

# Some Biochemical Changes in COVID-19 Egyptian Patients

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**Background:** Coronavirus disease causes a broad range of clinical manifestations, including minor symptoms, pneumonia, and/or multiple organ failure. Hematological testing and biochemical indicators are used to stratify and prognosticate COVID-19 patients, both adult and pediatric. These indicators are linked to unfavorable outcomes, including the development of multisystem organ failure, the requirement for mechanical breathing or critical care, and maybe even death.

**Aim:** Our study aimed to study some biochemical changes in COVID-19 Egyptian patients, which include: D-dimer, ferritin, C-reactive proteins (CRP), liver enzymes (ALT and AST), kidney function (creatinine and urea), complete blood count (Hb, RBCs, PLT), differential leucocytic counts (WBCs, lymphocytes, neutrophils, monocytes), and TUBB and CIP2A proteins as biomarkers for potential progression to critical patients.

**Subjects and Methods:** This study included eighty (80) individuals of both sexes whose age ranged from 40 to 90) years, divided into two categories, Group I (control healthy): This group included twenty healthy individuals. They had no history of COVID-19 infection or any other diseases that might interfere with the studied parameters. Group II (COVID-19 Patients): this group included sixty (60) COVID-19 patients.

**Results:** Our results showed that biochemical markers such as D-dimer, ferritin, and C-reactive proteins (CRP) are important for severity determination of the condition of the patient suffering from COVID-19 infection. Also, the CIP2A and TUBB were increased in the COVID-19 severe case form, but the TUBB is more accurate and specific than the CIP2A. D-dimer, ferritin, CRP, and TUBB are important for severity determination of the condition of the patient suffering from the COVID-19 infection. TUBB and CIP2A were determined to be promising parameters that may be used for the prediagnosis of COVID-19 patients.

**Keywords:** SARS-COV-2 , Biochemicals, COVID-19 , TUBB, CIP2A.

## 1. Introduction

SARS-CoV-2, or severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, is the virus that causes COVID-19. It is an infectious illness. Wuhan, China had contracted the COVID-19 virus before the end of 2019. The virus is an enveloped, positive-polarity RNA virus that belongs to the Coronaviridae family.. [1]. Conversely, as demonstrated by the occurrences of SARS and Middle East respiratory illnesses (MERS), prior coronavirus diseases are highly infectious and have little pathogenicity. [2]. COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, coughing, dyspnea, and loss of taste and smell, can manifest two to fourteen days following the virus's incubation phase. virus and usually transmits with droplets. [3]. SARS-CoV-2 can cause a variety of clinical signs, ranging from asymptomatic infection to potentially fatal respiratory failure.. [4] COVID-19 is a multisystemic illness rather than a localized respiratory tract infection that might elicit hyperinflammation by stimulating the immune and inflammatory systems. [5]. Coronaviruses (CoVs) belong to the family Coronaviridae, the suborder Cornidovirineae, and the order Nidovirales. Letovirinae and Orthocoronavirinae are the two subfamilies that make up the family Coronaviridae. The genus Letovirinae includes the alphacoronavirus. Based on phylogenetic study and genomic structure, Orthocoronaviridae is divided into four genera: Deltacoronavirus ( $\delta$ CoV), Gammacoronavirus ( $\gamma$ CoV), Betacoronavirus ( $\beta$ CoV), and Alphacoronavirus ( $\alpha$ CoV). In these genera, there are 17, 12, 2, and 7 distinct species.. [6]. Many domestic and wild animals are infected by coronaviruses; mammals are mostly infected by  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ CoVs, whereas birds are primarily infected by  $\alpha$ - and  $\delta$ CoVs. In 1960, the human coronavirus (HCoV) with the name B814 was initially discovered in hospitalized patients exhibiting symptoms of the common cold. [7].

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a single, positive-stranded RNA virus enveloped in a lipid bilayer. [8]. When the lipid bilayer and host cell membrane combine, RNA is released into the cytoplasm, which triggers the translation of many viral proteins. New viruses that originate from cells are constructed from replicated RNA genomes and newly produced viral proteins.. [9]. Two proteins are linked to allow the corona virus to enter. The virus's peer is a glycoprotein called spike-protein (S-protein), which is produced on the viral envelope as a homotrimer. [10] S-proteins are made up of two subunits: While S2 organizes membrane fusion, S1 has a receptor-binding domain that attaches to receptors on host cells. The ACE2 human protein receptor is linked to the S-protein of this virus.. [11].

