

Impact of Lockdown on Chain Break of Pandemic COVID-19: The Current Status and Forecast

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Abstract

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an outbreak of epidemic disease origin in Wuhan city, China. The virus transmits rapidly in worldwide and the rate of fatality also elevated by passing each day. But, action taken by World Health Organization failed to stop outbreak of COVID-19. Wuhan city in China has controlled the pandemic disease with lockdown strategy and present all other countries also followed the same strategy for a month. Hence, present study has been designed to observe the impact of lockdown on COVID-19 in worldwide population and future prophecy with present circumstances. Online database (www.channelnewsasia.com) was used to ensure that number of COVID-19 cases, death and recovery are recorded in the period of 20 days lockdown (6th - 26th April 2020) in worldwide and as well as country wise population. The data shows significant elevation of COVID-19 cases was observed since 71447, on Feb 18th to 1.3 million by 6th April and then to 2.96 million by 26th April 2020 in worldwide. The fatality rate of COVID-19 were shown to be increased from 2.48% on Feb 18th to 5.51% by 6th April and then to 6.95% on 26th April 2020 in worldwide. We have found increased morbidity (2.21 folds) and fatality (6.95%) of COVID-19 in worldwide and country wise population. In fact lockdown might help to reduce register new cases, but not made zero. However, present situation demands continuation of lockdown and social distance should be maintained with strict rules otherwise probabilities are more to reach unimaginable number of cases in coming days.

Introduction

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an outbreak of epidemic disease. The virus transmits rapidly in worldwide and the rate of fatality also elevated by passing each day. In December 2019, COVID-19 was emerged as respiratory infection from a suspicious origin of animals and transmission to human in Wuhan, China. Later this virus was transmitted from person to person via droplets and contacts. The World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China have taken immediate action in order to reduce transmission and fatality associated with COVID-19 as minimum as possible. But, action has failed to stop outbreak of COVID-19 [1,2,3]. Coronaviruses (CoVs) is a large family of single-standard RNA and causes respiratory, gastrointestinal, hepatic and neurological diseases in animals and humans. Until now there are six human coronaviruses (HCoVs) identified including alpha-CoV (229E, NL63), beta-CoV (OC43, HKU1, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome CoV (MERS-CoV). The present new CoV appears to be an emergence disease in humans as SARS-CoV-2 symptomatically and later it was named as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [4, 5].

The common complications reported with COVID-19 are acute respiratory distress syndrome (61.1%), arrhythmia (44.4%) and Shock (30.6%). The other complications associated with COVID-19 include Acute Cardiac Injury (ACI), Acute Renal Injury (ARI), Pneumothorax, and Secondary Bacterial Infections. The majority of populations affected with COVID-19 are old age group population 51-66 years (30.6 – 72.2 %), Hypertension (31%), Cardiovascular Disease (14.5) and Diabetes (10%) with symptoms of cough, fever

and fatigue [1]. The similar reports of various studies underlying co-morbidities and mortality rates may be helpful to health professionals to triage and risk stratify the patient population who might require a high level of care [6 – 10].

Presently 213 countries are affected rapidly with the new novel epidemic disease COVID-19 worldwide [11]. However, Wuhan city in China where this pandemic disease originated is under control now due to lockdown and maintaining social distance for a period of more than two months (to prevent local transmission) [12]. Lockdown is a popular word used worldwide to control epidemic disease COVID-19. This lockdown helps to break the transmission chain by maintaining social distance in public and staying at home. Hence the study has been designed to observe the impact of lockdown on COVID-19 in the global population and the present situation with or without lockdown.

Material And Methods

Online database www.channelnewsasia.com was used to ensure that numbers of COVID-19 cases are recorded worldwide and country wise. The data was collected on 3 different dates (18th Feb, 6th April and 21st April 2020) to ensure the severity of epidemic disease and how rapid the transmission of virus happens within a short span. The fatality rate of majorly affected countries is calculated by using data collected from online www.channelnewsasia.com on three different dates (18th Feb, 6th April and 21st April 2020) to analyze the increasing fatality rate in a short period and goes on [13]. The study also calculated the recovery percentage of COVID-19 cases worldwide as well as country wise.

