

COVID-19: The Curious Case of the Dog That Did Not Bark

Dear Sir,

We read with great interest the editorial article “COVID-19: The Curious Case of the Dog That Did Not Bark” by Amitav Banerjee published on May 8, 2020.^[1] We gratefully appreciate their contribution which enriched this issue. The author mentioned that lower median age of country, lower overweight prevalence, and cross-immunity to COVID-19 due to infections with other coronaviruses may be acting in isolation or more likely synergistically to cushion the impact of COVID-19.^[1]

The infection occurred since the early March 2020 in our country, and there are overall 148,067 COVID-19 cases at present (May 17, 2020).^[2] After the first case occurred in the country, actions have been carried out with a multisectoral approach, and protective measures have been performed to protect the society as a whole with the pandemic program.^[3]

In this letter, we would like to share and contribute the current situation of Turkey as a response to the related article, a developing country located between Europe and Asia.

In Table 1, of the seven countries, the USA has the largest epidemic of COVID-19. Compared to countries in Europe, Italy, France and Spain are the most affected countries by the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe^[4] in terms of population numbers, cases, spread rate and deaths. Turkey's situation is similar to Germany. [Figure 1]. In

Table 2, of the seven countries, In terms of number and case fatality rate, turkey has a higher value than the neighboring eastern countries. In addition, compared with the neighboring East countries, in terms of population, cases, and deaths, Turkey is similar to Iran. Hence, Turkey, in terms of cases and death rates has similar characteristics to the European and Asian countries. It is more plausible to think that as a connection pathway between continents and due to high touristic activities, Turkey has geopolitical role in this epidemic.

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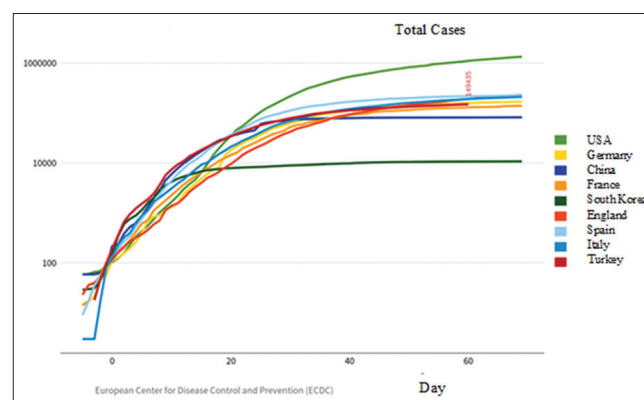


Figure 1: COVID-19 country comparative graphic

Table 1: Cases and deaths from COVID-19 in Turkey and some Western countries

Country	Total cases	Deaths	Deaths/1 million population	Approximate population (crores)	Median age (years)	Overweight (%)
Turkey	148,067	4097	49	8.3	32.2	30.3
Germany	165,086	6812	81	8.3	47.1	56.8
The USA	1,165,868	67,552	204	32.8	38.1	67.9
France	168,396	24,760	379	6.7	41.4	59.5
The UK	182,260	28,131	414	6.7	40.5	63.7
Spain	247,122	25,264	540	4.7	42.5	61.6
Italy	209,328	28,710	475	6.0	45.5	58.5

Table 2: Cases and deaths from COVID-19 in Turkey and East neighboring countries

Country	Total cases	Deaths	Deaths/1 million population	Approximate population (crores)	Median age (years)	Overweight (%)
Turkey	149,435	4140	49	8.3	49.8	30.3
Georgia	702	12	3	0.39	38.6	54.1
Iran	124,603	7119	85	8.3	31.7	65
Armenia	5041	64	22	Armenia population 2,9 million 10 million=1 crores so this value is true. 0,29 crores	33.9	19.5
Azerbaijan	3387	40	4	1	21.4	23.8
Iraq	3611	131	0,3	4	21.2	23.4
Syria	58	3	0,1	1.7	23.5	55.0

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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