






Original research

Survival Analysis of Diabetes Mellitus and Cardiovascular Patients With COVID-19: A Secondary Data Analysis

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Abstract

Background: Patients with diabetes mellitus (DM) and cardiovascular disorders who suffer from COVID-19 may have an increased risk of death.

Objective: This study aims to analyze the time of death and influencing factors in patients with DM and cardiovascular disorders with COVID-19.

Methods: We used a retrospective observational cohort study using medical records of COVID-19 patients treated at Dr Soeradji and Penembahan Senopati hospitals from March 2020 to June 2022. There were 2,959 participants: patients without comorbidities, with DM, and with cardiovascular problems. We extracted sociodemographic and clinical data on patient characteristics using medical records. Data analysis used Kaplan-Meier and Cox regression analysis to estimate survival probability and investigate predictors of death with a 5% significance level.

Results: The median survival time was highest in the group without comorbidities (70.00) and lowest in the DM+others group (21.75). Years of treatment, age, presence of comorbidities, and type of hospital were related to the survival rate of COVID-19 patients ($p < 0.05$). Diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular system disorders are significantly associated with survival of COVID-19 patients ($p < 0.001$). There were significant differences between patients without cardiovascular disorders and patients with cardiovascular disorders (Non-Hypertension, Hypertension, and Hypertension + Others) adjusted by year, gender, age, and hospital type ($p < 0.001$). There were significant differences between patients without DM and patients with DM (DM only, DM+Hypertension, and DM+Others) adjusted by year, gender, age, and hospital type ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Years of treatment, age, gender, comorbid DM, and cardiovascular problems are associated with the survival rate of COVID-19 patients. Older age, DM patients who have comorbidities other than hypertension, and patients with cardiovascular issues other than hypertension show a greater risk of death than other groups.

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Background

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19), as of January 2024, has infected more than 774.2 million people worldwide, with the most cases in Europe. The United States, China, and India have the highest COVID-19 cases, with 103.4 million, 99.3 million, and 45 million, respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia ranks 20th with a total of 6.8 million cases. At the same time, the number of active cases was recorded at more than 143 thousand cases. Malaysia has the highest number of active cases, namely 29.7 thousand (World Health Organization, 2024). In the period 2020 to 2022, COVID-19 as an infectious disease has become a big problem for the world with high morbidity and mortality rates; until now, this disease poses a threat of morbidity and death, although not as high as before (Chang et al., 2022). COVID-19 has resulted in the deaths of more than 7 million people in the world, and the highest deaths occurred in the United States (1.2 million), Brazil (702.1 thousand), and India (533.4 thousand) (World Health Organization, 2024).

Many factors cause the high death rate of COVID-19 patients apart from the nature of the disease itself. Older age groups are more susceptible to disease, getting sicker, and dying. According to studies in Brazil, someone aged 60-79 years is 1.62 times more likely to die from COVID-19, and this will increase to 2.56 times when they are >80 years old (Garbin et al., 2022). In line with studies in Mexico at ages >80 years showing a death rate of 60.1% (Bustos-Vázquez et al., 2021). In addition, comorbidities previously suffered by patients also increase the mortality of people with COVID-19. Survival analysis shows that old age and the presence of comorbidities further increase mortality and reduce survival rates (S. Bobdey et al., 2021).

Diabetes Mellitus (DM) and cardiovascular disease are the most common comorbidities in COVID-19 sufferers (Bustos-Vázquez et al., 2021). Even the results of meta-analysis studies state that a person can have more than one comorbidity, which makes the patient's condition even more detrimental (de Almeida-Pititto et al., 2020). Other findings from meta-analysis studies show that cardiovascular patients of all ages with other risk factors, such as DM, are significantly associated with COVID-19 mortality (Bae et al., 2021). COVID-19 patients with chronic cardiovascular disease have a 2.20 times risk of death compared to non-sufferers (Garbin et al., 2022). A study in Mexico showed that DM patients had a risk of 1,062 times compared to non-DM patients (Bustos-Vázquez et al., 2021); data from another study in Korea showed that the risk figure for DM patients was more significant, namely 1.86 (Byeon et al., 2021).