Adipose tissue, the kidney, the heart, and the lungs are rich sources of the human protein receptor ACE2. [12]. Coronavirus RNA can enter a cell by membrane fusion, which is made possible by the connection between S-protein and ACE2. the use of the connection between the two proteins as a target for illness and immunization. The COVID-19 virus enters host cells in a similar manner. Compared to SARS, COVID-19 accumulates more in the body. As a result, COVID-19 is more communicable and has a longer incubation period, while SARS has more severe symptoms. [13]. Test biomarkers have significant diagnostic and prognostic utility in COVID-19 risk classification. For hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 infection, research is needed to develop a core set of test biomarkers that may be easily integrated into standard clinical practice to predict prognosis and outcome. [14].

PP2A Inhibitor of Carcinogenesis (CIP2A) As oncoprotein controls the stability of MYC and PP2A in cancer cells, it forms a "oncogenic nexus." The solid tumors for which CIP2A

expression and prognostic function are studied include prostate cancers, head and neck cancers, tongue cancers, bladder cancers, cervical carcinomas, colorectal carcinomas, gastric cancers, pancreatic cancers, brain cancers, breast cancers, lung cancers, ovarian carcinomas, renal cell carcinomas, and oral carcinomas[15].

The MTs, or microtubules, They are essential for numerous biological processes, such as MT-motor proteins (which move different cellular cargos), cell division (which divides a cell into daughter cells by assembling the mitotic spindle required for chromosome segregation to the spindle poles), and cell proliferation (which preserves cell shape and facilitates signal transduction). [16].

## 2. Subjects and Methods:

The current study included eighty (80) individuals of both sexes their age ranged (40-90) years. Samples were collected in the second wave of COVID-19 Eighty(80) individuals divided into two groups:

Group I (healthy control):

This group consist of twenty healthy individuals. They had no history of COVID-19 or any other diseases which may interfere with the studied parameters.

Group II (Patients):

This group included sixty (60) COVID-19 patients.All individuals in this study diagnosed by the following:

1-Clinical manifestation:  
Among COVID-19 patients' most common symptoms are fever, tiredness, dyspnea, muscle aches, runny or congested noses, and dry cough. [17].

2-Computed tomography (C.T):

The precise location of the infection in the chest can be determined by CT imaging, and lesions can be seen distributed throughout the lung's arterial bundles. [18]

3- Polymerase Chain Reaction in Real Time (RT-PCR):

Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the recognized diagnostic method for COVID-19 diagnosis. [19]

### 2.1- Sampling:-

Seven ml venous blood was withdrawn from each individual; 2 ml of blood collected in K3EDTA tube for complete blood count (CBC), 1.8 ml of blood was drawn into a 3.2% sodium citrate tube, and the plasma was separated for the D-dimer measurement by centrifuging the tube at 2000 rpm for 10 minutes. After 3.2 ml of blood was drawn into a simple, anticoagulant-free tube, it was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 2000 rpm to separate the serum, which was then placed into a different tube and frozen. The blood was then put in a water bath at 37 °C for 10 minutes to allow for coagulation. at -20 C to detect CRP, Ferritin, ALT, AST, Creatinine, Urea, TUBB and CIP2A.

## 2.2- Methods :-

### 2.2.1- Polymerase Chain Reaction in Real Time (RT-PCR):

With real-time PCR, the Corman et al., 2020 technique can be used to directly amplify the infection of COVID-19 in human samples such as nasal swabs, nasopharyngeal swabs (NPS), nasal wash, or aspirate. [20].

#### 2.2.2-Determination of D-dimer:

D-

dimer was determined according to the method of Bick and Backer ,(1992) [21]

#### 2.2.3- Determination of Ferritin:

Ferritin

was created using the technique of Miles et al, (1974) [22].

#### 2.2.4- C- Reactive Protein (CRP) determination:

C-

Reactive Protein(CRP) was detected according to method of Hokama and Nakamura , (1987) [23].

#### 2.2.5-Assessment of alanine Aminotransferase (ALT) Activity:

The

activity of alanin aminotransferase (ALT) was identified using the technique of ECCLS,(1989) [24]<sup>a</sup>.

