



Characteristics of COVID-19 patients dying in Italy Report based on available data on April 2nd, 2020

1. Sample

The present report describes characteristics of 12,250 COVID-19 patients dying in Italy.* Geographic distribution across the 19 regions and 2 autonomous provinces of Trento and Bozen is presented in the table below. Data are update to April 2nd, 2020.

Tabel 1. Geographic distribution of deceased patients COVID-2019 positive

REGION	N	%
Lombardia	7,600	60.6
Emilia-Romagna	1,720	13.7
Piemonte	874	7.0
Veneto	547	4.4
Liguria	428	3.4
Trento	209	1.7
Marche	173	1.4
Lazio	163	1.3
Toscana	147	1.2
Puglia	145	1.2
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	126	1.0
Campania	125	1.0
Bolzano	73	0.6
Sicilia	50	0.4
Valle d'Aosta	34	0.3
Umbria	33	0.3
Abruzzo	29	0.2
Sardegna	28	0.2
Calabria	26	0.2
Molise	11	0.1
Basilicata	9	0.1
Total	12,550	100.0

* COVID-19 related deaths presented in this report are those occurring in patients who test positive for SARSCoV-2 RT by PCR, independently from pre-existing diseases.

2. Demographics

Mean age of patients dying for COVID-2019 infection was 78 (median 80, range 24-100, IQR 73 -85). Women were 3,943 (31.4%). *Figure 1* shows that median age of patients dying for COVID-2019 infection was more than 15 years higher as compared with the national sample diagnosed with COVID-2019 infection (median age 62 years). *Figure 2* shows the absolute number of deaths by age group. Women dying for COVID-2019 infection had an older age than men (median age women 82 - median age men 78).

Figure 1. Median age of patients with COVID-2019 infection and COVID-19 positive deceased patients

