

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ENT EMERGENCIES: A SINGLE-CENTER EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT (upto 300 words)

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the use of health systems around the world while emergency consultations for diseases not related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus have reduced. The objective of this study is to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on emergency otorhinolaryngology (ENT) consultations in the emergency department of a highly complex center. To do this, a retrospective-comparative study was carried out. ENT Emergency consultations between March 3rd and December 31st, 2020, were compared with the data obtained from 2019 to determine the epidemiological changes of the ongoing Pandemic. Results: There was a noticeable decrease of emergency ENT consultations compared to the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic (-23.3%). The greatest decrease was recorded in the lockdown period or total mobility restriction (-59%). There were no significant differences between sociodemographic data, type of ENT pathology, number of surgical emergencies and hospital admissions compared to the previous period. Conclusions: The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a decrease in ENT Urgency consultations, exacerbating in the total mobility restriction period imposed by local governments. Although there were no changes in the predominant pattern of care with respect to the pre-pandemic era, an increase in decompensated or complicated pathologies are estimated in the medium-long term. Prospective studies are required to determine the true impact of the ongoing pandemic.

BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)

Diego Navarro completed his medical studies at the Universidad Austral de Chile. He is currently working an otorhinolaryngology residency at the University of Concepción, Chile. Diego has publications in the Chilean journal of Otorhinolaryngology and Head & Neck. He currently participates in a Bevacizumab research group in patients with Rendu-Osler-Weber.

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