COMPARISON BETWEEN INFANTS AND OLDER CHILDREN WITH COVID-19 INFECTION

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Background Children are less likely to be severely affected or symptomatic from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) compared to adults. Currently, there is limited evidence on direct comparison of the presentation, clinical features, and management between infants and older children.

Conclusions Between March and June 2020, hospitalised older children in UHL appeared to be more adversely affected by COVID-19 compared to infants. This may correlate with the emergence of Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome Temporally associated with SARS-CoV-2 (PIMS-TS) and increased incidence of Kawasaki-like disease. Previous findings of infants having more severe disease from COVID-19 by Dong et al might be misleading as it predated the emergence of PIMS-TS and Kawasaki-like disease. The intention of this report is to alert the paediatric community that older children are likely to have a more severe disease when admitted with COVID-19. As this disease is a relatively new entity with evolving clinical picture, clinicians should be open-minded and remain vigilant.