

COVID-19 and management of the corpse

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Dear Editor, we found that the publication on “Management of the corpse with suspect, probable or confirmed COVID-19 respiratory infection - Italian interim recommendations for personnel potentially exposed to material from corpses, including body fluids, in morgue structures and during autopsy practice” is very interesting ¹. In fact, the management of dead body is an important issue but rarely mentioned. There is a risk of possible disease transmission from corpse to practitioner or other persons who come into contact with the corpse. The first possible case of COVID-19 transmitted from corpse by Sriwijitalai and Wiwanitkit is good evidence for the urgent need to implement good protection of disease from dead body ².

References

- ¹ Fineschi V, Aprile A, Aquila I, et al.; Italian Society of Anatomical Pathology and Cytology (SIAPEC). Management of the corpse with suspect, probable or confirmed COVID-19 respiratory infection - Italian interim recommendations for personnel potentially exposed to material from corpses, including body fluids, in morgue structures and during autopsy practice. *Pathologica* 2020;112:64-77. <https://doi.org/10.32074/1591-951X-13-20>
- ² Sriwijitalai W, Wiwanitkit V. COVID-19 in forensic medicine unit personnel: observation from Thailand. *J Forensic Leg Med* 2020 May;72:101964. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2020.101964>

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Conflict of interest statement

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