

Overview of COVID 19 disease in Albania

Enida Xhaferi¹, Fatbardha Lamaj², Klejda Tani¹, Florjan Risilia³



¹University of Medicine/Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences, Tirana, Albania

²Intermedica Laboratory, Tirana, Albania

³AKBPM, Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Background: An outbreak of severe pneumonia cases was reported in the province of Wuhan, China in December 2019. Samples from infected patients were analyzed and a novel betacoronavirus, named 2019-nCoV was isolated in human epithelial cells. The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses renamed the new virus: SARS-CoV-2, due to similarities with the SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV), and the disease that it causes was termed COVID-19 by the WHO. Members of the Coronaviridae family are enveloped, single-stranded RNA viruses, that can be isolated in different species (bats, livestock, mice, humans etc). These viruses, which manage to transverse species, can cause human diseases ranging from the common cold to more severe pathologies. Two important viruses of this family are SARS-CoV (causing the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome/SARS infection) which triggered a large-scale epidemic, with 800 deaths, and MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome/MERS infection) that provoked an outbreak with 800 deaths, which started in the Arabic Peninsula.

The novel and contagious infection spread quickly around the world, and on March 11, 2020, the WHO, announced COVID-19 global pandemic.

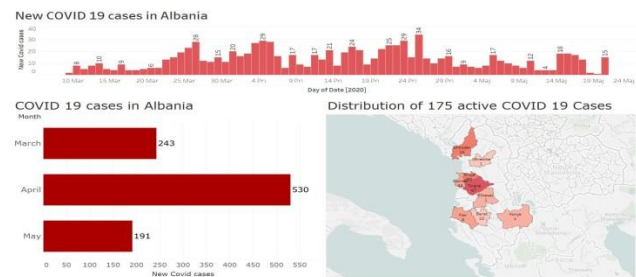
Objective: This abstract aims to report the impact of COVID 19 in Albania and describe some of the measures taken by the Government to cope with this disease.

Methods: Data from the Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health were reviewed and analyzed. The demographic distribution of active cases as of May 20, 2020 was mapped, and disease progress and impact examined and visualized.

Results: The first confirmed case of COVID 19 in Albania was reported in March 9, 2020. Since then, a total of 964 individuals have been infected with SARS-CoV-2. 79% of patients have recovered (758 cases). There have been 31 deaths in these three months of pandemic and currently there are 175 active cases. The Government took swift measures to reduce transmission and contain the spread of infection. Some of these measures are: shifting online university and school classes, closing restaurants and bars, stopping public gatherings, applying travel restrictions and placing the population under lockdown. These measures are being gradually removed

Conclusion: COVID 19 is a new contagious disease which has infected more than 4.9 million people worldwide. Albania is not affected as severely as the neighboring Italy by this pandemic,

but the crisis has challenged profoundly the government and health organizations, which did their best to find effective countermeasures and avoid catastrophic consequences. At the moment prevention aimed at reducing transmission in the community is the best approach, but scientists and research companies across the planet are working tirelessly and there are many active initiatives which aim to develop quickly a vaccine, and efficient therapeutics



Graphic 1: COVID 19 situation in Albania as of May 20,2020



Biography:

Enida Xhaferi has finished Medical School at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tirana, in July 2002 and completed Clinical Rheumatology residency in Tirana in March 2007. She has been working for the University of Medicine of Albania since 2010, where she teaches Internal Medicine and Management of Patients during Disasters.

Speaker Publications:

1. Zhu N, Zhang D, Wang W, et al. A Novel Coronavirus from Patients with Pneumonia in China, 2019. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;382(8):727-733. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2001017.
2. CDC, 2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China. CDC. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>. January 26, 2020.

3. Gallegos A. WHO Declares Public Health Emergency for Novel Coronavirus. Medscape Medical News. Available at <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/924596>. January 30, 2020.

4. Coronavirus Updates: The Illness Now Has a Name: COVID-19. The New York Times. Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/11/world/asia/coronavirus-china.html>. February 11, 2020.

[16th World Congress on Healthcare & Technologies](#);
Barcelona, Spain- June 15-16, 2020.

Abstract Citation:

Enida Xhaferi, Overview of COVID 19 disease in Albania, Healthcare Summit 2020, 16th World Congress on Healthcare & Technologies, June 15-16, 2020; Barcelona, Spain

<https://europe.healthconferences.org/abstract/2020/overview-of-covid-19-disease-in-albania>