age and increased mortality in individuals with COVID-19 (Supplement eTable 2).(6,9,11,12,23,26,28,30,32,34) Four of the 12

studies examined the risk of dying using age as a stratified variable.(6,9,11,28) One of the studies reported risk of dying, HR 1.91 (95% CI 1.63; 2.24); 2.98 (95% CI 2.56; 3.46) and 4.25 (95% CI 3.68; 4.92) for individuals aged 56-63 years old, 64-69 years, and 70 years and older, respectively.(6) Another study reported risk of dying, HR 2.40 (95% CI 2.16; 2.66); 6.08 (95% CI 5.52; 6.69) and 20.61 (95% CI 18.72; 22.70) for individuals aged 60-69; 70-79 and ≥ 80 , respectively, as compared to those aged < 60 years.(11) Only one study that included the Charlson index reported the association between Charlson index scores and adverse outcomes.(33) Charlson Index score index was a logarithmic multiplier when the risk of death was assessed by increasing by one point the score, starting from the score of 2.(33) No actual odds ratios were reported in this study.(33)

Association between comorbidity burden and mortality by age group

Only one study included in our literature review reported the association between the burden of multimorbidity and risk of dying during hospitalization for COVID-19 further stratified by the patient's age (Table 3).(10) This study included 1,590 confirmed COVID-19 cases hospitalized across China (mean age: 49 years 43% women). The most prevalent chronic conditions in this cohort were hypertension (17%) and diabetes (8%) and, 8% of the study sample reported having two or more chronic conditions. Among individuals aged < 65 years, risks of dying were two times and three times higher for those with one and two or more chronic conditions as compared with those < 65 years without comorbidities, respectively.(10) The risks of dying during hospitalization for those 65 years and older were 1.8 and 2.7 times higher for those with one and two or more chronic conditions as compared to those ≥ 65 years without comorbidities, respectively (Table 3).(10) One study reported the association between more prevalent chronic conditions and the risk of dying across different age groups. The study included 31,461 (mean age 50; 54.5% women) COVID-19 patients hospitalized in 24 healthcare organizations across the US.(26) The most common comorbidities were chronic pulmonary disease (17.5%) and diabetes mellitus (15.0%).(26) Among individuals less than 70 years old, the risk of dying was 1.6, 1.4 and twice the risk in those presenting with heart failure, pulmonary

disease, and renal disease as compared to those without these chronic conditions, respectively. The risks of dying in those ≥ 70 years were 1.3, and 1.9 times higher in those with heart failure and renal disease, as compared to those without these conditions, respectively.(26) Somewhat similar results were reported in a recent investigation that examined the association of obesity and risk of dying at 21 days after hospital admission among 6,916 patients with COVID-19 (mean age: 49 years; 45% men) at Kaiser Permanente Southern California.(28) The risk of dying was most striking among those aged 60 years or younger, with a 12 times higher risk of dying in individuals ≤ 60 years and a BMI of ≥ 45 kg/m² as compared to those in the same age group with a BMI of less than 24 kg/m².(28) The risk of dying for those older than 60 years was three times higher for those in the highest BMI group as compared to those with a BMI of less than 24 kg/m².(28)

Discussion

The reviewed literature suggests a high prevalence of chronic conditions in patients with COVID-19 and a significant association between chronic conditions and adverse outcomes in this population. In this rapid review, we found a significant prevalence of chronic conditions in individuals hospitalized with COVID-19; the most frequent morbidities reported were hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, chronic pulmonary disease, and chronic kidney disease. Findings from our review also suggest a higher risk of dying during in men vs women hospitalized with COVID-19. Whereas our findings highlight the high prevalence of chronic conditions in patients hospitalized with COVID-19, and the association of these conditions with an increased risk of dying, very limited data are currently available on the magnitude and impact of burden of multimorbidity on the risk of dying in older adults. Only one of the studies included in our review examined the interaction between comorbidities and the risk of dying stratified by age group (<65 years and 65 years and older individuals).(10) Findings of this investigation suggest a similar increased risk of dying in those < than 65 and those 65 years and older as compared to those without comorbidities,

