Epidemiology of 1,375 Cases of COVID-19 in Selangor

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INTRODUCTION

- The first case of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Malaysia was reported on the 25th of January 2020[1]. Basic epidemiology remains the cornerstone of identifying the distribution of diseases, and the source of an infection[2].

- This study aims to describe the epidemiological characteristics of the first 1,375 positive cases of COVID-19 reported in the state of Selangor, Malaysia.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- All laboratory confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, based on RT-PCR testing from Nasopharyngeal Swabs reported in Selangor up to 25th of April 2020 were included.

- The epidemic curve was based on the date of onset of symptoms, or their date of exposure for asymptomatic patients. A second plot was done based on the date of onset, asymptomatic cases based on date of exposure plus median incubation period.

RESULTS

- 1375 positive COVID-19 cases were reported in Selangor. The mean age was 38•6 ± 18•3 years.

- 36•4% of patients were asymptomatic. Fever (66•1%), and cough (56•0%) being the most common symptoms. The median incubation period was 6 (IQR: 3 – 10) days.
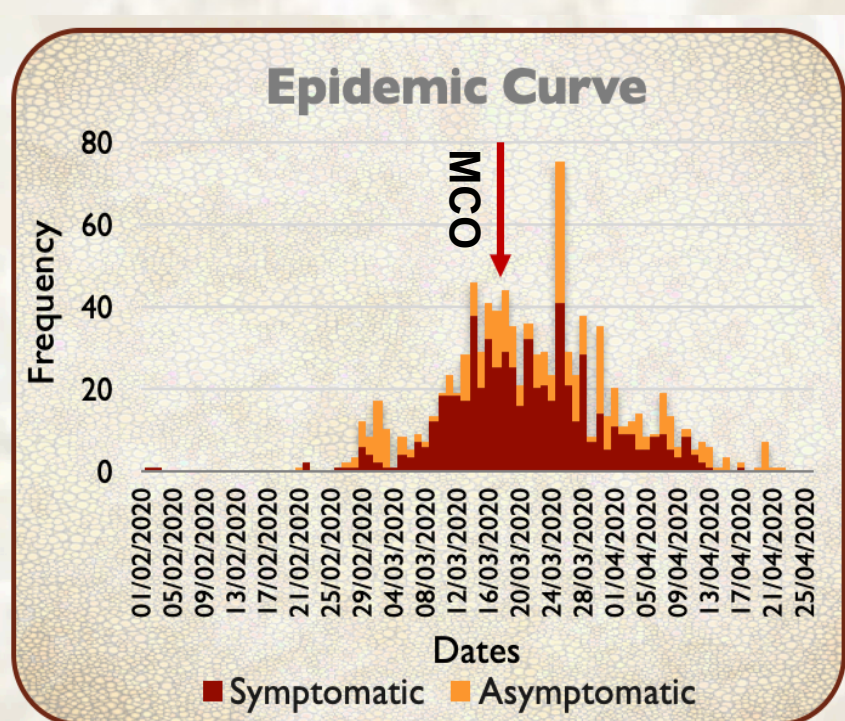

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2A

- Figure 2a: Epidemic curve by symptomatic, and asymptomatic cases. Cases began to decline 10 days after the MCO, with a large reduction of cases 14 days after the MCO.

- Figure 2b: Adjusted epidemic curve, where a decline was seen 7 days after the MCO, with a steady decrease up to 34 days after the MCO implementation.
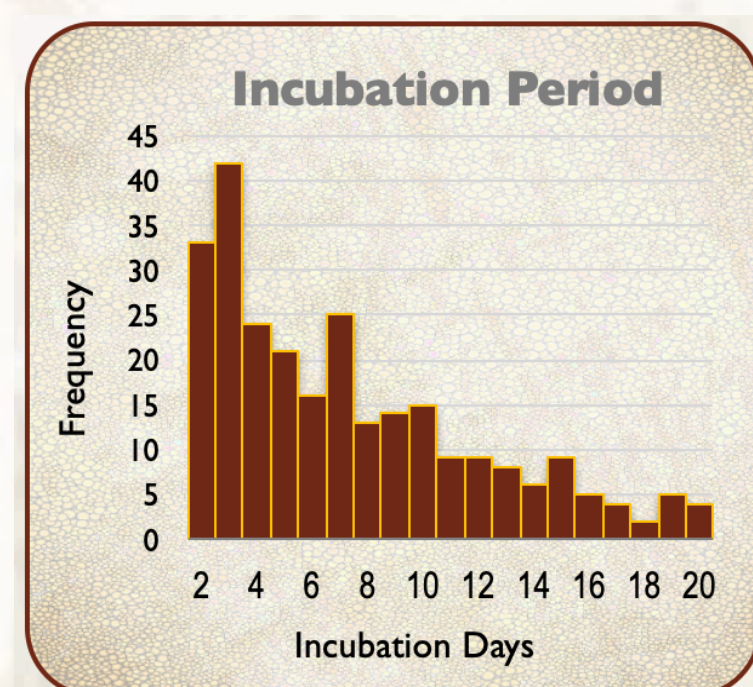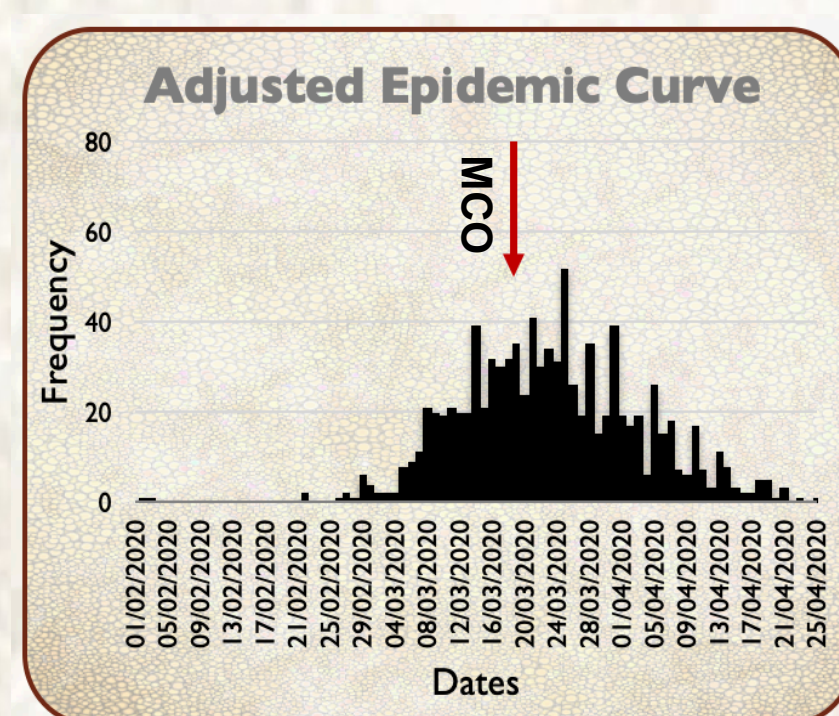

FIGURE 2B

DISCUSSION

- Screening based on symptoms is inadequate in capturing all cases in the community.

- Limiting human-to-human transmission remains crucial in containing this disease. This supports the findings of modelling studies which predicted a decline to occur two weeks after travel restrictions[4].

REFERENCE

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