

Study of Some Hematological Parameters in Patients with COVID 19 in Kirkuk

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Abstract

The World Health Organization has confirmed that Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid19) is a worldwide pandemic. Attention was drawn to the changes that occur in patients' different blood parameters with Covid-19 infection. Therefore, this study is an attempt to assess the pattern of some hematological parameters in some Covid 19 affected persons in the city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq. White blood cells count, lymphocyte count, and neutrophil count were studied in patients with Covid19 as well as red blood cell count and hemoglobin concentration. This is an observational study in 60 laboratory-confirmed patients whose case of Covid 19 was referred to the General Hospital in the town center, from September 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020. Analysis of the data statistics was performed, and the relevant results were presented. Of the 50 patients, 34 were male and 26 were female, ranging in age from 19 to 83 years, with 39 patients over 51 years old. The results showed that there was leukopenia in 44 patients, lymphopenia in 50 patients, and neutropenia in 45 of them. It was concluded that leukocytes, lymphocytes and neutrophils can be used from hematological criteria, which have a prominent role in the diagnosis of Covid19.

Keywords: *Blood parameters, leukopenia, lymphopenia , Covid 19 infection.*

Introduction

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) is considered a global health emergency, because there are millions of infections with the huge numbers of deaths worldwide⁽¹⁻³⁾. It causes respiratory disease that may lead to highly progressive pneumonia, multi-organ dysfunction and death in harshly damaged patients⁽⁴⁻⁶⁾. The early affected case of COVID-19 was detected in Iraq on February 24, 2020, in Najaf Governorate, for an Iranian student. This was followed by 4 cases from one family in the city of Kirkuk, and it was found that they also had a travel history to Iran^(7,8). Blood tests perform an essential role in the primary diagnosis of infection, along with the data provided by physicians relating the inflammatory process. This information includes the white blood cell count and its characteristics such as the level of neutrophils or lymphocytes, etc. Given previous research, the use of circulating biomarkers that represent inflammation and anemia were considered as a predictive sign in patients infected with COVID-19⁽⁹⁻¹³⁾. In this study, the roles of biomarkers from a peripheral blood sample in diagnosing hospitalized COVID-19 patients were examined.

Methods

Sixty persons who were reportedly infected with COVID-19 and were referred to the General Hospital in the city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, which was a center for admitting Covid 19 patients at the governorate level, were enrolled in this study, from September 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020. Cases of Covid-19 infection identified by a positively affirmative result on an inverse transcript - polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test of a sample gathered upon a test of swab from the nasopharynx. The recorded information includes demographic features and hematological parameters through the hospital data management system. Blood samples were collected and then samples were processed in an automated hematology

analyzer. The following parameters were observed and measured: hemoglobin (HB), , red blood cells count (RBCs), white blood cells (WBCs), neutrophils (NEU) count, and lymphocytes (LYM) count. Descriptive data regarding statistics were employed in order to review the data. Results are informed as levels or / and averaged as appropriate.

Results

This study included 60 patients divided into 34 males and 26 females, ranging in age from 19 years to 83 years. Thirty-nine patients, over the age of 51, and three cases over 81 years, as shown in Figure 1.