Although studies on survival analysis in COVID-19 patients, especially those with a history of comorbidities, have been carried out previously, studies specifically on DM and cardiovascular comorbidities have yet to be carried out. Previous research discussed comorbidities in general or analyzed them into DM and non-DM or cardiovascular disease and non-cardiovascular disease groups. Further analysis of the survival rate of COVID-19 patients with DM and cardiovascular disease with other comorbidities has never been carried out. Therefore, we are interested in conducting a study on survival analysis of diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular patients with COVID-19.

METHODS

Study Design

We used a retrospective observational cohort study research design based on patient medical records.

Setting

Data was collected at two hospitals in Indonesia, namely the Dr. Soeradji Tirtonegoro Central General Hospital (tertiary hospital) and the Penembahan Senopati Regional General Hospital (secondary hospital). The data taken is from COVID-19 patients from March 2020 to June 2022.

Participants

Participants in this study were COVID-19 patients diagnosed using the Real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) SARS-CoV-2 examination using a nasopharyngeal swab. COVID-19 patients who meet the inclusion criteria are without comorbidities or with comorbid DM (diagnosed by a doctor) or comorbid cardiovascular problems (diagnosed by a doctor) and have complete medical records. COVID-19 patients with comorbidities other than DM and cardiovascular are excluded from the study. We estimated the optimum number of samples using the survival analysis formula and the number of events (deaths) using the formula $E = (Z\alpha/2 + Z\beta)^2 / (\log(HR))^2 q_0 q_1$ (Li et al., 2018). We used the assumption of a 95% confidence level, a study power of 80%, the number of cases is balanced, and cardiovascular disease and DM with COVID-19 hazard rates from previous studies are 8.9 and 1.3 (we use

the highest numbers) (Sousa et al., 2020). Based on the formula, it is known that $Z_{\alpha/2}=1.96$, $Z_{\beta}=0.84$, $HR=8.9$, q_1 =proportion of subjects in the exposed group and q_0 =proportion of subjects in the unexposed group. Based on the calculations, the number of events obtained is 11. The optimum sample size is calculated using the formula $N=E/PE$, where PE =cumulative mortality rate; previous studies found 6.3% (Sousa et al., 2020). The minimum number of samples obtained was 175; in this study, the number of samples was 2959 using the total sampling.

Variables and Operational Definition

The outcomes in this study are the time to death of COVID-19 patients without comorbidities, with comorbid DM, and with comorbid cardiovascular problems since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. Outcomes are categorized as binary with "1" if the participant dies (event) and "0" if the participant is censored. Participants were classified as censored if they recovered, were allowed to go home with improvement in their condition, or were referred to another health facility. The event verification and censoring process is carried out by the doctor in charge and written in the medical record. The independent variables in this study are year of treatment, gender, age, hospital type, DM condition, and cardiovascular condition. Age is categorized based on the World Health Organization into Child (0-14), Young Age (15-24), Adult (25-64), and Elderly (>64) (Ahmad et al., 2001), but for reasons of statistical analysis, in the Log-rank test age test was categorized into ≤ 64 and > 64 . DM condition is classified by looking at the comorbidities other than the participant's DM. As with cardiovascular conditions, participants are categorized by looking at comorbidities other than cardiovascular problems.

Data Analysis

We obtained participant retrospective data from the hospital medical records department in the form of soft files in Excel data form. We reviewed and extracted data into a form containing respondent characteristics (year of treatment, gender, and age), type of hospital, date of admission, date of discharge, length of stay, outcome, presence or absence of comorbidities, and type of comorbidity. We analysed data using SPSS V.27 software. Univariate categorical data is presented using a frequency distribution, while numerical data uses the mean and standard deviation (SD). We used life table analysis to determine the survival probability between groups. We used the Kaplan-Meier method and log-rank test to calculate survival time and compare between groups. We used Cox regression analysis to explain factors associated with death in COVID-19 patients. Variables with a p-value of less than 0.05 indicate statistically significant results.

