EMERGENCY MYELOPOIESIS, CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND PRE-CONDITIONS AS PREDICTIVE OUTCOME SIGNATURES FOR SEVERE COVID-19 YOUNG PATIENTS IN MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

More than a half of COVID-19 reported deaths in Mexico and 63% hospitalizations are register in adults younger than 65 years old (yo), with an important rise at ages 40-50. Of importance, 67% of individuals who died to COVID-19 had at least one preexisting chronic disease and almost 40% had two or more. Mexico, as many countries in Latin America, has a large burden of pre-existing metabolic diseases, leading overweight/obesity (71.3%) and diabetes (15.7%).

We evaluate the contribution of clinical characteristics pre-conditions and hematopoiesis and immune emergency response, in a prospective cohort with 245 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, from October, 2020 - September, 2021.

marked outcomes were inflammatory landscape, leading imbalanced emergency myelopoiesis.

AIMS

Generate a comprehensive understanding of the COVID-19 clinical spectrum in Mexico for crucial intervention to prevent the evolution towards severe disease.

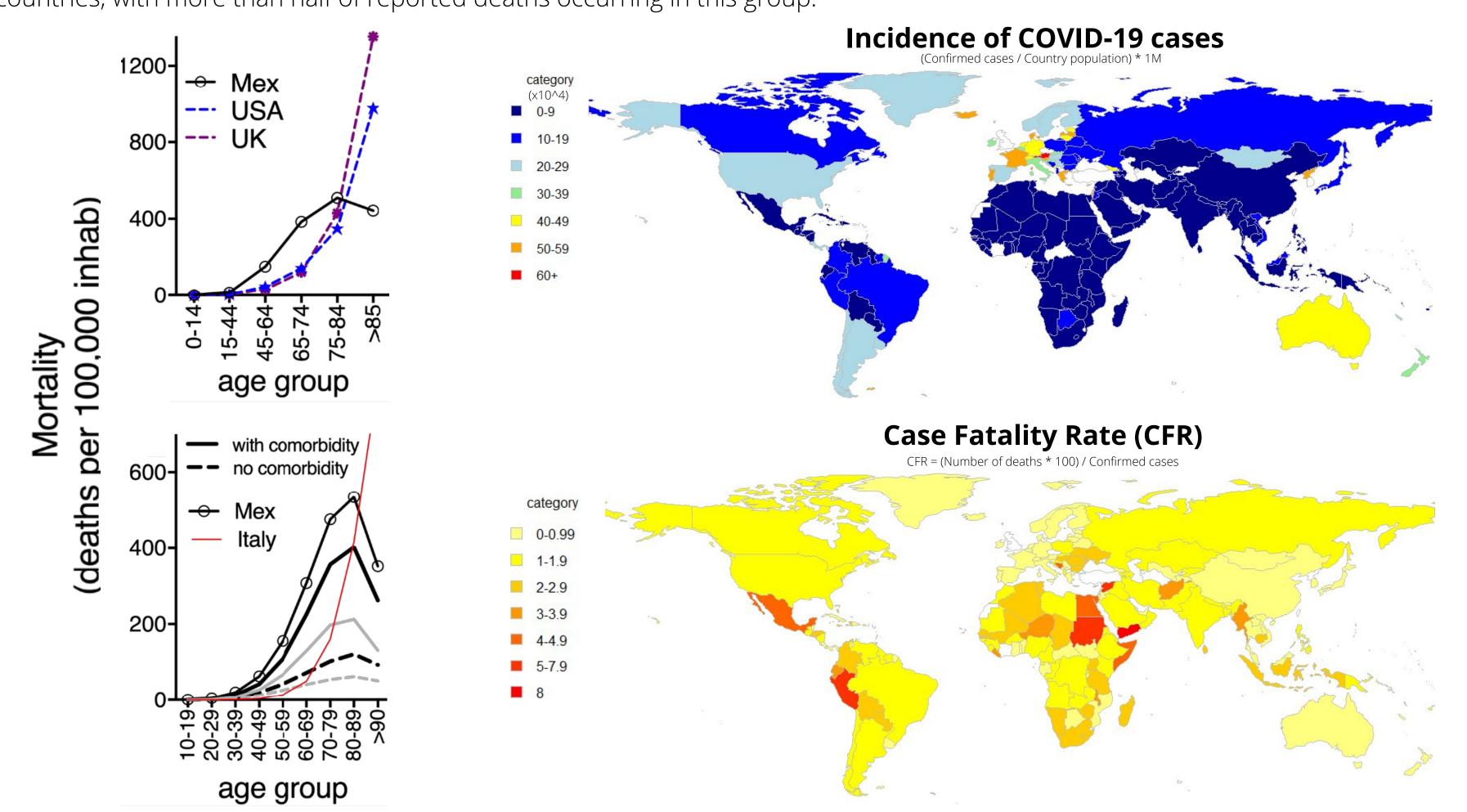
RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

Mexico is one of the countries with the highest excess of mortality due to COVID-19 and pre-existing metabolic conditions of the population, which makes it challenging to resolve acute infections that largely depend on the prompt response of a functional hematopoietic system.