#### 2.2.6-Assessment of Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) activity:

The

activity of aspartate aminotransferase (AST) was identified using the technique of ECCLS,(1989) [24]<sup>b</sup>.

#### 2.2.7-Creatinine detrmination:

Creatinine

was measured according to method of Bowers and Wong ,(1980) [25]

#### 2.2.8-Urea Determination :

Urea

was measured according to the method of Fawcett and Scott , (1960) [26].

#### 2.2.9-Complete blood counts (CBC):

CBC

was measured using an automated hematology analyzer was determined according to method of Dacie and Lewis ,(2001) [27]

#### 2.2.10-Determination of Human $\beta$ -tubulin:

Human

$\beta$ -tubulin was determined using the technique of Hyman et al ,(1991) [28]using Sandwich-ELISA.

#### 2.2.11-Determination of Human Phosphatase PP2A Cancer Inhibitor(CIP2A)

Human

Phosphatase PP2A Cancer Inhibitor (CIP2A) was measured according to the method of Niemelä Minna ,(2012) [29] using Sandwich-ELISA.

## 3. Statistical analysis:

The statistical analysis was completed using t-test for comparing between the two group (control healthy and Covid-19 infected group).The results of comparing levels of the different studied variables among different group was significant when the level of significant lower than that of ( $P < 0.05$ ). All statistical analysis was made using the SPSSPC+ computer program. [30].

#### 4. Results and Discussion:

Wide-ranging symptoms, from little to none at all to severe pneumonia, which may result in fatalities or acute respiratory distress syndrome, can be caused by the inflammatory sickness COVID-19.[31]. COVID-19 is characterized by pulmonary inflammation, which harms the liver, gastrointestinal systems, and brain system. [32]. It may also result in additional symptoms like a cough and fever. [33].

4.1- COVID-19 detection by Polymerase Chain Reaction in Real-Time (RT-PCR): Our RT-PCR results, which are observed in Table (1), are significantly different from those of the Covid-19 patient group and the healthy control group. The Covid-19 patient group's RT-PCR results were positive, however the healthy control group saw negative results. Our results agree with those of Noh et al. (2017), who indicated that due to its rapid detection, high sensitivity, and specificity, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) approach is the "gold standard" for the identification of some viruses. For this reason, real-time reverse transcriptase-PCR (RT-PCR) is particularly recommended for the identification of SARS-CoV-2 since it is a rapid and accurate qualitative test. [34] . Furthermore RT-PCR exhibits suitable sensitivity for early infection diagnosis. As a result, the primary technique to be used to identify the cause of COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 is the real-time RT PCR assay.[35]

Table(1):RT-PCR results between control healthy and Covid-19 patients group

	Group	N	Result
RT-PCR	1.0	20	Negative
	2.0	60	Positive

4.2-Effect of COVID-19 on the D-dimer, ferritin and CRP levels:

4.2.1D-dimer :

D-dimer was found to be  $611.25 \pm 138.31$  ng/ml in covid-19 patients group which was significantly increased by 568.03% than that of control healthy group  $91.50 \pm 22.06$  ng/ml ( $P < 0.001$ ) table (2):... Our results are in agreement with Yesupatham et al , [36] who reported that the D-dimer levels in groups 1, 2, and 3 were  $1259.37 \pm 258.9$  ng/ml,  $2632.60 \pm 472.6$  ng/ml, and  $229.53 \pm 18.4$  ng/ml ( $p\text{-value} < 0.001$ ), respectively, which increased with the severity of the disease. A total of 3636 cases (79.6%) had increased D-dimer levels, with mean values of  $617.7 \pm 297.8$  ng/ml (range 209.6–1680 ng/ml).. [37]. The D-dimer value ranged from 890 mg/L to 5640 mg/L overall, with a COVID-19 median value of 2240 mg/L. patients[38]. D-dimer levels above normal suggest a higher chance of atypical blood coagulation. Higher mortality risk from community-acquired pneumonia is connected to increased D-dimer concentrations. [39]. This outcome is credited to Increases in D-dimer may be an indirect sign of an inflammatory response when a virus infection progresses to sepsis and causes coagulation dysfunction.. An imbalance between coagulation and fibrinolysis in the alveoli may be caused by inflammatory cytokines, which could activate the fibrinolysis system and increase D-dimer levels.. [40].

