

CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS DIED WITH COVID-19 IN MALAYSIA

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Published online: 16 Nov 2022

To cite this article: DANIAL, M., ARULAPPEN, A. L., SOELAR, S. A., CH'NG, A. S. H. & LOOI I. (2022) Clinical characteristics of individuals died with COVID-19 in Malaysia, *Malaysian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 20(2): 105–120, <https://doi.org/10.21315/mjps2022.20.2.9>

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.21315/mjps2022.20.2.9>

ABSTRACT

Battling the COVID-19 pandemic still is the main agenda of many countries in the world today. This study aims to describe the clinical characteristics of COVID-19-related deaths in Malaysia in 2020. Data was obtained from the daily press conference on the COVID-19 situation in Malaysia. Only information on daily deaths were collected for the purpose of this study. A total of 471 COVID-19 deaths reported in Malaysia in 2020. Number of deaths reported for the age categories < 65 years old and ≥ 65 years old were almost equal. Majority of deaths were reported among male (66.2%), Malaysian (82.8%), from the state of Sabah (56.3%) and with comorbidities (75.4%). Commonly reported comorbidities were hypertension (53.1%), diabetes mellitus (37.6%) and heart disease (17.4%). Gout was more prevalent and attributed to significant rate of mortality in individuals ≥ 65 years old (6.1%; $p = 0.011$), whereas obesity (5.8%; $p = 0.003$) and asthma (4.5%; $p = 0.040$) were more prevalent and attributed to significant rate of mortality in individuals < 65 years old. Heart disease was more prevalent among males ($n = 64$, 20.5%; $p = 0.013$) and obesity was more prevalent among women ($n = 11$, 6.9%; $p = 0.003$). Furthermore, presence of comorbidities was significantly higher in Malaysians ($p < 0.001$) with two and more comorbidities ($p = 0.007$). Early detection of risk factors for critical conditions is urgently required to provide adequate supportive treatment.

Keywords: Comorbidities, COVID-19, Died, Malaysia, Public data

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