Ethical consideration

We collected data after obtaining ethical clearance from the ethics commission of Universitas Respati Yogyakarta number 110.3/FIKES/PL/VII/2022 and research permission from the hospital with numbers LB.02.02/XIII/2243/2022 and LB.02.01/XXVI.3/ 1720/2022.

RESULTS

Demographic Characteristic and Outcome Status of Participants

In this study, 2959 patients had a mean age of $51.57 \pm 18,639$ years, a length of stay of $9.75 \pm 6,565$ days, and 33.8% had cardiovascular system problems. The highest number of patients in 2021 (67.4%) with a mortality rate of 26.2%. A total of 1491 male patients, 23.1% of whom died. The majority of respondents were adults (66.4%), had comorbidities (52.9%), and were treated in tertiary hospitals (60.4%), with the respective deaths being 21.1%, 30.1%, and 22.4%. Years of treatment, age, presence of comorbidities, and type of hospital were related to the survival rate of COVID-19 patients ($p<0.05$), while gender did not show a significant relationship ($p.0263$). A total of 2287 combined patients with DM and non-DM, non-DM patients had higher survival compared to DM patients (86.6%), while DM patients who had other diseases had the most increased mortality (41.6%) compared to DM only or DM patients with hypertension. Of 2394 COVID-19 patients with and without cardiovascular problems, survival was highest in patients without cardiovascular issues (86.6%), and mortality was most increased in the non-hypertension group (31.1%) compared to the hypertension only or Hypertension+Others groups. Diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular system disorders are significantly associated with survival of COVID-19 patients ($p<0.001$) (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic Characteristic of Respondents and Outcome Status of Patients With COVID-19 (n=2.959)

Characteristic	Mean ± SD or n (%)	Death (%)	Survived (%)	CI	p#
Age (years old)	51.57 ± 18.639				
Time (Days)	9.75±6.565				
Health Problem*					
Diabetes Mellitus	892 (30.1)				
Cardiovascular System	999 (33.8)				
Status					
Censor	2301 (77.8)				
Event (Death)	658 (22.2)				
Year					
2020	599 (20.2)	86 (14.4)	513 (85.6)	50.673-60.275	
2021	1993 (67.4)	522 (26.2)	1471 (73.8)	25.409-29.696	<0.001
2022	367(12.4)	50 (13.6)	317 (86.4)	15.521-19.949	
Gender					
Male	1491 (50.4)	345 (23.1)	1146 (76.9)	37.589-46.599	0.263
Female	1468 (49.6)	313 (21.3)	1155 (78.7)	30.050-35.051	
Age					
Child (0-14)	161 (5.4)	2 (1.2)	159 (98.8)	25.301-26.111	
Young Age (15-24)	114 (3.9)	3 (2.6)	111 (97.4)	39.783-42.122	
Adult (25-64)	1965 (66.4)	416 (21.2)	1549 (78.8)	42.454-50.095	<0.001
Elderly (>64)	719 (24.3)	237 (37.0)	482 (67.0)	21.482-27.488	
Comorbid					
No	1395 (47.1)	188 (13.5)	1207 (86.5)	45.918-55.599	<0.001
Yes	1564 (52.9)	470 (30.1)	1094 (69.9)	25.245-29.461	
Type of Hospital					
Secondary Hospital	1171 (39.6)	257 (21.9)	914 (78.1)	43.418-52.016	0.012
Tertiary Hospital	1788 (60.4)	401 (22.4)	1387 (77.6)	24.959-30.565	
Diabetes Mellitus Problem (n=2287)					
No	1395 (61.0)	187 (13.4)	1208 (86.6)	45.658-55.413	
Diabetes Mellitus Only	256 (11.2)	74 (28.9)	182 (71.1)	21.009-27.587	
Diabetes Mellitus + Hypertension	290 (12.7)	101 (34.8)	189 (65.2)	25.615-32.794	<0.001
Diabetes Mellitus + Others	346 (15.1)	144 (41.6)	202 (58.4)	19.502-25.395	
Cardiovascular System Problem (n=2394)					
No	1395 (58.3)	187 (13.4)	1208 (86.6)	45.658-55.413	
Non-Hypertension	135 (5.6)	42 (31.1)	93 (68.9)	16.660-29.612	
Hypertension Only	279 (11.7)	61 (21.9)	218 (78.1)	18.006-24.955	<0.001
Hypertension + Others	585 (24.4)	168 (28.7)	417 (71.3)	29.270-34.174	

