

Letter to Editor

Guide for Cardiac Catheterization in COVID 19 Pandemic

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Letter to Editor

In view of the pandemic of Covid 19 infection, certain guidelines has to be establish and follow to minimize risk to the patients and health-care workers. One should follow general guidelines for Covid 19 infected patients and report to concern hospital departments. These are some guidance for Cardiac catheterization during this Covid 19 pandemic.

Elective Procedure

- Avoid elective procedures especially for the high risk patients with multiple co-morbidities.
- Avoid procedures with anticipated prolong hospital stay or need ICU setup.
- PCI for stable ischemic heart disease can be delayed.
- Delaying procedure may be risky therefore individualized decision should be made.

Precautions for the Patients

- Patients who need emergent cardiovascular intervention should be admitted in single bed room.
- Monitor for the signs and symptoms of disease.
- Send pre-procedure PCR for Covid 19.
- All patients should undergo CT chest to evaluate for Covid 19 infection.
- Minimize exposure to staff and different hospital departments.

Patients with ST Elevation MI

- Primary PCI is best for STEMI.
- If possible use fibrinolytic agent for these patient.
- When PCI is necessary then use personal protective equipment and respirator.
- PCI should be done at bedside if possible.

Patients with Non ST Elevation MI

- Get PCR done for Covid 19 infection before procedure.

- Early discharge should be encouraged.
- Conservative therapy should be considered for stable patient.

Intubating the Patients

- Intubation should be done prior to the transfer in Cath lab.
- Use personal protective equipment and respirator.
- Use HEPA filters or close circuit BIPAP machines.

Health Care Workers Protection

- Limited exposure to the patients and attending.
- Arrange back up staff.
- Make teams and divide days.
- PPE should be provided.
- Use N95 masks, eye shield, gloves and gowns during procedures.
- Use face shields and strict hand hygiene.

Procedure Room

- Interventions should be done in a Cath lab with negative-pressure ventilation.
- Do periprocedural disinfection.
- Limited traffic in cath lab.

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