4.2.2-Ferritin:

Ferritin level was found to be  $597.25 \pm 144.83$  ng/ml in covid-19 patients group which was significantly increased by 438.31% than that of the control group ( $110.95 \pm 21.60$  ng/ml) ( $P < 0.001$ ) table (2):... Our results are in agreement with Yesupatham et al , who found that the

ferritin levels in groups 1, 2, and 3 were  $528.58 \pm 45.03$  ng/ml,  $511.48 \pm 74.4$  ng/ml, and  $256.89 \pm 51.8$  ng/ml (p-value  $< 0.007$ ), respectively. which also elevation with the disease's severity [36]. Other predictors of poor result contain the serum levels of ferritin and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) [41]. Where The high death rate and intensive care unit admission linked to hyperferritinemia, which is a result of excessive inflammation from an infection, indicate which patients are high-risk and should be targeted for therapeutic intervention to decrease inflammation. [42]. Our results cleared that, the Ferritin level showed a higher level in Covid-19 patients group as its level reached to 597.25 ng/ml while, in the control group was 110.95 ng/ml. This results attributed to, Serum ferritin, a characteristic of hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, a known viral infection consequence, is strongly associated with a bad prognosis in COVID-19 patients, and elevated ferritin levels are more common in individuals with compromised lung lesions. [43].

#### 4.2.3- C-Reactive protein (CRP):

In the group of COVID-19 patients, CRP was determined to be  $70.39 \pm 16.10$  mg/ml, and by 1970, it had dramatically grown. table (2): 29% less than  $3.40 \pm 0.69$  mg/ml in the healthy control group ( $P < 0.001$ ). Our findings concur with those of Kaftan et al., who stated that the Mann Whitney test was employed to compare the two study groups' median laboratory parameter values. The CRP level at admission was a sensitive and early predictor of COVID-19 severity, according to a comparison of the D-dimer, CRP, and ferritin levels of COVID-19 positive individuals to those of the negative outcomes, which showed substantial ( $P: < 0.01$ ,  $< 0.01$ , and  $0.03$  correspondingly) rises [44]. The lung lesion and CRP level correlated positively on tomographic pictures. As part of an extensive panel of biological studies conducted upon entry [45].

Table (2): Ddimer, Ferritin and CRP level between control healthy and Covid-19 patients group

	Group	N	Mean Std. Deviation	t-value	Percentage %	P-value
D-dimer (ng/ml)	Control healthy	20	$91.50 \pm 22.06$	16.67	568.03	$< 0.001^{***}$
	Covid-19 patients	60	$611.25 \pm 138.31$			
Ferritin (ng/ml)	Control healthy	20	$110.95 \pm 21.60$	14.89	438.30	$< 0.001^{***}$
	Covid-19 patients	60	$597.25 \pm 144.83$			
CRP (mg/ml)	Control healthy	20	$3.40 \pm 0.69$	18.52	1970.29	$< 0.001^{***}$
	Covid-19 patients	60	$70.39 \pm 16.10$			

\*\*\* = significant at ( $P < 0.001$ ).

Inflammatory disease or during infectious states, CRP levels can activate the classical complement cascade of the immune system and modified the activity of phagocytic cells, confirming the function of CRP in the opsonization of pathogens and living or dead cells [46]. Although the precise impact of CRP in COVID-19 is yet unknown, it has been noted that measuring it can help with early pneumonia identification [47]. and estimate of severe pulmonary infectious diseases [48]. The results of CRP showed a higher level in Covid-19 patients group as its level reached to 70.39 mg/ml while, in the control group was 3.40 mg/ml



Our results were in line with other studies that suggested the admission CRP level was a sensitive and early indicator of COVID-19 severity. [49] .

4.3-Effect of COVID-19 on the liver enzymes activities:

ALT was found to be  $46.32 \pm 19.62$  U/L in covid-19 patients group which was significantly increased by 126.5% than  $20.45 \pm 4.32$  U/L in control group ( $P < 0.01$ ).and AST was found to be  $45.52 \pm 15.52$  U/L in covid-19 patients group which was significantly increased by 93.7% than that of the control group ( $23.50 \pm 3.47$  U/L) ( $P < 0.01$ ) table (3). Our results agreement with those of Qu et al., whose investigation included 266 COVID-19 patients, of whom 235 were mild cases and 31 were severe cases. In contrast to mild cases, severe patients had higher activities of (ALT) and (AST) and urea nitrogen (BUN) (all  $p < 0.01$ ). Binary logistic regression analysis also ALT [OR=2.680 (1.036–6.934),  $p = 0.042$ ] as independent factor of COVID-19 patients severity[50].