Symptoms of COVID-19: The suspected cases have the following symptoms: cold, sneezing, dry cough, sore throat, severe fever, fatigue and breathing issues. Sometimes this epidemic disease is asymptomatic and symptoms can appear within 14 days of contact with a diseased person and in some cases appears even after 20 days. Throat or nasal swab samples are used to diagnose COVID-19 by RT-PCR method, but present rapid COVID-19 test kits are using to diagnose the disease with blood sample [14].

Results

Figure 1 shows that currently 2.96 million people are affected with COVID-19 by 26th April 2020 worldwide, whereas Americans and European countries badly affected include United States 0.96 million followed by Spain 0.23 million, Italy 0.19 million, France 0.16 million, Germany 0.157 million, United Kingdom 0.15 million. However, other countries also affected with low cases compared to America and European countries.

Table 2 shows the increasing COVID-19 cases by passing day to day. On 18th Feb it was 0.07 million and it reaches 1.3 million by 6th April in 47 days and further reaches to 2.96 million by 26th April 2020 (20 days) worldwide. Out of 2.96 million COVID-19 cases, the following countries have shown both an increase in the number of cases and its percentage: United States 27.50 - 32.61% followed by United Kingdom

3.85 - 5.16%, Turkey 2.26 – 3.72%, Russia 0.47 – 2.73% (12.76 fold), Brazil 0.90 – 1.98%, Netherlands 0.13 – 1.28% (20.99 fold), and remaining countries status has shown in table 2.

The fatality rate was observed as 0.2 million (205,892) in worldwide by 26th April 2020 Figure 2. The high rate of fatality was seen in following countries include United States of America 27%, Spain 11%, Italy 13%, France 11%, United Kingdom 10%, Germany 3% etc and others countries shown < 3% of fatality figure 3.

As of 6th April the fatality rate was 5.51% (73,918) in worldwide and it has reached 6.95% (205,892) by 26th April 2020 in a period of 15 days. The highest number of death was seen in United States where it reaches 54,856 in 15 days, the fatality rate increases 2.98 to 5.68%, but fatality rate was high in other countries like Belgium 7.84 – 15.38%, United Kingdom 10.41 – 13.56%, France 9.02 – 14.09%, Italy 12.47 – 13.48%, Netherlands 9.93 – 11.82%, Spain 9.67 – 10.23% and other countries data has shown in table 4.

Table 5 demonstrates the recovery of COVID-19 patients in worldwide as well as country wise. The recovery percentage of COVID-19 is 29.20% in worldwide, whereas in country wise >50% of recovery rate include China 94.50% followed by Iran 76.99%, Switzerland 75.01%, Germany 70.99%, Spain 51.95%, Brazil 51.53% and other countries has <50%.

Discussion

The epidemic disease COVID-19 belongs to family of coronavirus; out of six CoVs two viruses are more pathogenic and raised its impact on population include SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in 2003, where the fatality rate is 10%; while MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) killed 34% of people [15]. But, current novel coronavirus COVID-19 widen very province of China as well as 27 other countries and region with more than 70,000 cases with 2-3% mortality as of Feb 18, 2020 [1, 16]. However, the number of COVID-19 cases and its fatality rate increasing by passing every day, on 6th April the fatality rates is 5.51% out of 1.3 million and by 26th April 2020 reaches 6.95% fatality out of 2.96 million COVID-19 cases in worldwide.

In Wuhan, China lockdown strategy implemented for more than two months and succeeded to control COVID-19 transmission. Hence, present all countries following lockdown strategy since last one month to break the transmission chain of COVID-19. Lockdown makes peoples to go for self isolation at home, which facilitate to maintain social distance in public. The present study was observed that the impact of lockdown might reduce the addition of new cases but failed to register zero new cases, because lack of awareness in public about seriousness of pandemic disease and failure to maintain social distance.

