

# COVID-19 Infection in Oman

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Dear Editor,

I would like to share ideas on the report, "Epidemiology of COVID-19 Infection in Oman: Analysis of the First 1304 Cases." The authors found that on presentation, 95.9% of cases were mild, 3.6% moderate, and 0.5% severe with a case fatality rate of 0.5%.<sup>1</sup> This trend is similar to many countries. An interesting observation is the low mortality rate compared to Western countries. Another interesting observation is the high incidence of mild COVID-19. This might imply the nature of non-severe COVID-19 in Oman, or possible natural resistance among people in Oman. In fact, this trend is observed in many Asian countries, such as those in Indochina.<sup>2</sup> Whether there is any effect of race and severity in COVID-19 is an interesting question for further research. Also, due to the nature of the non-severe infection, there is a chance that there might be a high incidence of asymptomatic COVID-19 cases in Oman. Underdiagnosis is a possible problem in epidemiology studies of COVID-19 since many

cases are mild or asymptomatic.<sup>2</sup> Since there is no universal screening for all people, it is hard to tell the exact rate of asymptomatic COVID-19 in the community. In areas with non-severe disease, it might be necessary to have serosurveillance to actively search for mild or asymptomatic cases for early control of disease spread.

## REFERENCES

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