*One person can be >1 health problem; # Kaplan-Mayer (log rank test); CI=Confident interval; n=number; p=p-value; SD=Standard deviation

Death and Survival Probability of DM and Cardiovascular System Diseases Patients With COVID-19

The Life table in Table 2 shows that based on intervals of every 14 days, it is known that the initial 14 days of patients without comorbidities have the highest cumulative survival probability among others (82%), while patients with DM + other diseases have the lowest value (54%). At the 28-41 interval, the cumulative survival probability of patients without comorbidities still showed the highest value (61%), while the group of patients with DM+others and hypertension only had the lowest value (24%). In the 70-83 interval, patients without comorbidities had a better cumulative survival probability than all participants (61% vs 47%). The median survival time was highest in the group without comorbidities (70.00) and lowest in the DM+others group (21.75). The median survival time for all participants is 38.21.

Table 2. Life Table of DM and Cardiovascular System Diseases Patients With COVID-19

Intervals (Days)	At Risk	Death (%)	Censored	Survival Probability	CSP
All Participants^a					
0-13	2959	584	1803	0.72	0.72
14-27	572	65	438	0.82	0.58
28-41	69	9	47	0.80	0.47
42-55	13	0	11	1.00	0.47
56-69	2	0	1	1.00	0.47
70-83	1	0	1	1.00	0.47
No Comorbid^b					
0-13	1395	162	991	0.82	0.82
14-27	242	22	187	0.85	0.70
28-41	33	3	21	0.87	0.61
42-55	9	0	7	1.00	0.61
56-69	2	0	1	1.00	0.61
70-83	1	0	1	1.00	0.61
DM only^c					
0-13	256	63	142	0.66	0.66
14-27	51	10	34	0.71	0.47
28-41	7	1	6	0.75	0.35
DM+Hypertension^d					
0-13	290	96	139	0.56	0.56
14-27	55	5	43	0.85	0.48
28-41	7	0	6	1.00	0.48
42-55	1	0	1	1.00	0.48
DM+Others^e					
0-13	346	132	122	0.54	0.54
14-27	92	7	71	0.88	0.47
28-41	14	5	8	0.50	0.24
42-55	1	0	1	1.00	0.24
Non-Hypertension^f					
0-13	135	37	72	0.63	0.63
14-27	26	5	19	0.70	0.44
28-41	2	0	1	1.00	0.44
42-55	1	0	1	1.00	0.44
Hypertension^g					
0-13	279	50	185	0.73	0.73
14-27	44	10	31	0.65	0.48
28-41	3	1	2	0.50	0.24
Hypertension+Others^h					
0-13	585	154	302	0.65	0.65
14-27	129	14	105	0.82	0.53
28-41	10	0	8	1.00	0.53
42-55	2	0	2	1.00	0.53