All research participants had elevated liver function test parameter values, and among critical (ICU) patients, the levels of three of these parameters—AST, ALT, and ALP—were higher ( $56.9 \pm 57.7$  U/L,  $58.5 \pm 63$  U/L, and  $114.6 \pm 60$  U/L, respectively) [51]. We also demonstrate a noteworthy rise in S.AST during the previous six months. group compared with the  $\leq 3$  months group and a significant increase in the  $> 6$  months group compared with the  $\leq 6$  months group. Significant increases in ALT were also observed in groups  $\leq 6$  months and  $> 6$  months after healing compared with group  $\leq 3$  months [52]

Table (3): AST and ALT activities between control healthy and Covid-19 patients group

	Group		N	Mean Std.Deviation		t-value	Percentage %	P-value	
ALT(U/L)	Control healthy		20	20.45±4.32		5.82	126.50	<0.01**	
	Covid-19 patients		60	46.32±19.62					
AST(U/L)	Control healthy	20	23.50±3.47	6.26	93.70	<0.01**	Covid-19 patients	60	45.52±15.52

\*\* = Significant at ( $P < 0.01$ )

4.4- Effect of COVID-19 on the kidney functions :

Creatinine was found to be  $1.34 \pm 0.38$  mg/dL in covid-19 patients group which was significantly increased by 61.45% than that of the control group ( $0.83 \pm 0.11$  mg/dL) ( $P < 0.01$ ), and Urea was found to be  $50.48 \pm 19.33$  mg/dL in covid -19 patients group which was significantly increased by 87.66% than that of the control group ( $26.90 \pm 4.87$  mg/dL) ( $P < 0.001$ ) table (4):. Our results agreement with those of Qu et al. (2021), whose study included 266 COVID-19 patients, of whom 235 were mild cases and 31 were severe cases. Severe patients showed greater levels of the aminotransferases alanine (ALT), aspartate (AST), and urea nitrogen (BUN) ( $p < 0.01$ ) compared to moderate patients [50]. Additionally, research revealed that the virus had no discernible impact on renal function for any particular cause [53].However, a different study demonstrates a strong link between COVID-19 infection and renal insufficiency [52].

Table (4): Creatinien and urea level between control healthy and Covid-19 patients group

Group		N	Mean Std. Deviation	t-value	Percentage %	P-value
Creatinine(mg/dL)	Control healthy	20	$0.83 \pm 0.11$	5.96	61.44	$< 0.01^{**}$
	Covid-19 patients		$1.34 \pm 0.38$			

		60				
Urea(mg/dL)	Control healthy	20	26.90±4.87	5.37	87.65	< 0.01**
	Covid-19 patients	60	50.48±19.33			

\*\* = Significant at (P < 0.01)

#### 4.5- Effect of COVID-19 on haematological parameters:

Hemoglobin (Hb) was found to be  $11.94 \pm 1.75$  g/dL in covid-19 patients group which was insignificantly different than that of the control group ( $12.50 \pm 1.42$  g/dL) and We observed that the mean RBCs count of covid 19 patients group was  $4.27 \pm 0.57 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l which was insignificantly different than that of the control group ( $4.41 \pm 0.38 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l) table(5).

According to the results of our investigation, there was no discernible difference in the two groups' hemoglobin and red blood cell counts. In contrast, The RBCs, Hb, and Hct values quickly decreased as the disease progressed. When compared to the control healthy group, the MCV of only the moderate COVID-19 patient group significantly dropped. (P=0.015) [54]. Additionally, compared to the control group, the COVID-19 patients had significantly lower median values for hemoglobin concentration (Hb), red blood cell count (RBCs count), haematocrit (Hct), mean cells hemoglobin (MCH), and mean cells hemoglobin concentration (MCHC).r (p = 0:041, p ≤ 0:01, p ≤ 0:01, and p ≤ 0:01, in that order) [55]. A considerable percentage of COVID-19 patients experienced anemia, according to an analysis of their erythrocyte properties. In 38,2% of COVID-19 cases, hemoglobin levels dropped[56]. Taneri et al.'s metaanalysis revealed that COVID-19 patients' mean hemoglobin levels had dropped [57].