Morbidity rate of COVID-19: The prevalence of COVID-19 is increasing rapidly in all over the world. In earlier WHO reported that COVID-19 was transmitted to 25 countries in worldwide, but present it has spreads to 213 countries [1, 11]. The present online data confirms that increased ratio of COVID-19 cases

in worldwide as well as country wise from 18th Feb to 26th April 2020 in a period of 20 days. On 18th Feb 2020, the number of COVID-19 cases confirmed as 71,447 in worldwide and it reaches 1.3 million (increased 18.7 times) by 6th April 2020 in 47 days and later the number is achieved 2.96 million (increased 2.21fold) by 26th April 2020 in just 20 days. The most affected countries and its percentage of cases include United States shows 32.61% cases followed by 7.65% in Spain, 6.68% in Italy, 5.48% in France, 5.33% in Germany and 5.16% in United Kingdom and remaining countries have shown <5% cases figure 1. Increased percentage of cases in country wise have been observed between a time periods of 18th Feb to 26th April 2020. In United States as of 18th Feb 2020 only 15 cases are reported and it reaches 368,196 by 6th April (27.5% in worldwide) and further achieved 0.96 million (32.61%) by 26th April 2020 in just 20 days. Whereas in Spain 0.23 million cases are reported by 26th April from 2 cases as of 18th Feb 2020. Few other countries has shown more than 0.1 million include Italy, France, Germany, United Kingdom and Turkey. However, many countries declared lockdown in mid of March 2020 and continuing, but registering new COVID-19 cases are not closed.

In India 3 COVID-19 cases are reported as of 18th Feb 2020 and it reaches 4281 by 6th April (in 47 days), further it achieved 26,917 (increased 6.29 fold) by 26th April 2020 in 20 days. As we know lockdown was started on 22nd March in India and continues, but COVID-19 cases number increased from 3 to 1427 folds by 6th April in 47 days and then reaches to 6.29 fold, where as in worldwide reaches 0.35% to 0.91% out of 2.96 million by 26th April 2020. Recent times of India news reported that COVID-19 growth has fall down to 8% from 22% due to lockdown, otherwise the number might be crossed 2 lakh by 23rd March. It also stated that based on present status the number might be increased to 2.5 lakh by the end of May 2020 [17]. This data has confirms that lockdown has impact on epidemic disease, but it fails to register zero cases due to lack of maintaining social distance and negligence in public. We have to understand that without social distance lockdown cannot show full impact on epidemic disease. Another major issue is asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19, where more than 69% of cases are registered as asymptomatic and they are more dangerous than symptomatic carriers. If precise preventive precautions are not taking possibilities are there to increase addition of new COVID-19 cases in coming days. Lockdown must be continuing with strict rules until register zero new cases to avoid significant circumstances in future.

Fatality rate of COVID-19: Present data had shown that number of deaths related to COVID-19 is higher than other coronavirus family (SARS, MERS) outbreaks of 21st century. In worldwide 205,892 peoples are lost their live with COVID-19 by 26th April 2020, majority of fatality rate was identified in the following countries include United States 27% (54856), Italy 13% (26644), Spain 11% (23190), France 11% (22856), United Kingdom 10% (20732), and remaining countries have seen <10% of fatality rate Figure 3. On 18th Feb 2020, 2.48% (1775) death was reported from 71447 COVID-19 cases and it reaches 5.51% by 6th April 2020 in 47 days from 1.3 million and further it went to 6.95% in 20 days out of 2.96 million cases by 26th April 2020. The increased rate fatality with COVID-19 in individual countries from 7th April to 26th April 2020 include Belgium 7.84 - 15.38%, United Kingdom 10.41 - 13.56%, France 9.02 – 14.09%, Italy 12.47 - 13.48%, Netherlands 9.93 - 11.82% and Spain 9.67 - 10.23% whereas other countries have <10% shown in

table 4. Severe acute respiratory distress syndrome is the major reason to cause death of patients with COVID-19. The fatality rate is high in COVID-19 patients with co-morbidity like cardiovascular disease, hypertension and diabetes, and old age is another factor [14].