CSP: Cumulative Survival Probability

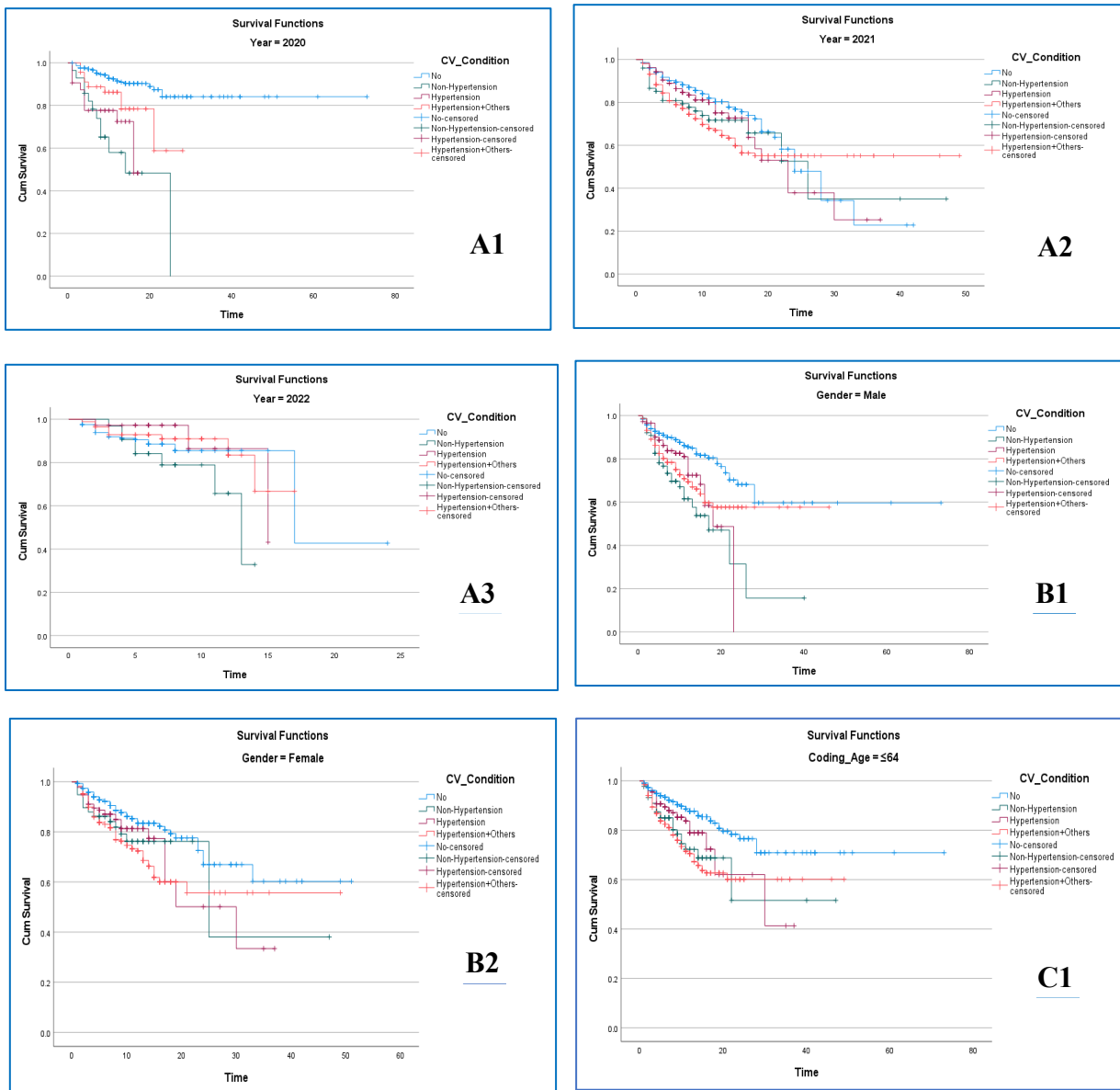
The median survival time: a=38.21, b=70.00, c=25.51, d=24.74, e=21.75, f=23.31, g=26.64, h=42.00

