

Secondary attack rate of 8.8% for G'nagar

Study: Women Hit More By Primary Cases

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Ahmedabad: A study carried out by the researchers from the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar (IIPH-G), claimed the secondary attack rate (SAR) of 8.8% in confirmed Covid-19 positive patients in Gandhinagar district. SAR can be explained as the new (secondary) cases out of the total contacts of the primary infected person, said experts.

The results also pointed

94% OF THE PATIENTS GOT FREE FACILITIES

▶ World over, the SAR varies widely between 4.6% and 49% in various regions

▶ ICMR study had indicated SAR of 11.5% in Chandigarh and 10.6% in Maharashtra

▶ The IIPH-G study indicated SAR of 8.8% in 74 selected households from Gandhinagar district

▶ The study indicated that death rate in primary cases was higher at 9.5% compared to 3% in secondary infections,



perhaps due to lower viral load

▶ Out of 34 secondary cases, 65% were females, 88.2% of the secondary cases had primarily stayed home

▶ Only six of the primary cases infected three or more secondary cases in household

▶ About 94% of the patients received free government healthcare facilities. The median expenditure for those who paid was about Rs 1.5 lakh

at more secondary infection among the women and less mortality among the secondary cases.

The primary study, titled 'Household Secondary Attack Rate in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat state

It's possible that the secondary attack rate could be higher in cities like Ahmedabad and it is also possible that some infections may have been unreported

from Western India' by a team of authors led by Komal Shah, assistant professor at IIPH-Gandhinagar (IIPH-G) and Dileep Mavalankar, director of IIPH-G, is currently under review.

Shah said that for the study 74 household in Gandhinagar district except municipal corporation area were randomly se-

lected that reported at least one RT-PCR confirmed case between March 28 and July 2.

"From these households, we selected 386 of their close contacts. Their analysis revealed 34 positive cases, giving 8.8% of SAR," she said.

Talking about relevance of the study, Mavalankar said that it's one of the first primary-level research in SAR for the state.

"We had earlier conducted systematic review of the global papers on SAR and also studied the result of a similar work by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for India. The primary finding of 8.8% SAR is almost on the lines of

ICMR study that showed SAR of 6% for India," he said.

He added that there could be factors ranging from genetics to immunity which could be reason for the phenomenon.

"If we see SAR of a few other infectious diseases, it's higher than Covid-19," he said.

"But it should be kept in mind that the study was limited to rural or semi-urban area with relatively less denser population and it was based on RT-PCR confirmed cases. It's possible that SAR could be higher in cities like Ahmedabad and it's also possible that some of the infections could have gone unreported."