



## TITLE: Assessment of risk factors and preventive measure compliance against COVID-19 among healthcare workers at tertiary care hospital: A retrospective study

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### ABSTRACT

#### Introduction:

SARS-CoV-2 has created a significant challenge to healthcare systems, since the disease has spread rapidly, outweighing hospital capacity and exposing Health Care Workers (HCWs) to the risk of infection. The main objective of this study shows the HCW's self-reported use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), symptoms, and exposure to revealed and suspected people during the pandemic, as well as the implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines that effectively limit the spread of the infection among healthcare personnel.

#### Method:

A single-center retrospective cohort study has been done at a tertiary care hospital. There were 3651 hospital employees of these 1890 HCWs and 1761 nonclinical staff among those who were proven or suspected COVID-19 cases and had symptoms were included. The data was gathered using a standardized self-assessment questionnaire. Information about quarantine protocol and line listing was collected through telephonic conversations.

#### Result:

The majority of the participants were males (66%). The average age was  $32.1 \pm 7.62$ . Out of 432 HCWs, 32.9 % with positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR findings were nurses, 19.2% were doctors, and 47.9% were non-clinical employees from the hospital's inpatient and outpatient departments. 31.5 % had a higher-risk exposure, 64.1 % had a moderate-risk exposure, and 4.4 % of practitioners with COVID-19 had a lower-risk exposure. A statistically significant association was found between covid-19 disease and adherence to PPE and risk exposure.

#### Conclusion:

This study represents the healthcare workers' experience with COVID-19 patients in the early stages of the pandemic and emphasizes the measures required to overcome the problems, however, this study highlights that HCWs are being progressively infected with COVID-19 as a result of inadequate/ inappropriate PPE wear.

#### Keywords

COVID-19; health-care workers; Risk Category; Personal Protective Equipment; Infection Prevention and Control

### BIOGRAPHY

I am Dr. Reema Aslam. I completed my BDS in 2017, MS (biostatistics and epidemiology) from school of public health, Dow University of health Sciences in 2022, the Certified Clinical Research Professional Course (Kriger Research Centre), and the London Research Course in 2022.

Currently, I work as a research associate at Indus Hospital & Health Network and as a consultant dentist at Al-Rafia Clinic.

Additionally, I have published several articles, blogged, projects, and received the patient safety golden winner award for my project "Hand hygiene observation collection made significantly easier with mobile app".

I am a talented Researcher passionate about increasing knowledge to drive growth and needed improvements. Enthusiastic about supporting advancements in my field of interest.

More than 7 years of experience in clinical, academics as well as researcher to organizational success. Dynamic, motivated, and meticulous Research and Testing Specialist with educational and hands-on experience in research and statistical analysis.

Organized and adaptive multi-tasker with outstanding talent to design, conduct and analyze research projects, as well as an outside-the-box team player with excellent cross-functional communication skills.



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