Recovery Percentage of COVID-19: Pandemic disease COVID-19 spreads very fast throughout the world at a same time the recovery percentage also satisfactory. As of 6th April 2020, the recovery percentage of COVID-19 was 20.63% and it has reached 29.20% (in 20 days) by 26th April 2020 in worldwide. In country wise the recovery percentage of COVID-19 cases are shown in table 5, where >50% recovery cases are seen in China 94.50% followed by Iran 76.99%, Switzerland 75.01%, Germany 70.99%, and Spain (51.95%), Brazil 51.53%, rest of the countries has <50% recovery. In many countries recovery percentage of cases were increased, except Netherlands 0.31% and United Kingdom 0.51% where it shows too low. The reason might be due to age factor and treatment variation.

Since, there was no specific treatment to cure pandemic disease, the only way to prevent transmission of disease are lockdown and maintaining social distance. Almost all countries done lockdown for a month, but the impact was less due to misuse of lockdown, lack of social distance and zero knowledge of COVID-19/ignoring seriousness of pandemic disease. Even though in 20 days of lockdown period, the number of cases was reached more than double in worldwide. In this situation, if withdraw lockdown we cannot imagine the figure of COVID-19 cases in coming days. However, it's better to extend lockdown until register zero new cases at least for a week, otherwise morbidity and fatality will be uncountable since this pandemic disease also spreading asymptotically.

Conclusion

We have found increased morbidity and fatality of COVID-19 cases in worldwide population as well as country wise. Within 20 days the morbidity rate was more than double (2.21), where the fatality rate increases from 5.51% to 6.95%. In fact lockdown might help to reduce the register new cases, but not made zero. Present lockdown should be continue, where social distance must be maintained with strict rules otherwise probabilities are more to reach unimaginable number of cases in coming days.

Declarations

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Funding: None

Disclosure of Potential Conflict of interest: No conflict of interest.

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Tables

Figure/Table 2: Status of COVID-19 cases in different periods.

| Area | Cases As of 18 th Feb 2020 [1] | Cases As of 6 th April 2020 | In 47 Days (Folds) | As of 26 th April 2020 | In 20 Days (Folds) |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Worldwide (Total) | 71447 | 1,338,918 | 18.7 | 2,960,715 | 2.21 |
| United States | 15 | 368,196 (27.50%) | 24546.4 | 965,426 (32.61%)@ | 2.62 |
| Spain | 2 | 135,032 (10.09%) | 67516 | 226,629 (7.65%)* | 1.68 |
| Italy | 3 | 132,547 (9.90%) | 44182.3 | 197,675 (6.68%)* | 1.49 |
| France | 12 | 98,984 (7.39%) | 8248.6 | 162,220 (5.48%)* | 1.64 |
| Germany | 16 | 95,391 (7.12%) | 5961.9 | 157,770 (5.33%)* | 1.65 |
| United Kingdom | 9 | 51,608 (3.85%) | 5734.2 | 152,840 (5.16%)@ | 2.96 |
| Turkey | 0 | 30,217 (2.26%) | 100% | 110,130 (3.72%)@ | 3.64 |
| Iran | 0 | 60,500 (4.52%) | 100% | 90,481 (3.06%)* | 1.49 |
| China | 70,646 | 81,740 (6.10%) | 1.16 | 82,830 (2.79%)* | 1.01 |
| Russia | 2 | 6343 (0.47%) | 3171.5 | 80,949 (2.73%)@ | 12.76 |
| Brazil | 0 | 12,056 (0.90%) | 100% | 58,509 (1.98%)@ | 4.85 |
| Belgium | 1 | 20,814 (1.55%) | 100% | 46,134 (1.56%)@ | 2.22 |
| Canada | 8 | 16,667 (1.24%) | 2083.4 | 45,354 (1.53%)@ | 2.72 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 1803 (0.13%) | 100% | 37,845 (1.28%)@ | 20.99 |
| Switzerland | 0 | 21,652 (1.62%) | 100% | 29,061 (0.98%)* | 1.34 |
| India | 3 | 4281 (0.32%) | 1427 | 26,917 (0.91%)@ | 6.29 |
| Others | 730 | 245,163 (18.31%) | 335.84 | 389,762 (15.49%) | 1.59 |

'@' Increased % of cases, '*' Increased number of cases but % is reduced.

