

Daily evidence digest

5 May 2020

The daily evidence digest collates recently released reports and evidence – provision of these links does not imply endorsement nor recommendation.

Drug treatments, restarting surgeries, and populations-in-focus

Peer reviewed journals:

- The Lancet journals feature:
 - Small case series describing vascular perfusion abnormalities not previously described, which may shed light on hypoxaemia related to COVID-19 [here](#)
 - Fewer cancer diagnoses during the COVID-19 epidemic in the Netherlands [here](#)
 - Correspondence about BCG vaccine's immunomodulatory properties and that RCTs are underway in the Netherlands and Australia [here](#)
- Organisational model for ventilator-weaning and early rehabilitation to deal with post-ICU impairments with severe COVID-19 [here](#)
- Rapid systematic reviews on school closure and management practices during coronavirus outbreaks [here](#); and clinical trials of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine [here](#)
- International survey on the impact of COVID-19 on neurosurgeons and the strategy for triaging non-emergency operations [here](#)
- The NEJM features three studies regarding angiotensin-converting–enzyme (ACE) inhibitors [here](#) and angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs) [here](#) and [here](#)
- The NEJM also features a paper on early detection of COVID-19 through a citywide pandemic surveillance platform [here](#)
- Articles from the JAMA network include:
 - A study investigating contact tracing and transmission dynamics in Taiwan [here](#)
 - Insights on public health measures and the reproduction number (R0 and Rt) [here](#)
 - Commentary on the use of hospital-at-home to support COVID-19 surge capacity [here](#)

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine released a rapid review on vitamin D for treatment or prevention in COVID-19 [here](#); results of a prioritisation exercise on priority areas for primary care such as optimal screening questions at triage; and potential harms of community management [here](#); and an editorial on the potential use of tocilizumab [here](#)

Reports:

- The UK Faculty of Occupational Medicine have published a statement on COVID-19 deaths amongst Black, Asian and minority ethnicity (BAME) healthcare workers [here](#)
- First People's Disability Network Australia have published principles and recommendations on ethical decision-making for First Peoples living with disability during COVID-19 [here](#)
- A United Nations Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on older persons and directions for addressing issues [here](#)
- An overview from the US CDC on the SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing for Public Health Emergency Response, Epidemiology, and Surveillance (SPHERES) consortium [here](#)

Guidance:

- The Extracorporeal Life Support Organization has published COVID-19 interim guidelines on the use of ECMO [here](#)
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence published guidelines on: managing children and young people who are immunocompromised, indicating that COVID-19 is no worse in immunocompromised children [here](#); and antibiotic management for pneumonia in adults in hospital [here](#)
- The UK Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, Intensive Care Society, Association of Anaesthetists, and Royal College of Anaesthetists published a statement on restarting planned surgery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic [here](#)
- New statements on the reintroduction of elective surgery from four surgical societies: Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons; Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons; Australian and New Zealand Association of Paediatric Surgeons; and the Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery [here](#)

Twitter activity**Behavioural Science**

Tweets on behavioural science in COVID-19 have been building momentum over previous weeks. A news outlet has published an opinion piece from University of Sydney researchers [here](#), with limited evidence available around 'behavioural fatigue' during COVID-19 and suggesting evidence based behavioural strategies will be key for momentum. Additional perspectives and key blogs on using social and behavioural science to support the COVID-19 response from @Nature [here](#) and from @PractHealthPsy [here](#).

Contact tracing and smart phones – international perspective

An international spotlight on smart phone applications for contact tracing continues, with an editorial from @nature [here](#) suggesting the approach lacking demonstrable value. @EricTopol points to further reading with unaddressed aspects of digital tracing [here](#) and [here](#). Similarly, the BMJ provides grass-roots and potentially scalable contact tracing initiatives [here](#). Surveillance apps may also show promise for measuring resting HR to identify emerging clusters, with learnings from [@detect_Study](#). @RACGP have released a COVIDSafe app fact sheet [here](#).

Atypical COVID-19 presentations

Experience from ICU doctors are being reported in news articles [here](#) and [here](#), on the atypical nature of a subset of COVID-19 patients that gain worsening symptoms through a hyper-inflammatory response, while others develop 'happy' or silent hypoxia. The @BMJ_latest links to a blog that summarises key aspects of COVID19 and manifestations of effects on multiple organs [here](#).