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- FHHI-OI-Camelot & EVMS March 24, 2020
- Conflict of Interest: FMTVDM issued to first author.

Increasing our Knowledge, Understanding and Treatment of CoVid-19 and CoVid-19 pneumonia (CVP).

The sensitivity of CoVid-19 PCR throat and nasal swabs has been reported as ranging between 30 and 73%, which means that only 30-73% of the people with CoVid-19 will test positive [1,2] - at least initially. Part of the reason for this is the inclusion of people with low probability of having CoVid-19. The likelihood of these tests having a greater positive predictive value (PPV), and therefore being more meaningful, increases as we limit the use of this tool to those who are more likely to have CoVid-19, rather than merely testing everyone.

Testing everyone might make people feel safer, but it will only reduce the PPV of this screening test while providing misinformation and decreasing the sensitivity and specificity of CoVid-19 screening. By focusing our screening on those who present with symptoms consistent with CoVid-19, we will reduce the numbers of errors made by screening for CoVid-19 and increase the accuracy and our understanding of CoVid-19; including the associated morbidity and mortality.

The greatest concern for most people is not acquiring CoVid-19 - but dying from CVP. With multiple potential treatments being recommended, and with no prior evidence to direct our treatment of patients, it is critical that we quantify the treatment response [3,4] to determine which treatment is best tolerated - thereby saving time, money, resources and lives.

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