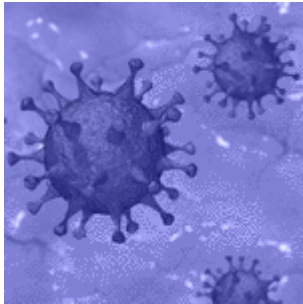


The different clinical characteristics of COVID-19 between children and adults.



In this Chinese study, clinical, biological and radiological data from nine children infected with the COVID-19-causing virus, SARS CoV-2, and their families were collected ([Su et al., 2020](#)). All the children tested SARS-CoV-2 positive after their families' infection. In children, 22.2% suffered from fever, 11.2% suffered from cough, and 66.7% had no symptoms. Among the adult group, the major symptoms included fever (57.1%), cough (35.7%), chest tightness/pain (21.4%) and sore throat (7.1%). About third of adults had decreased white blood cell counts, and 50% had lymphocytopenia. There were ten adults (71.4%) showing abnormal imaging: mainly pulmonary consolidation (70%), nodular shadow (50%), and ground-glass opacity (50%). Five discharged children were re-admitted due to positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR result in their stool.

Su et al., showed that COVID-19 in children has a mild or asymptomatic clinical process, which is a largely better prognosis than that in adults. However, PCR positivity in stool seems to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 lasts longer in children than in their family members. Since PCR detects viral DNA and not viable virus this finding does not confirm long-term viability of the virus in children. A study by [Dong et al.](#), further suggests an age stratification of disease severity, where young children and infants (< 5 years) had a higher incidence of severe COVID-19 compared to older children

(> 5 years). (**Also read:** [Why is COVID-19 so mild in children?](#))

A systematic review of 45 publication by [Ludvigsson](#), highlights that less than 5% of COVID-19 patients are children, who predominantly experience asymptomatic or mild disease. Reasons for reduced morbidity are yet to be known. Some suggestions include co-morbidity with other viral infections or reduced expression and/or maturation of ACE-2, SARS-CoV-2 binding target for cell entry.

Reference:

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Children – United States, February 12–April 2, 2020](#)
- Dong et al., 2020. [Epidemiological Characteristics of 2143 Pediatric Patients With 2019 Coronavirus Disease in China.](#) Pediatrics
- Ludvigsson 2020. [Systematic review of COVID-19 in children shows milder cases and a better prognosis than adults.](#) Acta Paediatrica
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