The platelets (PLT) count of the COVID-19 patients group was found to be  $190.48 \pm 41.83 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l; this was considerably lower (-20.27%) than the control group's ( $238.90 \pm 42.33 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l) (P<0.01) table (5). Our findings concur with those of Elderderly et al., who found that The median platelet counts of COVID-19 patients were substantially lower than those of controls. (p ≤ 0:01). [55]. In COVID-19 patient groups, PLT parameter was found to be lower (P < 0.001). [54]. When admitted to the hospital, thrombocytopenia is found in 25.1% of COVID-19 patients.20 Additionally, thrombocytopenia has been linked in a number of studies to both patient survival and the COVID-19 infection's severity. According to a meta-analysis, individuals with severe Compared to those with a milder form of the disease, COVID-19 patients typically have lower platelet counts.19 Numerous studies have revealed that the platelet count of patients who do not survive is considerably lower than that of those who do[58].

White Blood Cell count (WBCs) was found to be  $7.01 \pm 2.04 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l in covid 19 patients group and  $7.78 \pm 1.44 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l in control group, between the two groups, there is no statistically significant difference., We detected a mean lymphocytic count was found to be  $15.02 \pm 2.57 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l in covid 19 patients group which was significantly decreased by (-56.21%) than that of the control group ( $34.30 \pm 4.34 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l) (P<0.001), We detected a mean neutrophil count was found to be  $76.89 \pm 4.13 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l in covid 19 patients group which was significantly increased by (36.81%) than that of the control group ( $56.20 \pm 4.48 \times 10^3$  cells/ $\mu$ l) (P<0.001) and the mean monocyte level was found to be  $5.47 \pm 1.58$  % in covid 19 patients group which was significantly decreased by (-31.63%) than that of the control



group ( $8 \pm 1.49\%$ ) ( $P < 0.01$ ) table (5). Our finding results with those of Elderderly et al found that there was no statistically significant difference between the two groups' median values for the total white blood cell count and basophil count. Nonetheless, the patient group's lymphocyte count dramatically dropped in comparison to the control group. ( $p$  value  $< 0.001$ ), and its neutrophil count increased significantly ( $p$  value  $< 0.001$ ). [55]. The patients group with mild COVID-19 infection had a lower WBC count than the other groups ( $P = 0.264$ ). Additionally, it was demonstrated that, in comparison to the control group, the WBC count of patients assigned to the moderate, severe, and died groups increased dramatically. All patient groups had considerably greater neutrophil counts, which increased in direct proportion to the illness's severity. Along with a large rise in neutrophils, all patient groups had significantly decreased lymphocyte counts. Numerous studies have also confirmed that the differential count and evaluation of white blood have a major impact on both predicting the disease's severity and confirming the COVID-19 diagnosis.. [54]. Compared to healthy individuals, COVID-19 patients typically have decreased leukocyte counts. On the other hand, leukocyte levels in COVID-19 individuals with severe disease are greater during observation ( $7.44$  vs  $4.40 \times 10^9/L$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ) than in those with mild-moderate disease. [59]. Also we found that the mean monocyte level was  $5.47 \pm 1.58\%$  in COVID-19 patients group which was significantly decreased by ( $-31.63\%$ ) than that of the control healthy group ( $8 \pm 1.49\%$ ) ( $P < 0.001$ ) table (5). Which is consistent with Rostami-Far et al who stated that Additionally, all patient groups observed a significant decrease in the number of monocytes. [54]. In contrast no significant difference between both groups regarding Monocytes count as median monocytic count was  $8:1 \pm 3:7$  vs  $8:1 \pm 3:97$  in patients with COVID-19 and healthy controls respectively[55].