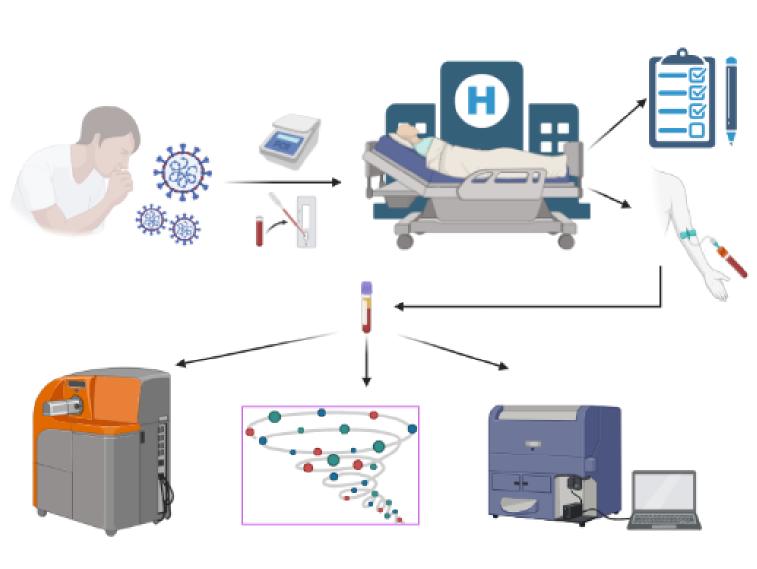
The reduction of fatality rates in vulnerable regions of the world requires a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between the development of severe forms of COVID-19 and comorbidities. Male sex, older age, obesity, diabetes, and chronic kidney diseases have been highlighted as important risk factors of COVID-19 poor outcomes worldwide.

Previous studies focusing on the association between metabolic diseases with severe COVID-19 on admission have underscored the urgent need for stratification profiles for vulnerable populations in Mexico, as about 74% of individuals who died of COVID-19 had at least one preexisting chronic disease, and the relative risk of COVID-19 death (RRd) contributed by having any comorbidity in Mexicans at different ages, has shown that RRd of pre-existing disease decreased sharply with age. Importantly, middle aged-adults in Mexico are the population with higher CFR and mortality compared to very high-income countries, with more than half of reported deaths occurring in this group.



MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted on a prospective cohort of 245 COVID-19 patients ('Atlixco Cohort'), confirmed by a positive real-time chain polymerase reaction nasopharyngeal test for SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 Ag rapid test, who were treated and hospitalized at the Hospital General de Zona 5 or the Hospital General de Zona 20, the two IMSS-reference hospitals for COVID-19 in Puebla, Mexico; followed through time, for the period October, 2020-September, 2021. No patients needing invasive mechanical ventilation were included in the study. Patients who had received SARS-CoV-2 vaccination, or who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infections, were excluded. The age-stratified case fatality rate (CFR) was calculated. Cellular inflammatory and parameters were exhaustively investigated in blood samples laboratory multiparametric flow cytometry, multiplex immunoassays and mass citometry.



