

## Abstract

**Introduction:** We describe the clinical spectrum of COVID-19 cases in western Kenya from 6 April 2020 to 31 May 2021, providing baseline data for further studies into COVID-19 in Kenya.

**Methods:** We did a retrospective chart review of laboratory and inpatient files of patients diagnosed and managed for COVID-19 at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya and analyzed the data using Stata® version 16 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX, USA) and calculated measures of association at 95% CI.

**Results:** The patients ( $n = 1,770$ ) had a mean age of 43 years (SD 20 years) and 55.4% were male. Close to 70% had asymptomatic disease, with the symptomatic cases largely being respiratory in nature. One-quarter had comorbidities. The case fatality rate was 13.6% ( $n = 240$ ). Male sex increased the odds of mortality by 1.69 (95% CI 1.27–2.25;  $p \leq 0.001$ ), and the presence of comorbidities increased the odds of mortality by 3.16 (95% CI 2.38–4.18;  $p \leq 0.001$ ). Those aged 59 years and above were 18 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than those below 15 years of age (95% CI 1.61–90.66;  $p = 0.015$ ).

**Conclusion:** COVID-19 had a significantly high mortality rate in western Kenya. Male sex and the presence of comorbidities increased the risk of severe disease and mortality.

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