

Re: Management of dead bodies of COVID-19 victims

Electronic Opinion

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Electronic Opinion (E-OP) to Last Rituals and handling of deceased in corona pandemic. 2020;1(2):91-92. Available from: doi: 10.37978/pjism.v1i2.129



Dear Sir,

I have read the editorial by Malik AR et al. in which the authors have highlighted a very important issue regarding the last rituals and handling of the deceased during the COVID-19 pandemic.[1] I would like to add that mortality may take place at home. So people should be aware of how to manage dead bodies at home with proper care. I believe that for public safety measures, it is important to avoid congregations, and holding mass funerals should not be allowed. To help reduce the risk, religious leaders should advise people to minimize the number of attendees in the funeral so a safe distance of 3 meters could be maintained. Family and friends should not be allowed to touch the dead body. It has been recommended that the clothes worn by the person preparing the dead body should be washed with bleach to avoid the risk of contracting the infection.[2] The clothes of the deceased should be washed too.

I am inclined to believe that post mortem examination is still the gold standard of determining why and how the death occurred. [3] It not only defines the pathophysiology of death but also sheds light on the important clinical and epidemiological insights. Therefore proper care must be taken by the forensic staff to check the spread of disease.

The world is in an emergency situation and there is no licensed vaccine to date. Keeping in view the present circumstances, the responsibility of preventing the spread of disease lies on every shoulder.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declared no conflict of interest

E-OP

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