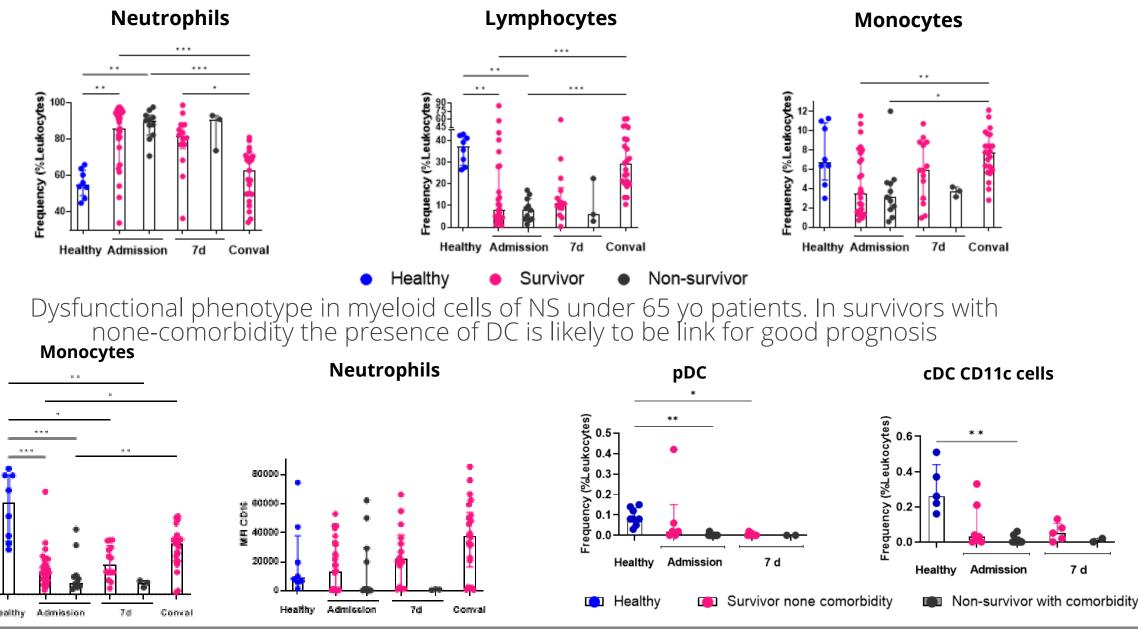
Increase of COVID-19 fatality and poor prognosis risk by pre-existing conditions

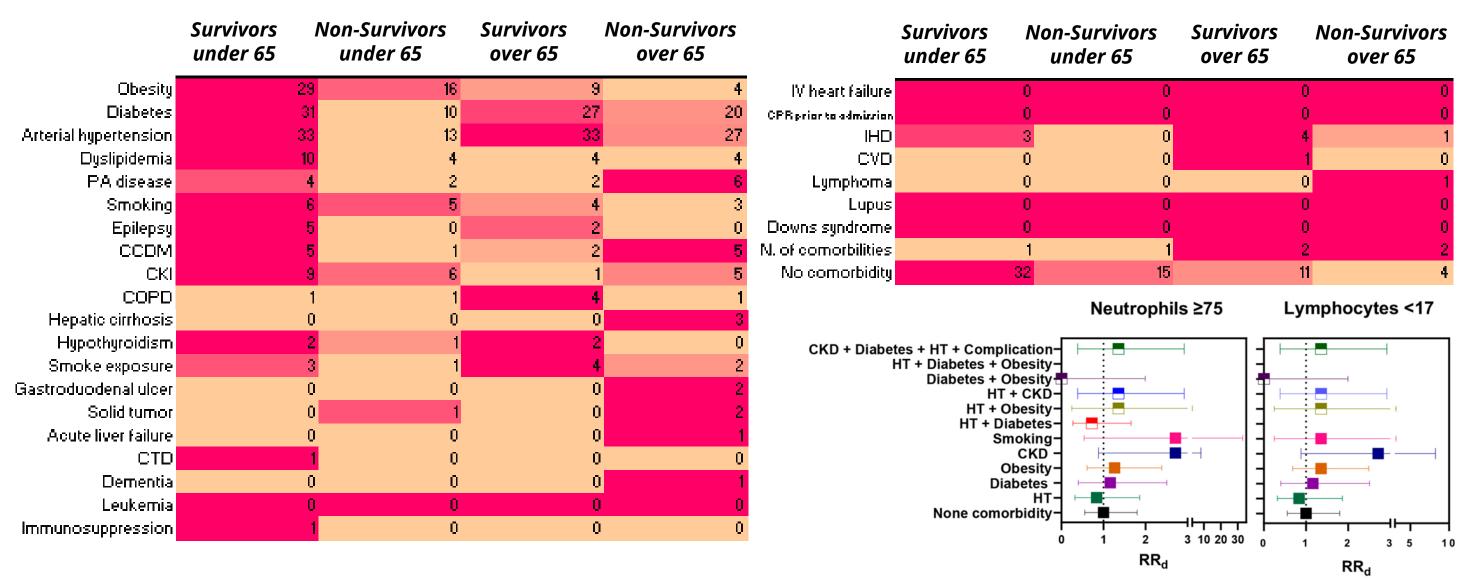
■ <65 **■** >65 **■** <65 **■** >65 ■ Survivors ■ Non-Survivors