Table (5): Hematological parameters levels between control healthy and Covid-19 patients

		group		t-value	Percentage %	P-value
Group		N	Mean Std. Deviation			
HB(g/dL)	Control healthy	20	12.50 $\pm$ 1.42	1.29	- 4.5	>0.05 NS
	Covid-19 patients	60	11.94 $\pm$ 1.75			
RBCs( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	Control healthy	20	4.41 $\pm$ 0.38	1.01	- 3.17	> 0.05 NS
	Covid-19 patients	60	4.27 $\pm$ 0.57			
PLT( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	Control healthy	20	238.90 $\pm$ 42.33	4.47	- 20.26	< 0.01 **
	Covid-19 patients	60	190.48 $\pm$ 41.83			
WBCs( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	Control healthy	20	7.78 $\pm$ 1.44	1.55	- 9.89	> 0.05 NS
	Covid-19 patients	60	7.01 $\pm$ 2.04			
Lymphocytes ( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	Control healthy	20	34.30 $\pm$ 4.34	24.14	- 56.2	< 0.001***
	Covid-19 patients	60	15.02 $\pm$ 2.57			
Neutrophil ( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	Control healthy	20	56.20 $\pm$ 4.48	19.01	36.81	< 0.001***
	Covid-19 patients	60	76.89 $\pm$ 4.13			
Monocytes(%)	Control healthy	20	8.00 $\pm$ 1.49	6.29	- 31.62	< 0.01 **
	Covid-19 patients	60	5.47 $\pm$ 1.58			

\*\*\* = significant at ( $P < 0.001$ ). \*\* = significant at ( $P < 0.01$ ). NS = Non-significant at ( $P > 0.05$ )

#### 4.6- Effect of COVID-19 on biochemical Markers (TUBB and CIP2A):

TUBB was found to be  $136.22 \pm 30.89$  pg/ml in covid-19 patients group which was significantly increased by 185.88% than its value in the control group ( $47.65 \pm 7.70$  pg/ml) ( $P < 0.001$ ) table (6): also, based on the results of ROC curve analysis, TUBB was a significant predictor of Covid-19 (AUC=1, P value<0.001). At the suggested cut off value ( $>59$ ), TUBB gave a sensitivity of 100%, specificity of 95%, PPV of 98.4% and NPV of 100%. Table (7), figure (1). and the mean CIP2A level was found to be  $1.45 \pm 0.37$  in covid 19 patients group and  $1.32 \pm 0.28$  in control healthy group, without a significant statistical difference between both groups Table (6):also based on the results of ROC curve analysis CIP2A wasn't a significant predictor of Covid 19 with AUC of 0.586, P value of  $> 0.05$ ). At the suggested cut off value ( $>1.15$ ), CIP2A gave a sensitivity of 73.33%, specificity of 30%, PPV of 75.9% and NPV of 27.3% Table (7), figure (2).

The coronavirus spike (S) protein, which mediates host cell attachment and viral entrance [61], is used by the SARS-CoV-2 cell to attack a host cell. Membrane receptor proteins, namely the ACE2 receptor, are bound by the S protein. TUBB production is boosted by intracellular microtubules, which are linked to  $\beta$ -tubulin. also, This study was indirectly confirmed by the effectiveness demonstrated in anti-microtubule clinical trials. COLCORONA (Colchicine Coronavirus SARS-COV2), a drug that inhibits the mitotic spindle poles in human cells by targeting microtubules, has been selected for the phase 3 trial of the COVID-19 treatment.. [62]. Also there was no significant difference between both groups regarding the mean CIP2A level also we found that CIP2A wasn't a significant predictor of Covid 19 based on the results of ROC curve analysis with AUC of 0.586, P value  $> 0.05$ . So we found that TUBB had a significantly higher AUC value than CIP2A (P value<0.001), indicating that TUBB was a significantly better diagnostic marker of Covid 19 Compared to matching normal tissues, CIP2A mRNA and protein levels were elevated in colorectal cancer (CRC) tissues. Additionally, overexpression of CIP 2A protein is caused by IL 10, an inflammatory marker that is linked to COVID-19 but not specifically to the illness.It is a useful independent prognostic indicator for figuring out disease-free survival (DFS) and overall survival (OS). [63].

Also there was no sufficient data about CIP2A in progression of COVID 19 infections but had major role in progression of solid tumors and heamatological malignancy [64].In our results the tubulin level showed a higher level in Covid-19 patients group as its level reached to 136.22, while, in the control healthy group was 47.65.As actin filaments are key players in every stage of infection, this finding that coronaviruses employ cellular filaments in the most complicated way may apply to COVs. Microtubules (MTs) are required for the internalization of viruses and, subsequently, at multiple stages in the establishment of the viral replication site. [65].

