

Background

COVID-19 associated with morbidity and mortality in children with cancer.

Objective

To measure the frequency of SARS-CoV2 infection among hospitalized children with cancer and to detect the associated clinical manifestations and outcomes.

Setting

Pediatric Hematology Oncology Department at Ain Shams University in Egypt.

DESIGN

A prospective nonintervention study recruited all hospitalized children with cancer between mid-April and mid-June 2020 (NCT04404244).

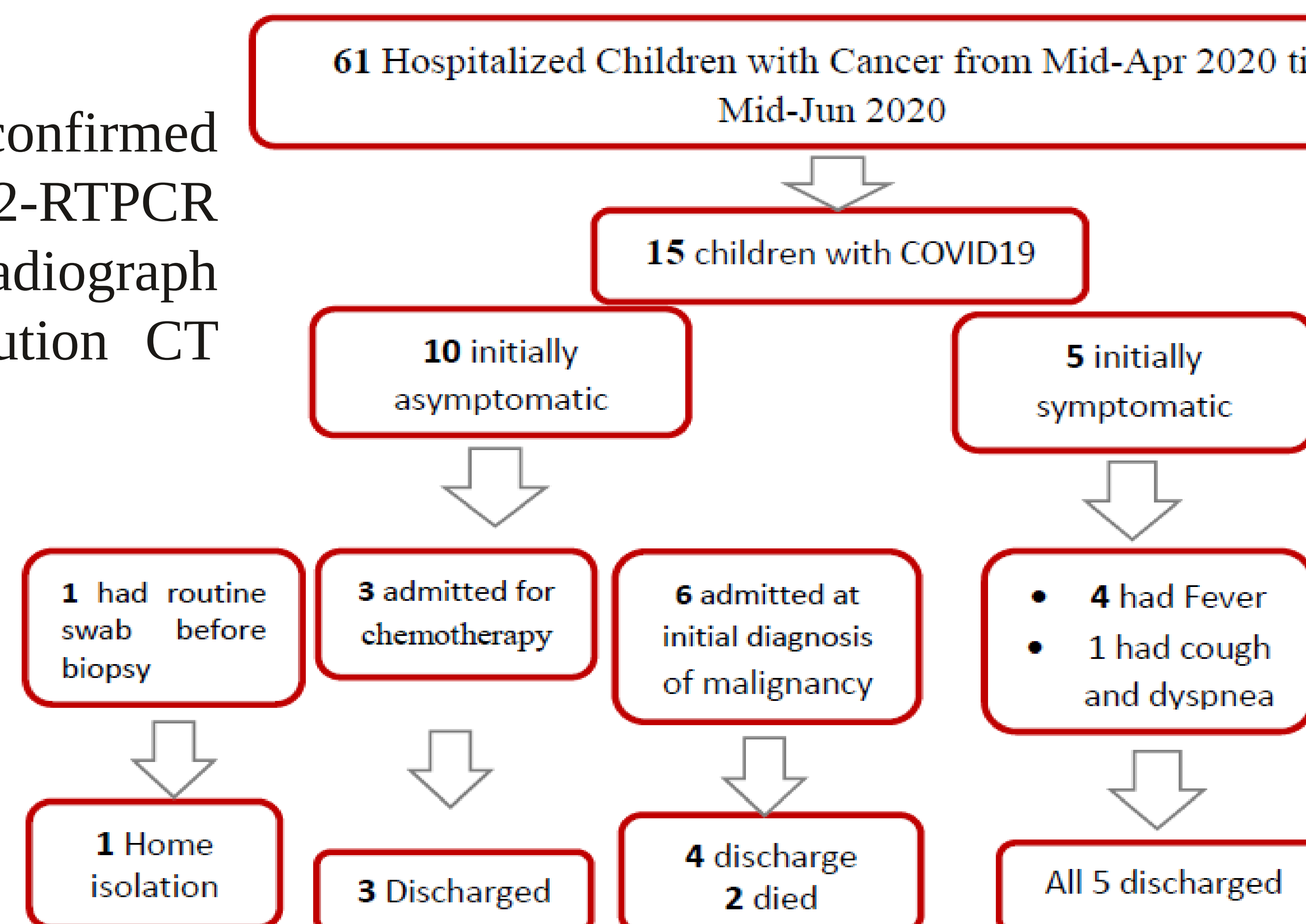
Materials & Methods

On admmission and upon suspecting COVID19; demographic, clinical and epidemiological data were assessed. Baseline CBC, CRP, serum ferritin, LDH, and D-dimer were performed.

COVID-19 was confirmed by SARSCoV2-RTPCR test. Chest radiograph and/or high-resolution CT were performed.

Result

61 children with cancer, aged 8.3 ± 3.5 years, were admitted; 42 had ALL, 4 lymphoma and 15 patients had other malignancy.



Result

Baseline laboratory tests other than SARS-CoV-2 PCR were not diagnostic. CRP was mildly elevated in most of the patients. Imaging was performed in 10 patients with significant radiologic findings detected in 4. Treatment was mainly supportive with antibiotics as per the local Children Hospital guidance for management

Conclusion

Pediatric cancer patients with COVID-19 were mainly asymptomatic or with mild symptoms. A high index of suspicion and regular screening with nasopharyngeal swab in asymptomatic hospitalized patients is recommended.