Figure/Table 4: Elevating fatality rate of COVID-19 along with cases.

| Area | As of 6 th April 2020 | | As of 26 th April 2020 (20 Days) | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| | Cases | Fatality % | Cases | Fatality % |
| Worldwide (Total) | 1,338,918 | 73,918 (5.51%) | 2,960,715 | 205,892 (6.95%) |
| United States | 368,196 | 10,986 (2.98%) | 965,426 | 54856 (5.68%) |
| Spain | 135,032 | 13,055 (9.67%) | 226,629 | 23190 (10.23%)@ |
| Italy | 132,547 | 16,523 (12.47%) | 197,675 | 26644 (13.48%)@ |
| France | 98,984 | 8926 (9.02%) | 162,220 | 22856 (14.09%)@ |
| Germany | 95,391 | 1434 (1.50%) | 157,770 | 5976 (3.79%) |
| United Kingdom | 51,608 | 5373 (10.41%) | 152,840 | 20732 (13.56%)@ |
| Turkey | 30,217 | 649 (2.15%) | 110,130 | 2805 (2.55%) |
| Iran | 60,500 | 3739 (6.18%) | 90,481 | 5710 (6.31%) |
| China | 81,740 | 3331 (4.07%) | 82,830 | 4633 (5.59%) |
| Russia | 6343 | 47 (0.74%) | 80,949 | 747 (0.92%) |
| Brazil | 12,056 | 553 (4.59%) | 58,509 | 4016 (6.86%) |
| Belgium | 20,814 | 1632 (7.84%) | 46,134 | 7094 (15.38%)@ |
| Canada | 16,667 | 323 (1.94%) | 45,354 | 2516 (5.55%) |
| Netherlands | 18803 | 1867 (9.93%) | 37,845 | 4475 (11.82%)@ |
| Switzerland | 21,652 | 584 (2.69%) | 29,061 | 1578 (5.43%) |
| India | 4281 | 111 (2.59%) | 26,917 | 826 (3.07%) |
| Others | 245,163 | 4785 (1.95%) | 389,762 | 17238 (4.42%) |

'@' indicates >10% of fatality rate.

Figure/Table 5: Percentage of COVID-19 patients recovered in Worldwide.

| Area | As of 6 th April 2020 | | As of 26 th April 2020 (20 Days) | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|
| | Cases | Recovery % | Cases | Recovery % |
| Worldwide (Total) | 1,338,918 | 276,171 (20.63%) | 2,960,715 | 864,673 (29.20%) |
| United States | 368,196 | 19,581 (5.32%) | 965,426 | 106,988 (11.08%) |
| Spain | 135,032 | 40,437 (29.95%) | 226,629 | 117,727 (51.95%)@ |
| Italy | 132,547 | 22,837 (17.23%) | 197,675 | 64,928 (32.84%) |
| France | 98,984 | 17,428 (17.61%) | 162,220 | 45,681 (28.16%) |
| Germany | 95,391 | 28,700 (30.09%) | 157,770 | 112,000 (70.99%)@ |
| United Kingdom | 51,608 | 287 (0.56%) | 152,840 | 778 (0.51%) |
| Turkey | 30,217 | 1,326 (4.39%) | 110,130 | 29,140 (26.46%) |
| Iran | 60,500 | 24,236 (40.06%) | 90,481 | 69,657 (76.99%)@ |
| China | 81,740 | 77,310 (94.58%) | 82,830 | 78,277 (94.50%)@ |
| Russia | 6343 | 406 (6.40%) | 80,949 | 6767 (8.36%) |
| Brazil | 12,056 | 127 (1.05%) | 58,509 | 30,152 (51.53%)@ |
| Belgium | 20,814 | 3986 (19.15%) | 46,134 | 10,785 (23.38%) |
| Canada | 16,667 | 3256 (19.54%) | 45,354 | 16,883 (37.22%) |
| Netherlands | 1803 | 258 (14.31%) | 37,845 | 117 (0.31%) |
| Switzerland | 21,652 | 8056 (37.21%) | 29,061 | 21,800 (75.01%)@ |
| India | 4281 | 375 (8.76%) | 26,917 | 6,523 (24.23%) |
| Others | 245,163 | 27565 (11.24%) | 389,762 | 146,470 (37.58%) |

'@' > 50% of cases are recovered.