but with a higher impact in the younger group. Somewhat similar trends were reported in two recent investigations, one that examined the association of chronic conditions and the risk of dying in COVID-19 patients across 24 healthcare organizations across the U.S.(26) and another that examined the association of obesity and risk of dying in COVID-19 patients at Kaiser Permanente Southern California.(28) This was the only study included in our review that examined the association of obesity as a risk factor for adverse outcomes in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 stratified by age group. Harrison et al and Tartof et al studies suggest a higher impact in the association of obesity, heart failure, pulmonary disease, diabetes and renal disease, and the risk of dying in the younger group as compared to those without these chronic conditions.(26,28) However, due to the considerable variation in existing approaches to characterizing the burden of multimorbidity in older adults with COVID-19, any comparison across different studies with the objective of making inferences on the association of burden of multimorbidity and adverse outcomes based on current literature is challenging. Clinicians and healthcare delivery systems need clinically actionable approaches for characterizing and understanding the implications of multimorbidity to guide the care of patients with COVID-19.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there is an increasing risk of overwhelming healthcare facilities and jeopardizing patient care. Findings from this literature review highlight the importance of future areas of research. Different approaches have been implemented to assess multimorbidity in COVID-19 patients however; it is still unclear which is the best approach for characterizing and understanding the implications of multimorbidity in older adults with COVID-19. One important limitation of some multimorbidity assessment approaches is the lack of incorporating severity of illness distinctions for chronic conditions. Some chronic conditions which predict worse disease progression have already been identified, including hypertension, diabetes, COPD and chronic kidney disease. However, there is no information on which dyads or triads of chronic conditions are more prevalent in COVID 19 patients and how these dyads or triads might impact adverse outcomes.(40) Lastly, a high proportion of individuals with COVID-19 are older adults, however there is no

information on how very prevalent geriatric syndromes, namely mobility impairment, functional limitation or frailty, impact adverse outcomes. Data on the interplay between multimorbidity, mobility/functional limitation, and the risk of adverse events in older patients with COVID-19 are necessary to improve the care of this vulnerable population.

Study Strengths and limitations

This literature review included 28 peer-reviewed publications and MMWR reports reviewed internally. The methods used throughout included a comprehensive search strategy of multiple databases. A number of limitations of our review must be acknowledged, however, in interpreting the present results. This review was limited to studies published in English. The extent to which our inability to review studies published in languages other than English affected our findings is unknown. Since our review included only peer-reviewed publications and MMWR reports reviewed internally at the CDC, there is a potential for introducing possible publication bias. Variability in definitions of risk factors and the potential for differential ascertainment of chronic conditions, chart review vs. patient reports, possibly contributed to the heterogeneity in the affected comparisons. Most of the studies included in our review described very sick hospitalized populations. Inasmuch, the findings from these studies might be not generalizable to community-based settings. Differing lengths of follow-up may have also resulted in heterogeneity, and studies that were deemed to have an inadequate length of follow-up may have missed events and biased the results towards smaller effect sizes. Finally, since more than half of the included studies were from early reports in Wuhan, China, the generalizability of these findings to other race/ethnic groups may be limited. Future studies should examine potential racial and ethnic differences in the magnitude and impact of multimorbidity on mortality in older adults hospitalized with COVID-19.

Conclusions

There has been a traditional, siloed, single condition approach to consideration of how chronic conditions and advancing age relate to COVID-19 outcomes. A more complete picture of the impact of burden of multimorbidity and the interaction with advancing patient age is needed.

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Author Contributions:

Study concept and design: MT, JHG

Acquisition of data: MT, CD, TH and CC

Preparation of manuscript: MT, CD, TH, JHG and RJG

Critical revision of the manuscript: JHG, RJG, CC, MT and CD

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Data Elements

- **Table 1:** Study characteristics by country
- **Figure 1:** Prevalence of number of comorbidities reported by study
 - Blue = at least 1 comorbidity, Red = greater than or equal to 2 comorbidities, Green = greater than or equal to 3 comorbidities
- **Figure 2:** Prevalence of individual chronic conditions reported by study
 - Panel A: Heart failure, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and asthma
 - Panel B: Cardiovascular disease; chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and obesity
 - Red = sample size < 100, Green = sample size 100-1,000, Purple = sample size > 1,000
- **Table 2:** In-hospital risk of dying associated with particular chronic conditions
- **Table 3:** Association between comorbidity burden or BMI and risk of dying during hospitalization for COVID-19 by age group
 - Body mass index (BMI); No comorbidity, 18.5-24 kg/m², no heart failure, no pulmonary disease, no diabetes, no kidney disease are the referent groups respectively