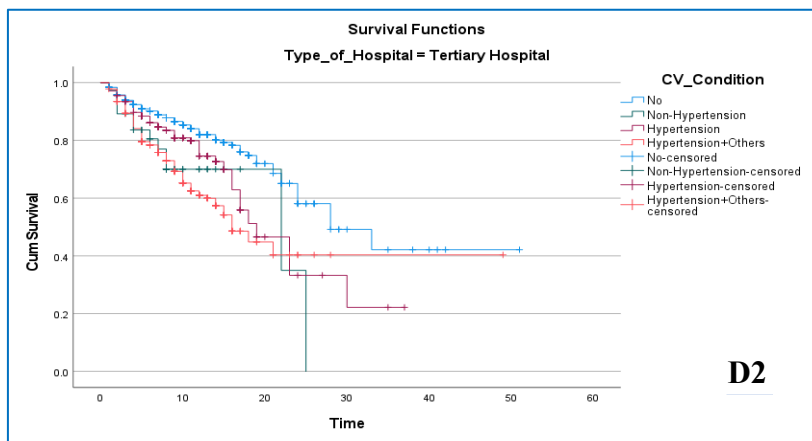
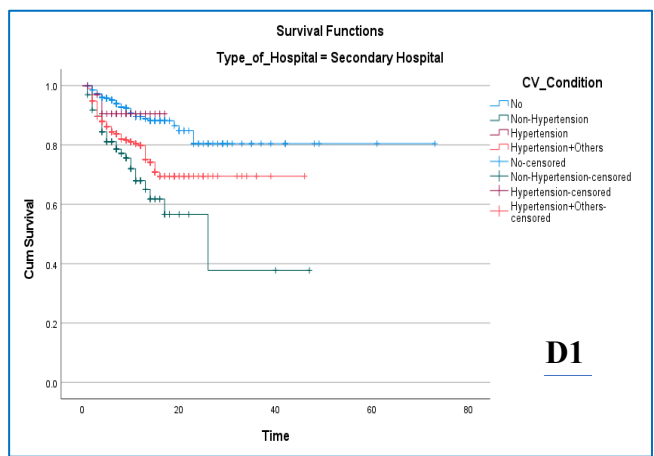
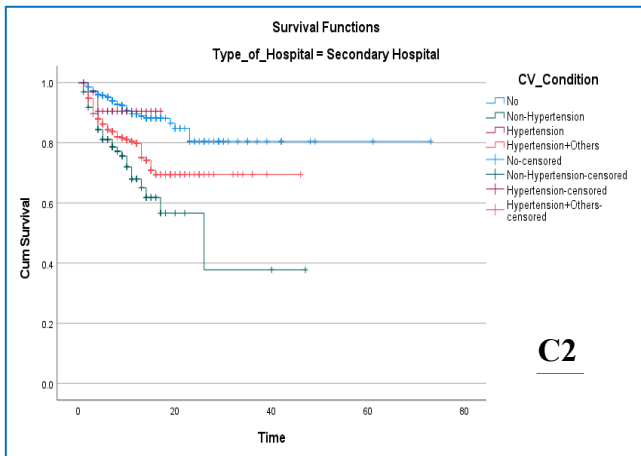
Outcome Status of Patient Cardiovascular System Diseases with COVID-19 Adjusted by Demographic Characteristic

Table 3 shows significant differences between patients without cardiovascular disorders and patients with cardiovascular disorders (Non-Hypertension, Hypertension, and Hypertension + Others) adjusted by year, gender, age, and hospital type with the respective log-rank test p values <0.001. The non-hypertension group showed the most were in 2021 ((75), male (77), age ≤64 years (89), and treated in secondary hospitals (98), with survival rates of 70.7%, 62.3%, 75.3%, and 69.4%, respectively. The largest hypertension group in 2021 (211) was men (145), age ≤64 years (174) and treated in tertiary