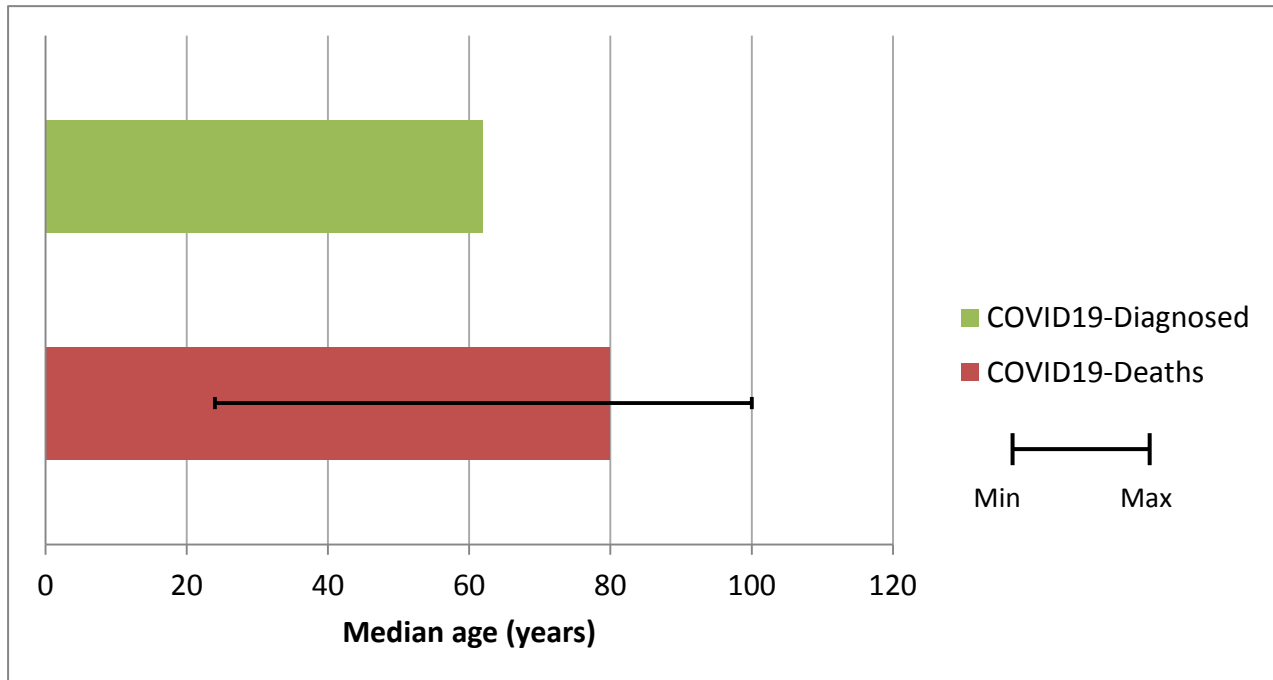
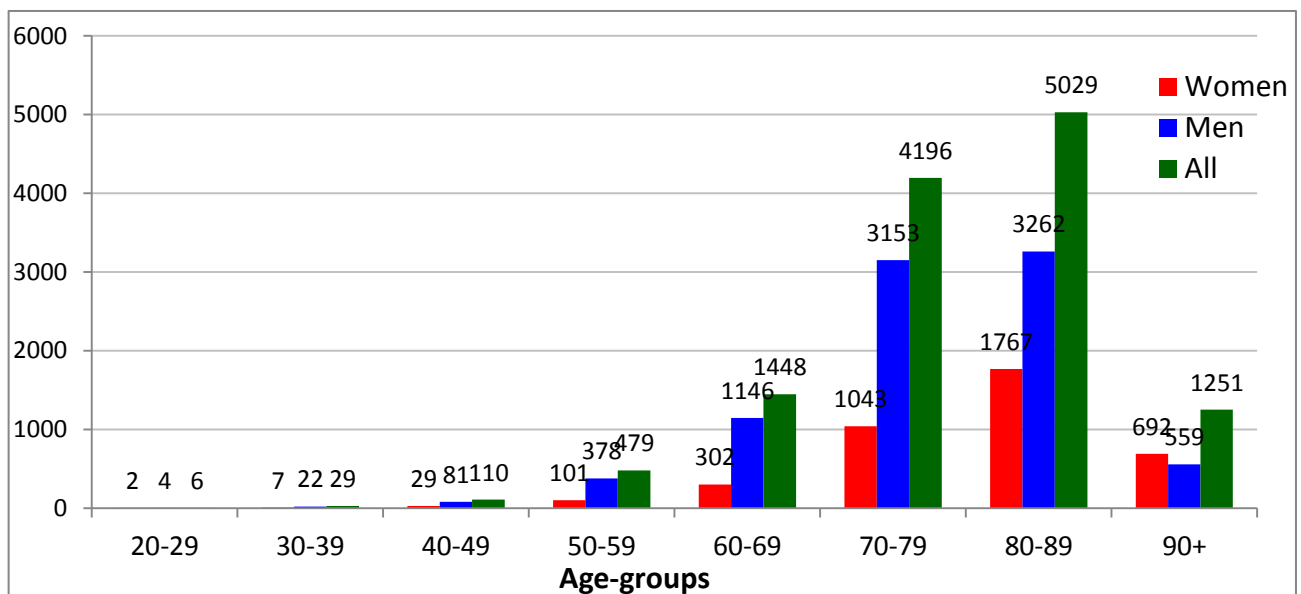


Figure 2. Absolute number of deaths by age group



Note: For 2 deceased persons age was not possible to be evaluated

3. Pre-existing conditions

Table 1 presents most common comorbidities diagnosed before COVID-2019 infection. Data on diseases were based on chart review and was available on 1,102 patients dying in-hospital for whom it was possible to analyse clinic charts. Mean number of diseases was 2.7 (median 3, SD 1.6). Overall, 2.8% of the sample presented with a no comorbidities, 22.1% with a single comorbidity, 23.9% with 2, and 51.3% with 3 or more.

