

COVID-19: The Pandemic That Shuddered Health Systems

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Description

December 2019, in the city of Wuhan in China, begins one of the deadliest pandemics of recent years, by the form of transmission and the ease of contagion from person to person. This feature drives governments and health professionals to work hard, managing to identify a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2, which gives rise to the Covid-19 [1].

For lack of information, countries felt that this pandemic could be solved by working together, however, the consequences were not expected, because of the impact health systems had in wanting to slow down the expansion of SARS-CoV-2. So, Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, called SARS-CoV-2 "the greatest test the world has faced because of the profound social, economic and political consequences" [2].

It is important to mention that, since the detection of the first case of coronavirus to date, a number of consequences have been presented, further impairing the social and health situation at the global level. In turn, if the spread of coronavirus is valued, it is not easy to stop its expansion; In this situation, the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Carissa Etienne, called for indispensable measures to ensure that health services provide quality care and to cope with the growing influx of covid-19 sick people [3].

However, the real scenario was different, as health services as well as health personnel were not prepared to diagnose in a timely manner, nor to have adequate hospitals, as there was no infrastructure or material for the care of the sick and thus avoiding mass contagion; because the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic came suddenly without science informing us of the characteristics of its causal agent, its origin, its means of transmission, much less its treatment to prevent damage. Therefore, in some countries, they chose to establish some specific protective measures to reduce their transmission, and it was necessary to restructure hospital care, through timely detection of suspected cases, as well as to adapt hospitals, restructuring all Primary Care so it was essential to educate people in caring for themselves and avoid mass contagion.

It is essential to note that following the challenges that arising from the outbreak of the pandemic, it is essential to establish non-optional responsibilities for both the general population, health workers, health centres, health managers and policy makers, specifying exclusive measures to prevent contagion and increase population protection,

in turn training and updating health personnel on COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection, complications, identification and adequate classification of patients, appropriate treatments). In turn, it is essential to mention the urgency of effective and agile coordination in the assessment and confirmation of diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the community, the providing adequate material to institutions for the prompt care of sick people, as well as safeguarding a stock of medical and pharmacological material from further outbreaks [4].

Given the serious consequences presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is imperative that countries coordinate on a permanent and continuous basis in the search for information for the diagnosis, monitoring, control and prevention according to the evolution of COVID-19, without leaving aside the exchange of measures and solutions adopted in the social, health and clinical sphere for the confrontation of the epidemic. As well as the creation of a regional network of laboratories for the diagnosis of COVID-19, the adoption of incentives for research, technological innovation, and the production of appropriate health technologies for COVID-19 in relation to medical equipment, among others. Not to mention the creation of funds for emergency financial support against the pandemic for shared research, human resources training and technical assistance-cooperation [3].

However, these future conditions for dealing with COVID-19 are not yet available, so Dr. Etienne has noted that "without solid evidence on effective treatments without available vaccines, social distancing and other vigorous preventive measures remain our best bet to prevent the most serious consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in our region. This moment demands bold and compassionate leadership" [5].

References

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