hospitals (245), with survival rates of 77.3%, 76.6%, 83.3%, and 76.3%, respectively. The hypertension + other disease group showed the highest number in 2021 (455), men (295), aged ≤64 years (408), and treated in secondary hospitals (309), with survival values of 67.0%, 69.8%, 72.3%, and 78.0%, respectively. Survival time for each group of cardiovascular system disease patients based on year of treatment, gender, age, and type of hospital can be seen in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1. Survival Time of Patients with Cardiovascular System Diseases with COVID-19 Adjusted by Demographic Characteristic Part A shows the survival time adjusted for year of treatment, A1 for patients in 2020, A2 in 2021, and A3 in 2022. Part B shows the survival function adjusted for gender, B1 for female and B2 for male patients. Part C offers the survival function based on age, C1 for patients aged ≤64 and C2 for patients > 64. Part D shows survival time adjusted for hospital type, D1 for secondary and D2 for tertiary hospitals.

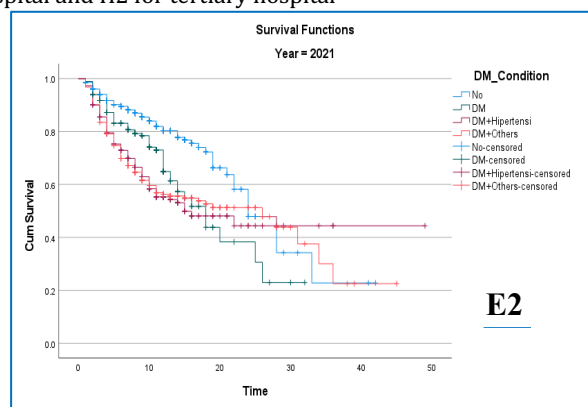
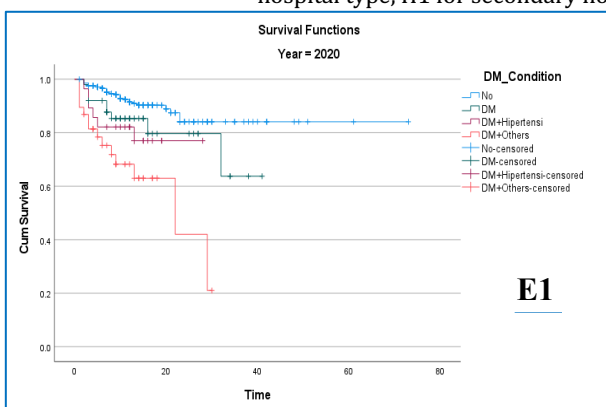