Before hospitalization, 27% of COVID-19 positive deceased patients followed ACE-inhibitor therapy and 16% angiotensin receptor blockers-ARBs therapy. This information can be underestimated because data on drug treatment before admission were not always described in the chart.

Table 1. Most common comorbidities observed in COVID-19 positive deceased patients

Diseases	N	%
<i>Ischemic heart disease</i>	<i>302</i>	<i>27.4</i>
<i>Atrial Fibrillation</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>22.6</i>
<i>Heart failure</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>16.9</i>
<i>Stroke</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>11.5</i>
<i>Hypertension</i>	<i>794</i>	<i>72.1</i>
<i>Type 2-Diabetes</i>	<i>347</i>	<i>31.5</i>
<i>Dementia</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>15.7</i>
<i>COPD</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>18.3</i>
<i>Active cancer in the past 5 years</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>17.1</i>
<i>Chronic liver disease</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>4.1</i>
<i>Chronic renal failure</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>23.5</i>
Number of comorbidities		
<i>0 comorbidities</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>6.4</i>
<i>1 comorbidity</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>19.6</i>
<i>2 comorbidities</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>23.4</i>
<i>3 comorbidities and over</i>	<i>558</i>	<i>50.6</i>

Table 3 presents the most common pre-existing chronic pathologies in patients who died, separately in men (n = 769) and women (n = 333). The average number of pathologies observed in women is 2.6 (median 2, Standard Deviation 1.6). In men the average number of pathologies observed is 2.7 (median 3, Standard Deviation 1.6).

Tabella 3. Most common comorbidities observed in COVID-19 positive deceased patients by gender

	Women		Men	
Diseases	N	%	N	%
<i>Ischemic heart disease</i>	64	19.2	238	30.9
<i>Atrial Fibrillation</i>	84	25.2	165	21.5
<i>Heart Failure</i>	78	22.5	108	13.8
<i>Stroke</i>	37	11.1	90	11.7
<i>Hypertension</i>	251	75.4	543	70.6
<i>Type 2-Diabetes</i>	102	30.6	245	31.9
<i>Dementia</i>	66	19.8	107	13.9
<i>COPD</i>	44	13.2	158	20.5
<i>Active cancer in the past 5 years</i>	54	16.2	134	17.4
<i>Chronic liver disease</i>	10	3.0	35	4.6
<i>Chronic renal failure</i>	66	19.8	193	25.1
Number of comorbidities				
<i>0 comorbidities</i>	17	5.1	53	6.9
<i>1 comorbidity</i>	76	22.8	140	18.2
<i>2 comorbidities</i>	79	23.7	179	23.3
<i>3 comorbidities and over</i>	161	48.3	397	51.6