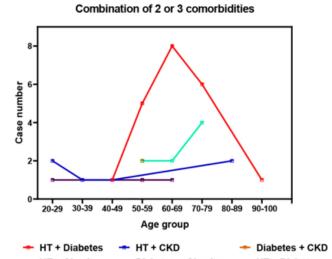
Atlixco cohort demographics and outcomes

Inflammatory profile in non-survivor patients under 65 yo

Myeloid emergency hematopoiesis is present in non-survivor middle-aged patients with important immunophenotype changes





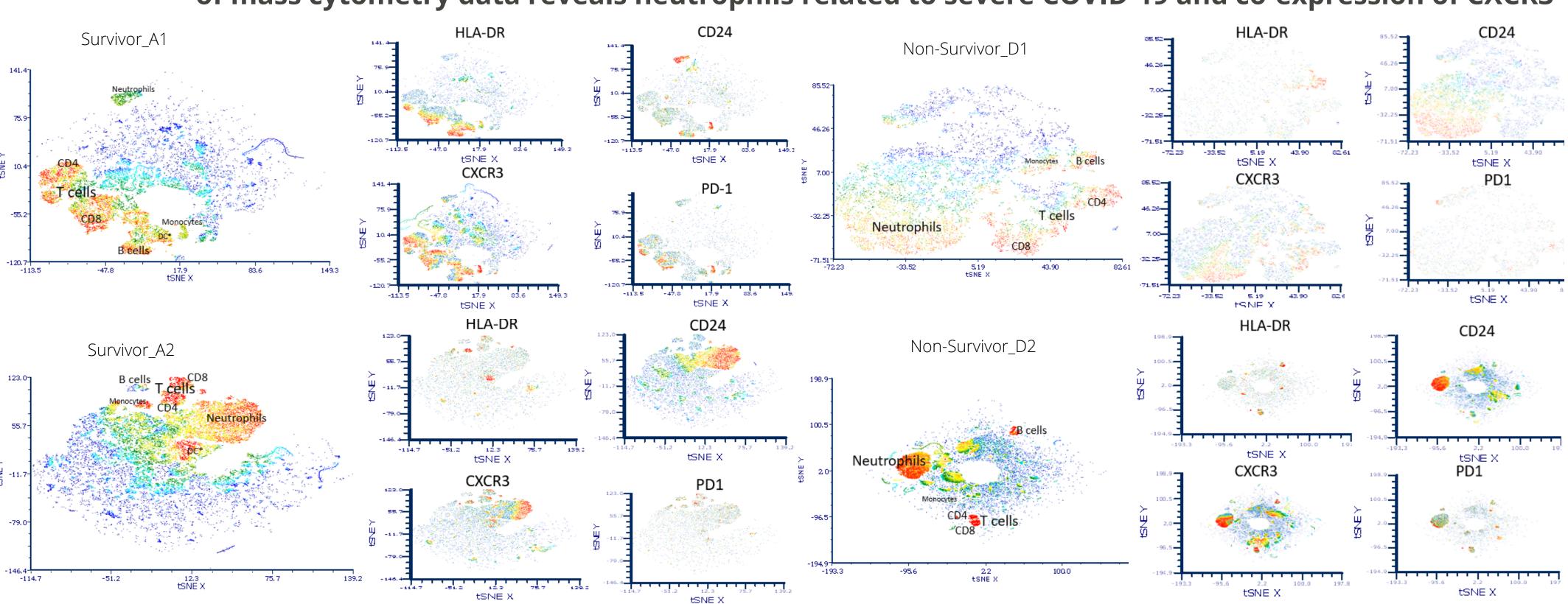


populations, age is the most important RRd, while in patients younger than 65 yo the presence of more than 1 mportantly the RRd, and also in combination with some hematological values

Chronic comorbidities are

Unsupervised clustering analysis

of mass cytometry data reveals neutrophils related to severe COVID-19 and co-expression of CXCR3



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Obtained from: Domínguez-Ramírez L, et al; 2020



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CONCLUSION

Comorbidities increased the development of imbalanced myeloid phenotype, rendering middle-aged individuals unable to effectively control SARS-CoV-2. Chronic comorbidities are a serious problem in Latin America, and especially in Mexico, this provides a pro-inflammatory microenvironment prompt to evolve into severe COVID-19 or fatal outcomes when the infection is established. The identification of pre-existing health conditions in combination with cell populations can help to create predictive signatures and targets against COVID-19.