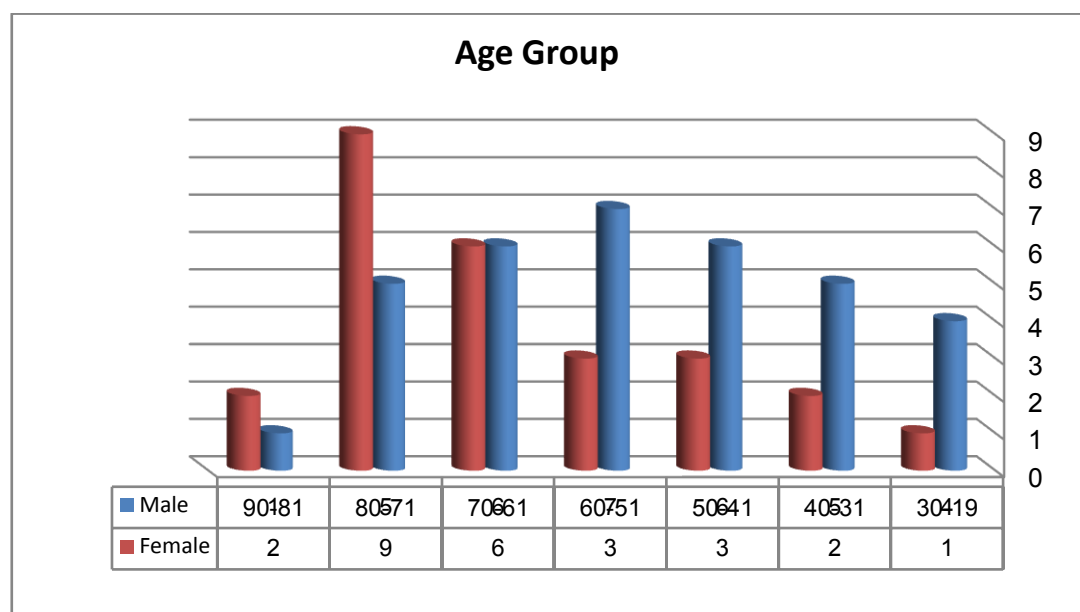
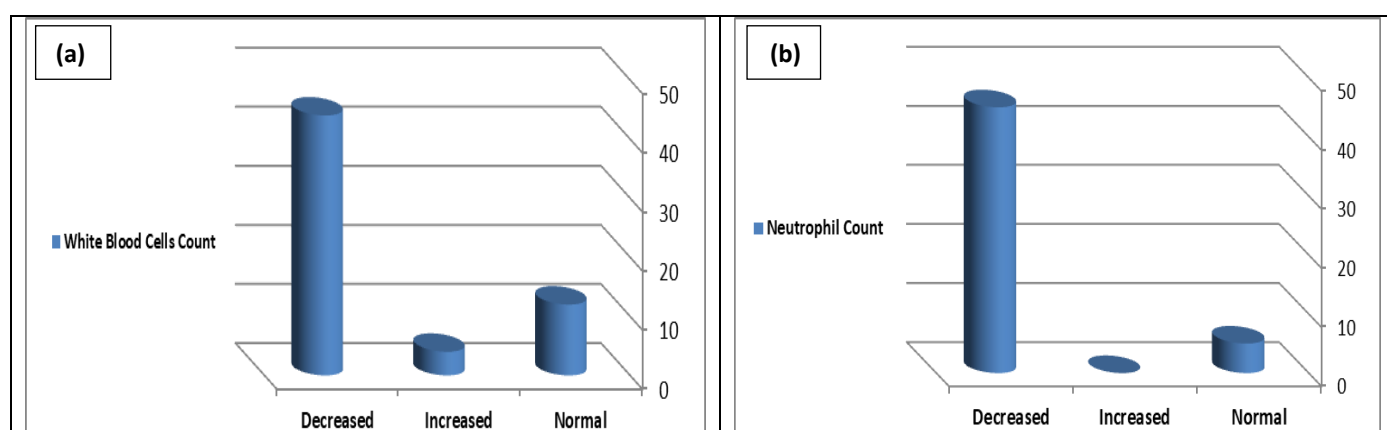


Figure 1: Diagram showing the age distribution of COVID-19 patients by gender. (N = 60)

A routine complete blood count test was done for all patients after admission. The results showed that the white blood cells, neutrophil, and the lymphocyte counts in the COVID-19 patients were essentially in the decrease reference levels. Many patients had different degrees of red blood cells count and hemoglobin concentrations (figure 2).