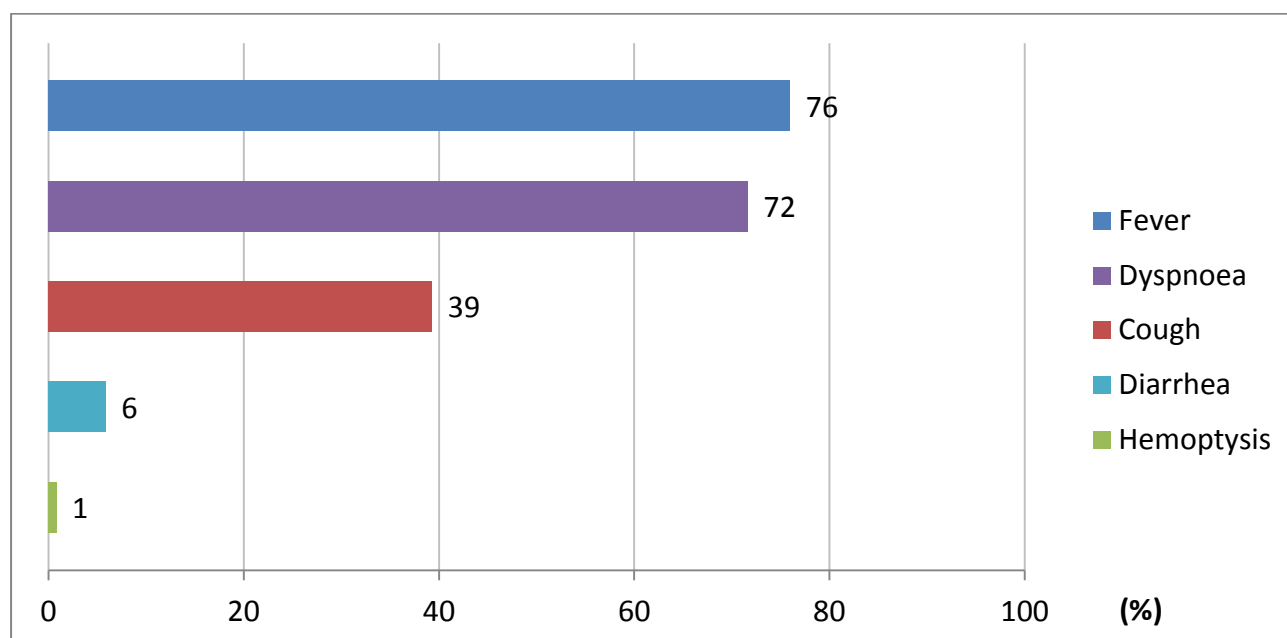
4. Diagnosis of hospitalization

In 94.6% of hospitalizations, conditions (e.g. pneumonia, respiratory failure) or symptoms (e.g. fever, dyspnoea, cough) compatible with COVID-19 were mentioned. In 59 cases (5.4% of cases) the diagnosis of hospitalization was not related to the infection. In 7 cases the diagnosis of hospitalization concerned exclusively neoplastic pathologies, in 27 cases cardiovascular pathologies (for example IMA, heart failure, stroke), in 11 cases gastrointestinal pathologies (for example cholecystitis, perforation of the intestine, intestinal obstruction, cirrhosis), in 10 cases other pathologies.

5. Symptoms

Figure 3 shows symptoms most commonly observed at hospital admission. Fever, dyspnoea and cough were the most commonly observed symptoms, while diarrhoea and haemoptysis were less commonly observed. Overall, 5.9% of patients did not present any symptoms at hospital admission.

Figure 3. Most common symptoms observed in COVID-19 positive deceased patients



6. Acute conditions

Acute Respiratory Distress syndrome was observed in the majority of patients (96.1% of cases), followed by acute renal failure (25.0%). Superinfection was observed in 10.6% and acute cardiac injury in 10.4% of cases.

7. Treatments

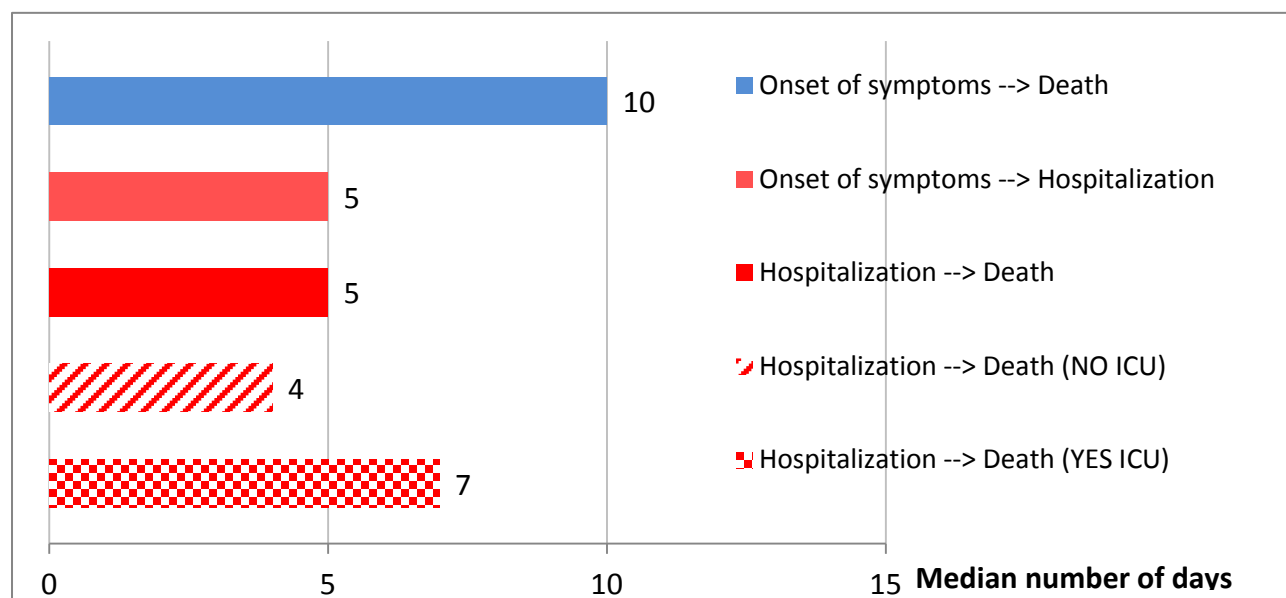
Antibiotics were used by 85% of patients during hospital stay, while less used were antivirals (55%) and corticosteroids (33%). Concomitant use of these 3 treatments was observed in 18.0% of cases.