Table 1: Study characteristics by country

Author/s	Country	Study sample (n=)	Inpatient/ICU	Age, mean, Years (range)	Male
Chen et al	China	99	1 hospital	55.5 (21-82)	68%
Chen et al	China	274	1 hospital	Non-survivors 68 (IQR 62-77) Survivors 51 (IQR 37-66)	Non-Survivors 73% Survivors 55%
Du et al	China	179	1 hospital	57.6 (18-87)	54%
Guan et al	China	1,590	575 hospitals in China	48.9±16.3	57%
Huang et al	China	41	1 hospital	49 (IQR 41-58)	73%
Liu et al	China	56	1 hospital	Older: 68 (IQR 65-70) Younger: 47 (IQR 36-51)	Older 67% Younger 50%
Wu et al	China	201	1 hospital	51 (IQR 43-60)	64%
Yan et al	China	193	1 hospital	64 (49-73)	59%
Zhang et al	China	663	1 hospital	55.6 (23-95)	48%
Zhou et al	China	191	2 hospitals	56 (18-87)	62%
Grasselli et al	Italy	1,591	1 ICU patients from 72 hospitals	63 (14-91)	82%
Graselli et al	Italy	3,988	ICU network	63 (IQR 55-69)	79.9%
Iaccarino et al	Italy	1,591	26 hospitals	Non-survivors 80 Survivors 65	Non-Survivors 67% Survivors 64%
Onder et al	Italy	Subsample: 1,625	19 Italian regions and 2 provinces	79.5 (SD 8.1)	70%
Korean Society	Republic of Korea	54	Country wide	75.5 (35-93)	61%
Atkins et al	United Kingdom	269,070	UK Biobank	73.1 (65-86)	45%
Williamson et al	United Kingdom	17,278,392	General practice network	No mean age included	50%
Arentz et al	USA	21	ICU at 1 Hospital	70 (43-92)	52%
Buckner et al	USA	105	3 hospitals	69 (23-97)	50%

Gold et al	USA	305	8 hospitals	60 (23-95)	49%
Harrison et al	USA	31,461	24 healthcare organizations	50 (18-90)	46%
McMichael et al	USA	129	Skilled nursing facility	Residents: 81 (54-100) Staff: 42.5 (22-79)	Patients: 37% Staff: 21%
Myers et al	USA	377	21 hospitals; inpatient/ICU	Overall: 61 (IQR 50-73) Inpatient: 60 (IQR 49-72) ICU: 63(IQR 53-73)	Overall: 56% Inpatient: 52% ICU: 65%
Richardson et al	USA	5,700	12 Hospitals	63 (0-107)	60%
Stokes et al	USA	1,320,488	Country wide	48 (IQR 33-63)	49%
Suleyman et al	USA	463	5 hospitals and 9 EDs in Michigan	57.5 (SD 16.8)	44%
Tartof et al	USA	6,916	Integrated healthcare system	49 (IQR 36-60)	45%
Wortham et al	USA	62,813	country wide	Case-based surveillance 78 (IQR 67-87) Supplemental surveillance 75 (IQR 64-84)	56%

