



Complications of Covid-19 pneumonia in elderly patients

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Introduction: Covid-19 pneumonia has a wide spectrum of symptoms and complications to which elderly patients seem more prone due to frailty and comorbidities.

Methods: Retrospective and descriptive study in the Covid-19 unit of the regional hospital of Ben Arous, from September 2020 to September 2021, including patients aged 65 and above with confirmed Covid-19 pneumonia.

Results:
Study population N= 400

Gender	Count
Female	178
Male	222

- The mean age was 74 years [65-97]
- At least one chronic disease was found in 84.7% of the study group

Table 2. Complications of COVID-19 pneumonia in elderly

Complication	N (%)
Metabolic disorders	148 (37%)
Acute respiratory distress	80 (20%)
Bacterial infection	62 (15.5%)
Venous and arterial thrombosis	39 (9.75%)
Confusion	18 (4.5%)
Hypoxic Shock	14 (3.5%)
Septic Shock	4 (1%)
Spontaneous pneumomediastinum	1 (0.25%)
Strokes	1 (0.25%)
Major depressive episode	1 (0.25%)

Table 1. Metabolic complications of COVID-19 pneumonia in elderly

Metabolic disorders:	148 (37%)
Hepatic disorders	242 (60.6%)
Phosphocalcic disorders	218 (54.6%)
Ionic disorders	175 (43.8%)
Acute renal failure	80 (20%)
Myolysis	50 (12.5%)

Conclusion: elderly patients may have some common complications such as seen in younger patients yet some more atypical complications like confusion and depression may occur or reveal the disease. These complications not only threaten the prognosis but also increase frailty and loss and of autonomy.