Out of COVID-19 positive deceased patients, 1.9% were treated with Tocilizumab during hospitalization.

8. Time-line

Figure 4 shows, for COVID-19 positive deceased patients, the median times, in days, from the onset of symptoms to death (10 days), from the onset of symptoms to hospitalization (5 days) and from hospitalization to death (5 days). The time from hospitalization to death was 2 days longer in those who were transferred to intensive care than those who were not transferred (6 days vs. 4 days).

Figure 4. Median hospitalization times (in days) in COVID-19 positive deceased patients



9. Deaths under the age of 50 years

As of April 2nd, 145 out of the 12,250 (1.2%) positive COVID-19 patients under the age of 50 died. In particular, 35 of these were less than 40 years, 94 men and 26 women (age range between 26 and 39 years). For 14 patients under the age of 40 years no clinical information is available; the remaining 18 had serious pre-existing pathologies (cardiovascular, renal, psychiatric pathologies, diabetes, obesity) and 3 had no major pathologies.

This report was produced by COVID-19 Surveillance Group

Members of the COVID-19 Surveillance Group

Luigi Palmieri, Xanthi Andrianou, Pierfrancesco Barbariol, Antonino Bella, Stefania Bellino, Eva Benelli, Luigi Bertinato, Stefano Boros, Gianfranco Brambilla, Giovanni Calcagnini, Marco Canevelli, Maria Rita Castrucci, Federica Censi, Alessandra Ciervo, Elisa Colaizzo, Fortunato D'Ancona, Martina Del Manso, Chiara Donfrancesco, Massimo Fabiani, Antonietta Filia, Marco Floridia, Marina Giuliano, Tiziana Grisetti, Martin Langer, Ilaria Lega, Cinzia Lo Noce, Pietro Maiozzi, Fiorella Malchiodi Albedi, Valerio Manno, Margherita Martini, Alberto Mateo Urdiales, Eugenio Mattei, Claudia Meduri, Paola Meli, Giada Minelli, Manuela Nebuloni, Lorenza Nisticò, Marino Nonis, Graziano Onder, Lucia Palmisano, Nicola Petrosillo, Patrizio Pezzotti, Flavia Pricci, Ornella Punzo, Vincenzo Puro, Valeria Raparelli, Giovanni Rezza, Flavia Riccardo, Maria Cristina Rota, Paolo Salerno, Debora Serra, Andrea Siddu, Paola Stefanelli, Manuela Tamburo De Bella, Dorina Tiple, Brigid Unim, Luana Vaianella, Nicola Vanacore, Monica Vichi, Emanuele Rocco Villani, Silvio Brusaferro.