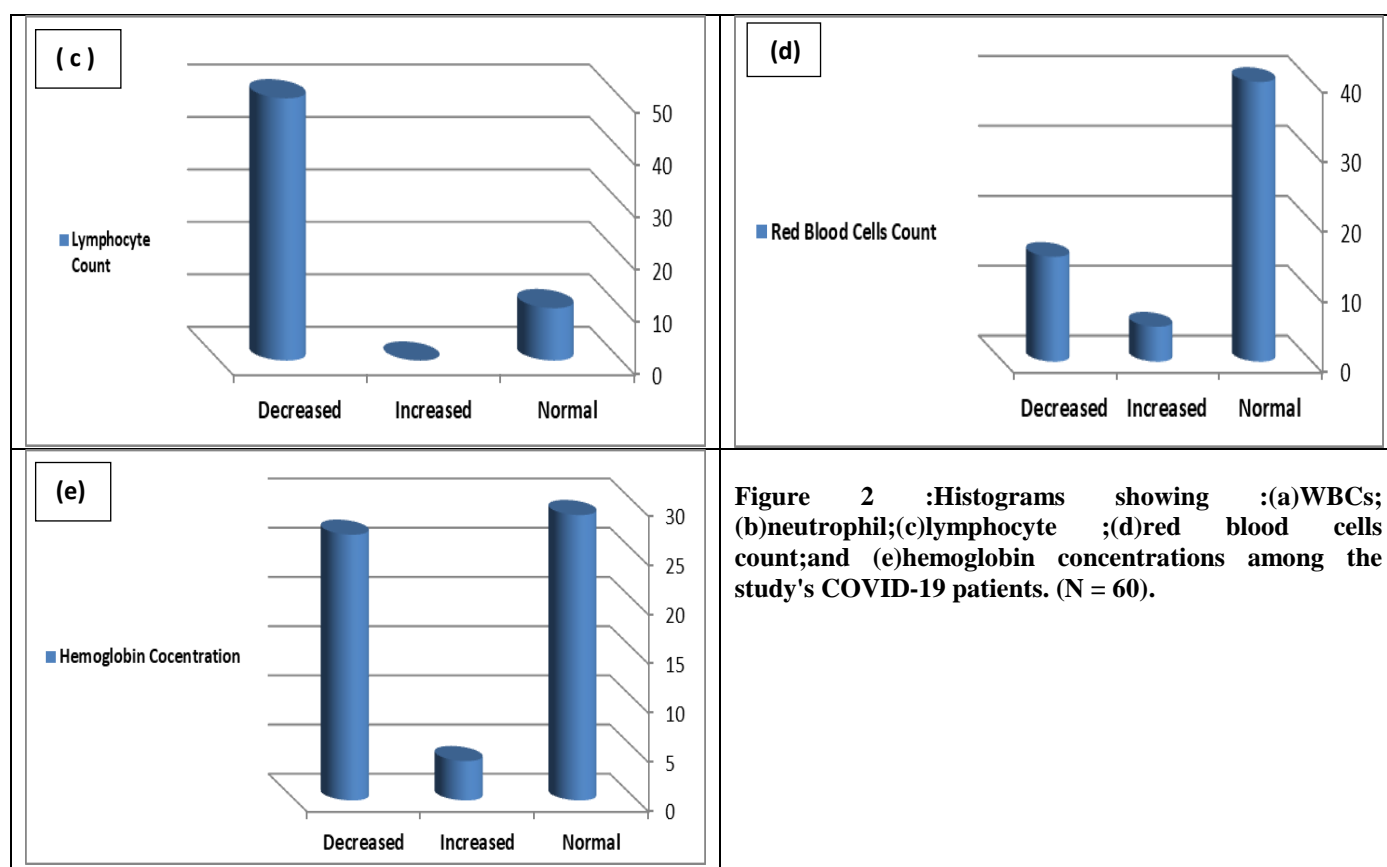


Figure 2 :Histograms showing : (a)WBCs; (b)neutrophil;(c)lymphocyte ;(d)red blood cells count;and (e)hemoglobin concentrations among the study's COVID-19 patients. (N = 60).

Discussion

Among the hematological biomarkers employed to categorize COVID-19 infected persons into stratification: the count of white blood cell, lymphocyte count, ratio of lymphocyte (NLR), and hemoglobin concentration^(14,15). A complete blood count (CBC) is easy and inexpensive. CBC values such as white blood count, neutrophils, lymphocytes were included. They can be used as inflammatory markers. Neutrophils are the most distinct cell type among white blood cells and are an important component of the immune system. The role of lymphocytes in both inflammation and infection is clear⁽¹⁶⁻¹⁸⁾. Identifications hematological parameters can help predict disease severity and thus guide clinical care. Lymphopenia has become significance at this point^(19,20). Based on previous research, the use of circulating biomarkers that represent inflammation and the immune system was considered as a predictive sign in patients with COVID-19. However, their diagnostic usefulness has not been precisely confirmed⁽²¹⁾.

Conclusions

COVID-19 patients upon admission clearly demonstrated lymphopenia and leukopenia. Accurate assessment of laboratory indications upon admission can be helpful for clinicians in formulating treatment approaches to achieve better outcomes.

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