Figures

Prevalence of COVID-19 Cases As of 26th April 2020

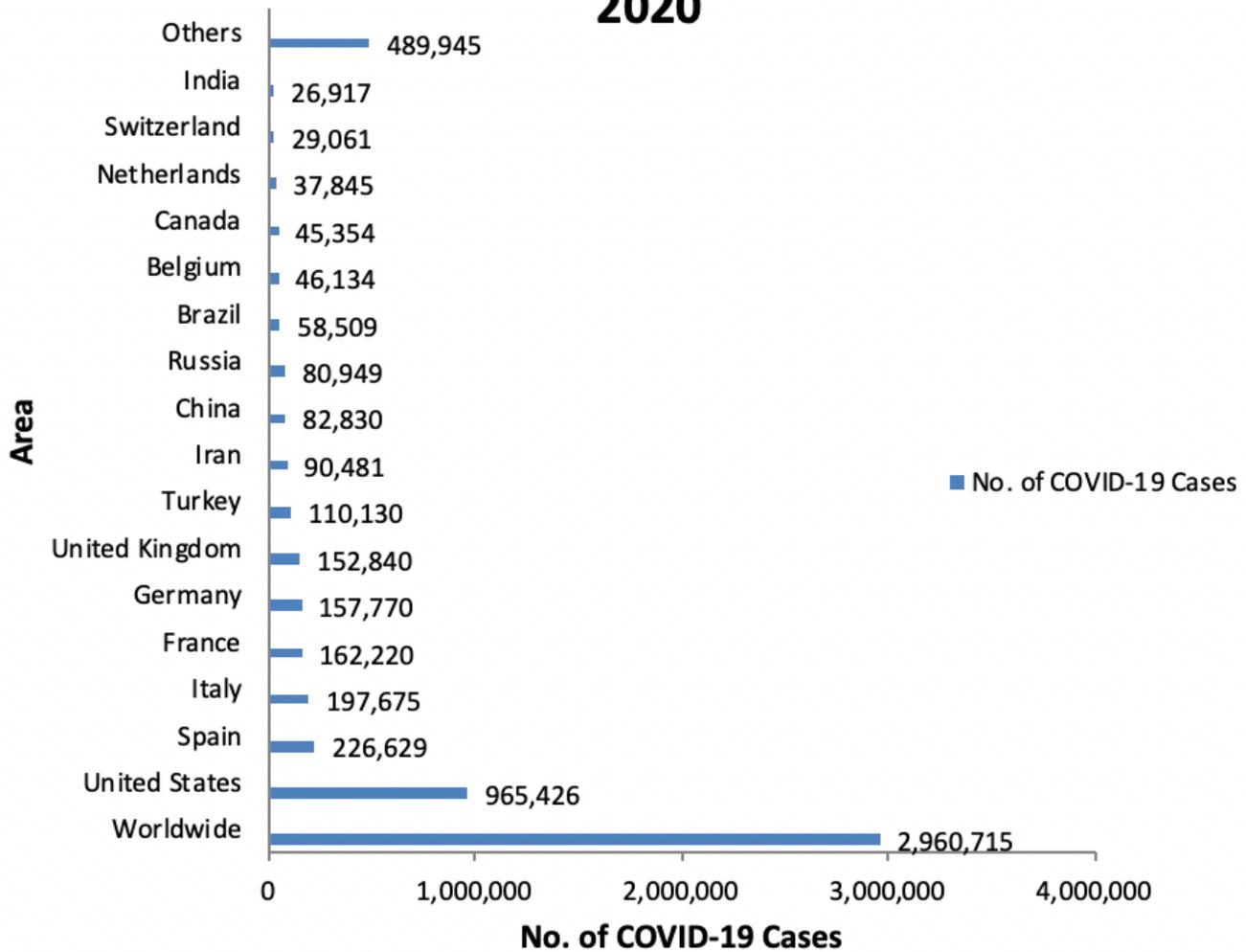


Figure 1

Figure/Table 1: The prevalence of COVID-19 cases in worldwide population.

