

Methods

Ethics declarations

We conducted a retrospective study of electronic medical and laboratory records. This study was approved by Life Medical Ethics Committee at Wuhan University (WHU-LFMD-IRB2023001).

Overview of the study design

This project was performed at a single hospital in Wuhan, China. We included COVID-19 outpatients and inpatients admitted to the Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University between 7 December 2022 and 5 January 2023. COVID-19 was diagnosed according to the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in respiratory swabs or COVID-19 Coronavirus Rapid Antigen tests. Cases were included based on criteria from the World Health Organization and China's Coronavirus Pneumonia Diagnosis and Treatment Plan (provisional 10th edition). Data were manually extracted from the electronic medical records that were included in a quality improvement database. We examined the time and date of admission of the hospital visit, analyses and diagnoses of COVID-19, and the microbiological test results. Each positive microbiological nucleic acid test result was reviewed by at least one infectious disease physician and was included if that result represented a clinically significant coinfection.

Characterization of the microbiome of the respiratory tract

Coinfection was defined by clinical signs and/or symptoms of infection and further detection of a pathogen by microbiological nucleic acid tests. Sputum samples were subjected to nucleic acid tests to detect respiratory bacteria (*Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, and *Chlamydia pneumoniae*) and other respiratory viruses (rhinovirus, bocavirus, parainfluenza virus, coronaviruses, respiratory syncytial virus, Influenza A virus, Influenza A/H1N1, Influenza A/H3N2, Influenza B virus, human metapneumovirus, and human adenovirus).

Statistical Analysis

SPSS 24.0 statistical software was used for statistical analysis of the data. The count data were described statistically by frequency and component ratio, and compared between groups. χ^2 test was used for those meeting the test conditions, or Fisher exact probability method or Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test was used. The test level was $\alpha = 0.05$. $P < 0.05$ indicated statistically significant difference.