were included. Data were collected from computerised clinical notes for analysis.

Results Of 57 patients (39 male and mean age 80), 47 (82.5%) patients died during admission or within 5 days of discharge. 10 (17.5%) patients survived to discharge. Non-survivors had a median CFS of 4; IQR 3–5, as did survivors (median CFS 4; IQR 3–4). Non-survivors had a median of 3 (IQR 2–4) significant comorbidities, and survivors had 2.5 (IQR 2–3.8). Median P/F (PaO₂/FiO₂) ratio prior to commencing CPAP was 10.5 (IQR 8.4–12.6) for non-survivors and 14.4 (IQR 12.9–18.8) for survivors. The odds of death were 6.8 (p value <0.01) in those with a severe P/F ratio (<13.3).

Conclusion This evidence indicates that CPAP used in patients aged 75 and over, particularly those with a severe P/F ratio prior to commencing CPAP, does not improve mortality. These findings can inform future decision-making and CPAP protocol development to potentially limit its use in this group. Further study of less invasive alternative management options, such as nasal high flow oxygen, is recommended.

P185 EXPERIENCE OF USING HIGH FLOW NASAL OXYGEN FIRST LINE TO TREAT HYPOXEMIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE DUE TO COVID 19 IN PATIENTS IN WHOM CRITICAL CARE ADMISSION WAS FELT TO BE NOT OF BENEFIT ON A RESPIRATORY SUPPORT UNIT (RSU) FROM OCTOBER 2020 TO MARCH 2021

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Introduction The efficacy of High Flow Nasal Oxygen in severe COVID 19 pneumonia is uncertain with conflicting guidance. Wirral University Teaching Hospital has used HFNO outside of critical care for some time and so in the absence of clear evidence we used HFNO as first line for patients with confirmed severe COVID 19 pneumonia (defined as requiring 60% FiO₂ despite awake proning and appropriate treatment) in whom Critical care admission was felt to be inappropriate.

Setting Enhanced respiratory support (HFNO or CPAP) was delivered on a newly developed RSU consisting of 8 negative pressure side rooms and a 5 bed cohort area. There was a daily respiratory and critical care MDT in which severely ill COVID 19 patients were discussed and escalation plans were made. Outside of this, the decision to use HFNO was made by an on call respiratory consultant and there was daily consultant review. Only patients were placed on HFNO first line or CPAP if failing/were felt more likely to benefit from CPAP.

Results 69 patients received Respiratory support (median age 72) and had had been an IP for a median of 4.2 days prior to starting HFNO. Overall 31 (45%) of such patients survived to hospital discharge and received a mean FiO₂ of 86%. Overall LOS was on average 15 days with 6 days spent on respiratory support. Markers of poor outcome include use of CPAP (survival 4/15, 27%), acute significant impairment of 2 organs (survival 4/14 28%), being over 75 (36% survival) and needing more than 90% FiO₂ (28% survival). There was no increase in staff sickness, nosocomial infections or reported patient safety incidents. The overall survival rate compares well to ICNARC data for this cohort

of patients and the previous pre pandemic local data for HFNO use in respiratory patients (45% from October 2020 vs 37% pre March 2020)

Conclusion HFNO appears to be a safe and effective treatment for patients with severe COVID 19 pneumonia who would not benefit from critical care support when cohorted with 24 hour senior respiratory support. The risk of nosocomial transmission is low and they can be safely managed in large negative pressure with no significant patient safety issues.

P186 SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE OF TOCILIZUMAB IN COVID 19 PNEUMONIA

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Introduction Tocilizumab is an interleukin-6 (IL-6) receptor blocker which blocks the IL-6 signal transduction pathway reducing inflammation. It is thought to be an effective drug for patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia. Our study sought to evaluate the benefits of tocilizumab in patients with COVID 19 pneumonia who required hospital admission.

Methods This is a retrospective analysis of 47 patients with COVID 19 pneumonia who were admitted to a single centre, London district general hospital during January and February 2021. COVID 19 patients requiring high level of oxygen to maintain oxygen saturation above 92% with one of the following criteria (C-reactive protein above 50, ferritin above 500 mg/l, d-dimer above 1000 mg/ml or LDH above 250 U/L) were eligible to receive tocilizumab. These patients were given single dose of tocilizumab 8mg/kg during first week of hospital admission. These patients were matched against 38 control patients with COVID 19 pneumonia with same SF (oxygen saturation/fiO₂) ratio on admission (median SF ratio = 106.67) who received standard treatment (dexamethasone).

Abstract P186 Table 1 Clinical parameters of the COVID 19 pneumonia patients who received tocilizumab between January and February 2021

		Dexamethasone (Control group)	Dexamethasone+ Tocilizumab	p value
Total		38	47	
Age	Median [IQR]	61.5	54	
SF ratio	Median [IQR]	106.67	106.67	
Gender	Male	21	36	
	Female	17	11	
Ethnicity	British/White	25	30	
	Any other white background	1	8	
	Asian	5	11	
	Others	8	6	
Outcome	Death	17	8	0.008
	Need for NIV/ HFNO	9	27	0.002
	ITU admission	12	22	0.18
	Need for intubation	4	13	0.06
Length of Hospital Stay	Median [IQR]	6	12	<0.001