Table (6): Tubbulin and CIP2A level between control health and Covid-19 patients group

Group		N		Mean Std. Deviation	t-value	Percentage %	P-value
TUBB(pg/ml))	Control healthy	20	60	$47.65 \pm 7.70$	12.64	185.87	<0.001***
	Covid-19 patients			$136.22 \pm 30.89$			
CIP2A(ng/ml)	Control healthy	20	60	$1.32 \pm 0.28$	1.52	9.85	> 0.05 NS
	Covid-19 patients			$1.45 \pm 0.37$			

Table (7): Diagnostic performance of TUBB for the early prediction of Covid-19

	Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	AUC
TUBB	>59	100	95	98.4	100	1.000
CIP2A	>1.15	73.33	30	75.9	27.3	0.586

PPV: Positive predictive value, NPV: Negative predictive value, AUC: Area under the curve

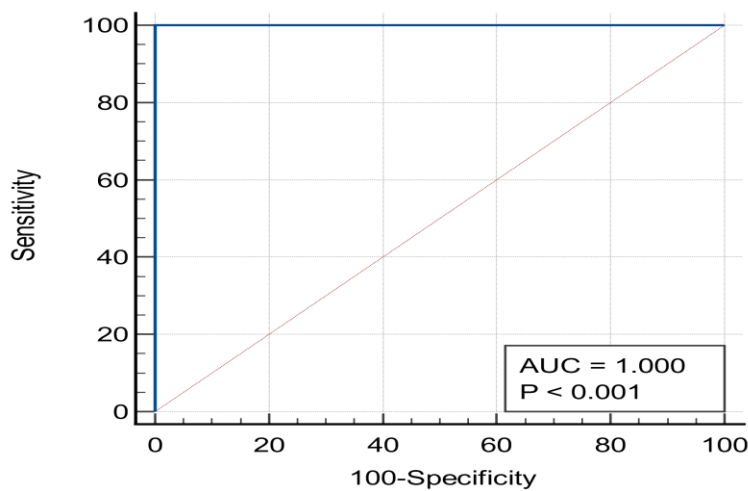


Figure (1): ROC curve of TUBB for the early prediction of Covid 19

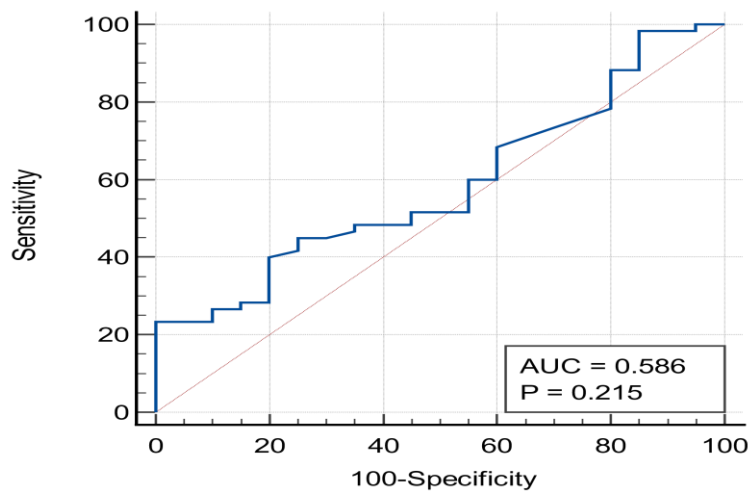


Figure (2): ROC curve of CIP2A for the early prediction of Covid 19

The comparison between both ROC curves of TUBB and CIP2A revealed that TUBB had a significantly higher AUC value than CIP2A (P value<0.001), indicating that TUBB was a significantly better diagnostic marker of Covid 19 than CIP2A

## 5. CONCLUSION:

Ferritin, CRP, and D-dimer are effective biomarkers for predicting COVID-19 death. Additionally we were unable to establish significant relationships between numerous other biomarkers in detecting the coronavirus disease's severity. During the hospital stay in our study, acute renal damage and hypernatremia developed, both of which were demonstrated to be fatal.. These findings are significant and can serve as guidelines for treating people with the disease in this location or determining the severity of the disease. The tubulin and CIP2A increased in the severe form of COVID-19 and can be used as a guide for determination of severity and The effectiveness of COVID-19 treatment. but the tubulin is more accurate and specific. than the CIP2A.

## 6- Conflicts of interests :

There are no conflicts to declare.

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