Table 2: In-hospital risk of dying associated with particular chronic conditions

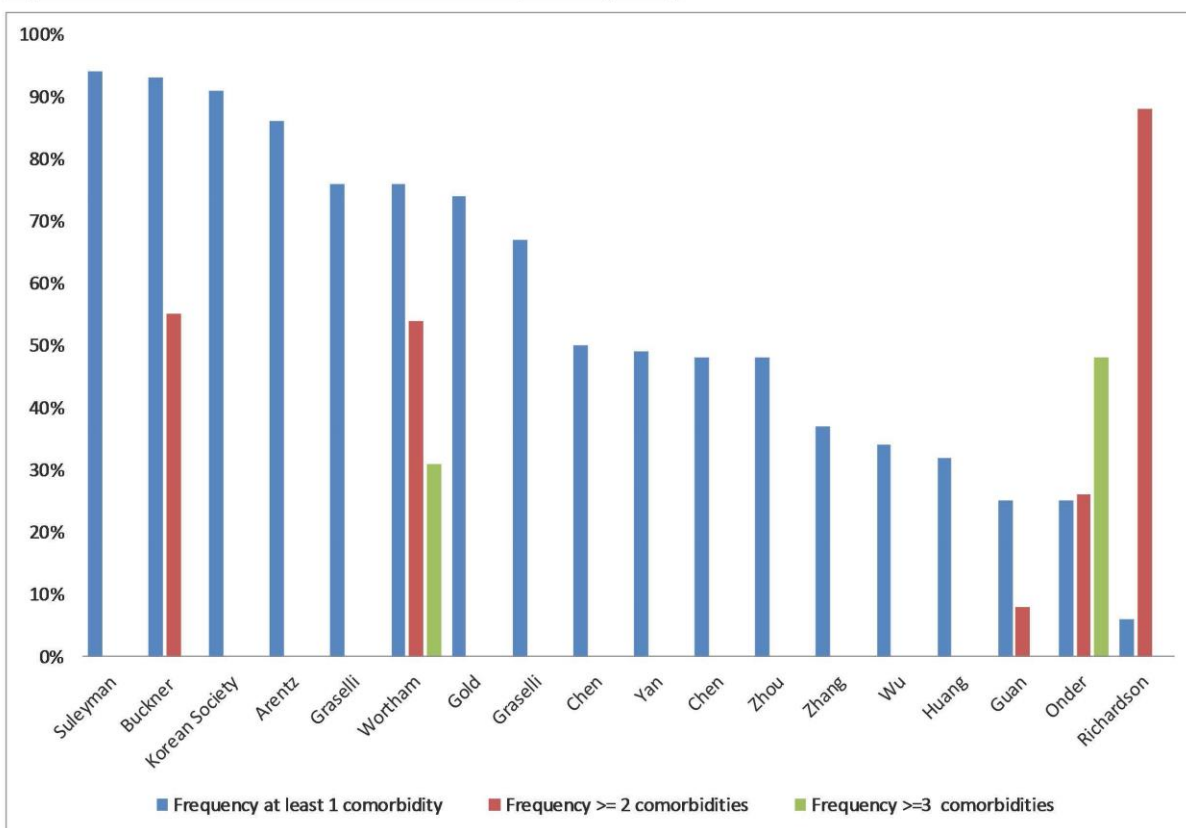
	Author	Hypertension	CVD	Diabetes	Pulmonary disease	Kidney disease	Heart failure
Odds Ratio	Atkins	1.38 (1.13;1.68)	0.95 (0.74;1.21)	1.73 (1.36;2.22)	1.58 (1.17;2.15)	1.49 (0.96;2.31)	
	Du	4.08 (1.58;10.5)	2.46 (0.76;8.04)				
	Harrison			1.11 (0.96;1.27)	1.24 (1.08;1.43)	2.13 (1.84;2.48)	1.42 (1.21;1.87)
	Zhang		2.44 (1.50;3.95)				
	Zhou	3.05 (1.57;5.92)		2.85 (1.35;6.05)	5.40 (0.96;30.4)		
	Graselli	1.68 (1.53;1.84)		1.66 (1.47;1.88)	2.03 (1.59;2.59)	2.78 (2.19;3.53)	1.66 (1.48;1.87)
	Guan	1.58 (1.07;2.32)		1.59 (1.03;2.45)	2.68 (1.42;5.05)		
Hazard Ratio	Williamson	0.89 (0.85;0.93)		1.95 (1.83;2.07)	1.63 (1.55;1.71)	2.52 (2.33;2.72)	1.17 (1.12;1.22)
	Wu	1.70 (0.92;3.14)		1.58 (0.80;3.13)			
	Yan			1.53 (1.02;2.30)			
Relative Risk	Tartof	1.29 (0.83;2.02)		1.23 (0.77;1.95)	1.05 (0.67;1.65)		0.89 (0.58;1.35)

Table 3: Association between comorbidity burden or BMI and risk of dying during hospitalization for COVID-19 by age group

Author	Risk of dying by age group			
	<65 years		≥65 years	
Guan et al	1 morbidity	≥2 morbidities	1 morbidity	≥2 morbidities
Hazard ratio	2.21 (1.23;3.96)	3.33 (1.56;7.13)	1.80 (0.91;3.55)	2.72 (1.41;5.27)
Tartof et al	≤ 60		>60	
	BMI 40-44 kg/m ²	BMI ≥45 kg/m ²	BMI 40-44 kg/m ²	BMI ≥45 kg/m ²
Relative risk	17.14 (3.37;87.27)	12.35 (2.28;66.77)	1.25(0.43;3.61)	3.03 (1.15;8.00)
Harrison et al	50-69 years			
	Heart failure	Pulmonary disease	Diabetes	Kidney disease
Odds ratio	1.62 (1.21;2.18)	1.35 (1.07;1.71)	1.17 (0.93;1.47)	2.23 (1.72;2.89)
	70-90 years			
	Heart failure	Pulmonary disease	Diabetes	Kidney disease
Odds ratio	1.34 (1.10;1.64)	1.12 (0.93;1.35)	0.98 (0.82;1.18)	1.88 (1.57;2.25)

Body mass index (BMI); No comorbidity, 18.5-24 kg/m², no heart failure, no pulmonary disease, no diabetes, no kidney disease are the referent groups respectively

Figure 1: Prevalence of number of comorbidities reported by study



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Figure 2: Prevalence of individual chronic conditions reported by study

