

Special Issue

Challenges in Heart Disease in the Era of COVID-19

Message from the Guest Editors

Patients that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 experienced COVID-19 with different stages of severity, ranging from asymptomatic patients to severe illness requiring intubation, mechanical ventilation and intensive care unit admission and possibly leading to death. Severe clinical manifestations are associated with hypercoagulative processes, acute thrombosis, over-inflammation and endothelial dysfunction. The case fatality rate seems higher in some patients, in particular among those with pre-existing comorbidities, such as cardiovascular disease (CVD). A combined effect of cardiovascular risk factors may play a role in increasing illness and mortality during SARS-CoV-2 infection, as these conditions share several standard features with infectious disorders, including a chronic pro-inflammatory state and the attenuation of the innate immune response, which may make individuals more susceptible to disease complications. This Special Issue aims to collect a series of articles focused on current and future impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on patients care, cardiovascular management and outcomes for patients with and without underlying cardiovascular disease and risk factors.

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