

Speaker 1: [00:01](#) Quality Improvement in the Time of COVID-19 is brought to you by the American Heart Association with support from Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

As physicians, scientists, and researchers worldwide struggle to understand the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Heart Association has developed its COVID-19 CVD Registry powered by Get With The Guidelines to aggregate data and aid research on the disease, treatment protocols and risk factors tied to adverse cardiovascular outcomes. For more information, visit us at heart.org/covidregistry.

Gerald Johnson: [00:31](#) Good afternoon. My name is Gerald Johnson, the executive vice

work to educate and provide the resources available to prevent hospitalizations.

Gerald Johnson: [04:26](#)

Yeah. Can you talk a little bit about how uninsured rates in these populations came into play in terms of patient outcomes?

Dr. Fatima Rodr...: [04:35](#)

That's a great question, and we know that lack of insurance and lack of access to care is one of the key social determinants of health. I should caution that this is a biased study sample in the sense that the registry represents hospitals that are part of this large Get With The Guidelines effort through the American Heart Association, so these tend to be larger academic hospitals.

However, we did notice differences in rates of uninsurance by race. All racial and ethnic groups were more likely to be uninsured as compared to non-Hispanic white patients who were hospitalized for COVID-19. The difference was really most striking among Hispanic patients with almost 13% of Hispanic patients being uninsured at the time of hospitalization. Rates of uninsurance were not independently predictive of poor outcomes, but clearly they are a source of the over-representation of these patients in the hospital.

Gerald Johnson: [05:23](#)

Yeah. Dr. Rodriguez, I appreciate that perspective. I want to keep on that thread. Can you talk a little bit about what trends you may have seen in the differences and severity of the virus among the different racial groups?

Dr. Fatima Rodr...: [05:35](#)

Absolutely. I should start again by saying that black and Hispanic patients were much younger at the time of hospitalization than their white counterparts. This is really notable because of the burden it places on their families when a young person is hospitalized and sick.

Mortality rates were also high, not different by race and ethnicity, but high overall. For this study, we developed a COVID severity index for hospitalizations with the worst case scenario being in-hospital death, the best case scenario being hospitalized without need for mechanical support or a

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