

Covid Evidence Digest 3/30/2020

[Treatment of 5 Critically Ill Patients With COVID-19 With Convalescent Plasma \(JAMA\)](#)

Bottom Line: In this case series of 5 critically ill patients with COVID-19, administration of convalescent plasma was followed by improvement in their clinical status. This case series does not offer proof that treatment with convalescent plasma is effective; further study is needed.

Details: 5 critically ill, intubated patients with COVID-19 in China received treatment with convalescent plasma, along with maximal supportive care and several other medications under investigation for COVID-19. All 5 patients showed clinical improvements in the days and weeks following plasma administration, but it is not known if these improvements were due to the plasma or not.

Key Takeaways:

- The authors encourage further study of convalescent plasma in clinical trials.

[Antibodies in Infants Born to Mothers With COVID-19 Pneumonia \(JAMA\)](#)

Bottom Line: There is evidence that COVID-19 might be transmitted during pregnancy from mother to infant, but more studies are needed to definitively prove transmission.

Details: Out of 6 mothers diagnosed with COVID-19 during pregnancy, 2 delivered infants who had antibodies to COVID-19 indicating that they might have been exposed to the infection. No infants had symptoms or had any viral RNA detected in throat swabs or blood samples. All mothers had cesarean deliveries in their third trimester in negative pressure isolation rooms. All mothers wore masks, and infants were isolated from their mothers immediately after delivery.

Key Takeaways:

- This study does not prove that COVID-19 can be transmitted through pregnancy.
- It remains crucial to screen pregnant women and implement strict infection control measures, quarantine of infected mothers, and close monitoring of neonates at risk of COVID-19.

[Asymptomatic and Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections in Residents of a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility — King County, Washington, March 2020 \(MMWR\)](#)

Bottom Line: In a Washington nursing home with a COVID-19 outbreak, approximately 30% of residents tested positive for the virus; over 50% of those who tested positive had no symptoms at time of testing, though most did develop symptoms in later days.

Details: Following one of the early COVID-19 outbreaks at a nursing home in Washington, the CDC tested 93% of that nursing home's residents for the COVID-19 virus. The CDC also asked each person tested about COVID-19 symptoms. Among 23 (30%) residents with positive test results, 10 (43%) had symptoms on the date of testing, and 13 (57%) were asymptomatic. Seven days after testing, 10 of these 13 previously asymptomatic residents had developed symptoms and were recategorized as presymptomatic at the time of testing.

Key Takeaways:

- Symptom-based screening could fail to identify approximately half of residents in nursing homes with COVID-19.
- The authors suggest long-term care facilities and other congregate settings should take proactive steps to prevent introduction of the COVID-19 virus.