Fatality Rate in COVID-19 Cases As of 26th April 2020

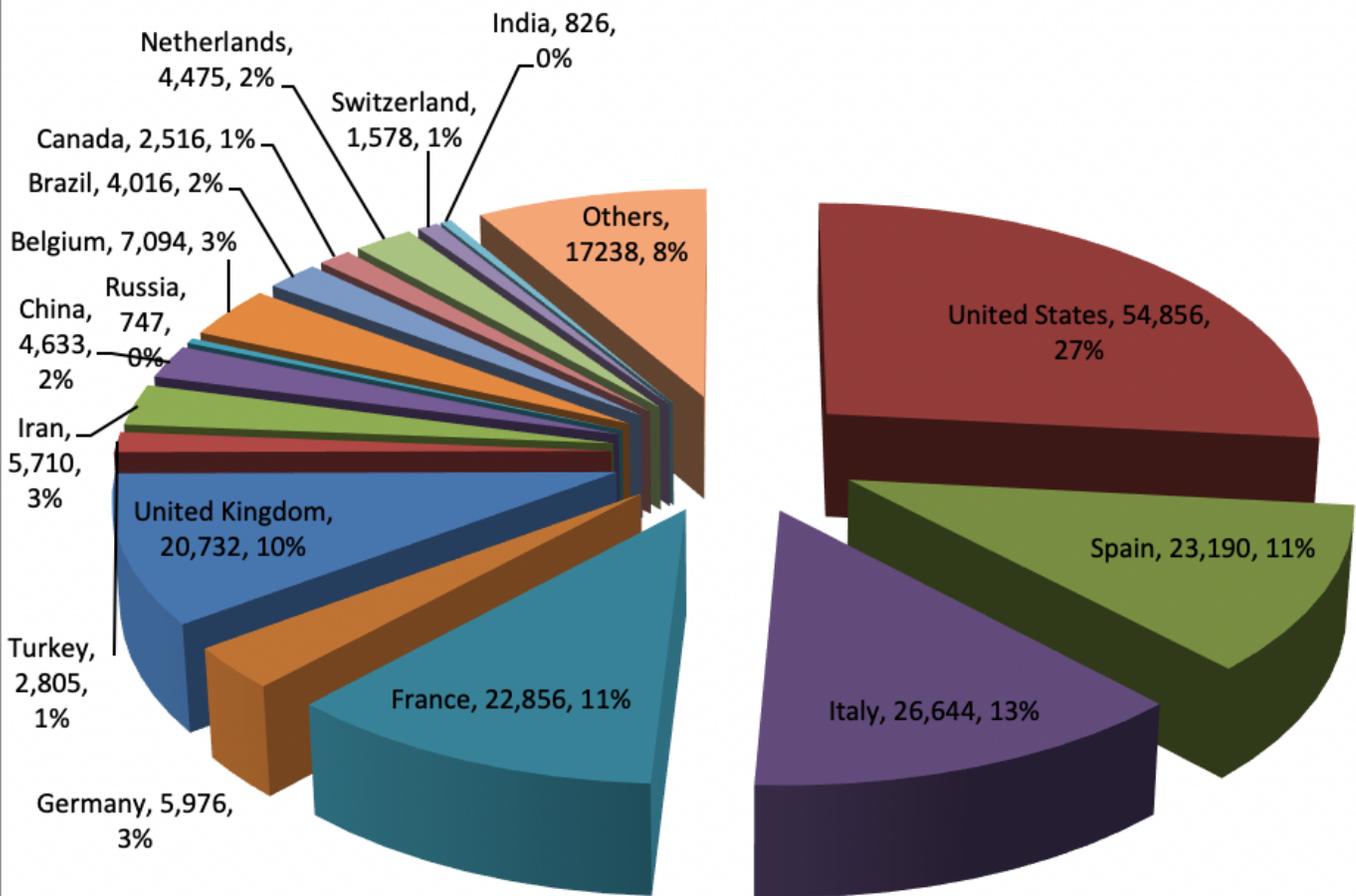


Figure 2

Figure 3: Frequently elevation of fatality rate of COVID-19 patients in worldwide.