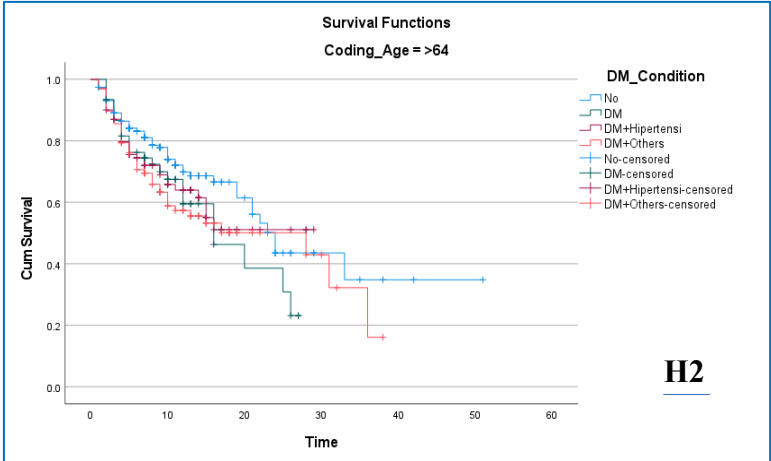
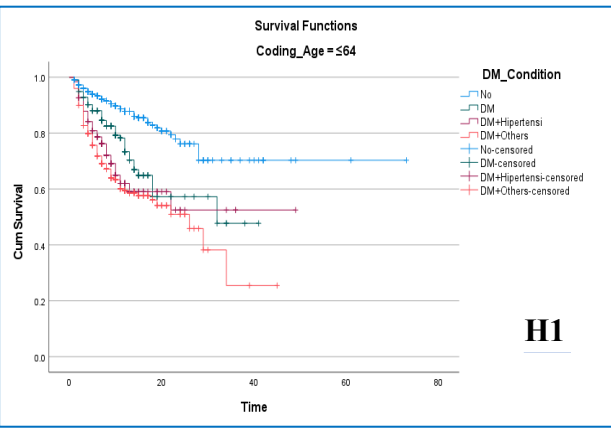
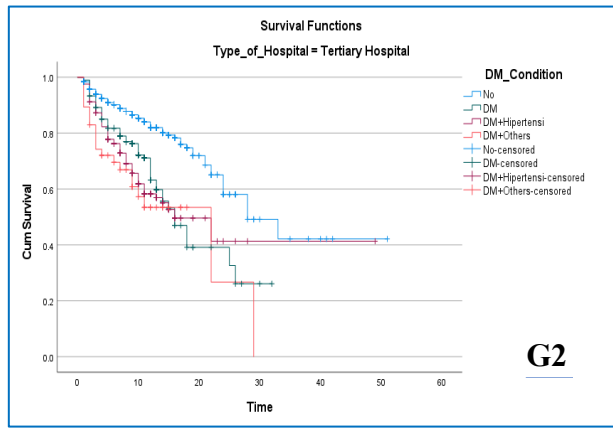
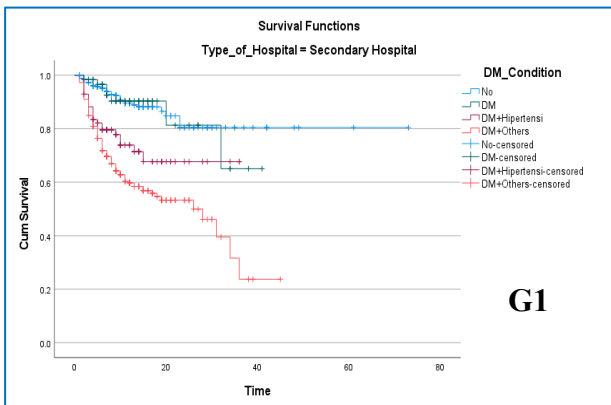
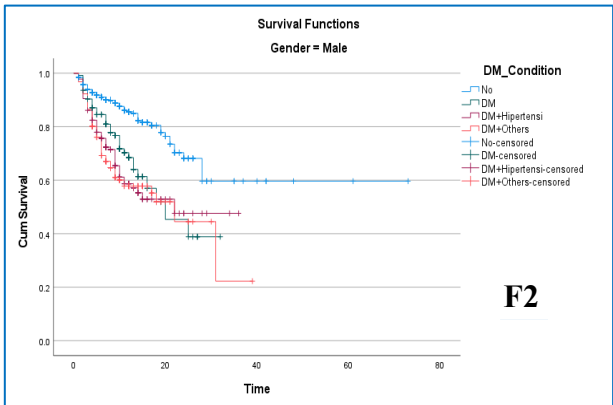
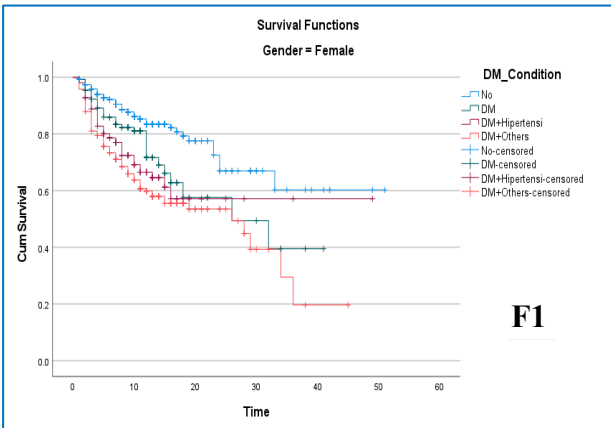
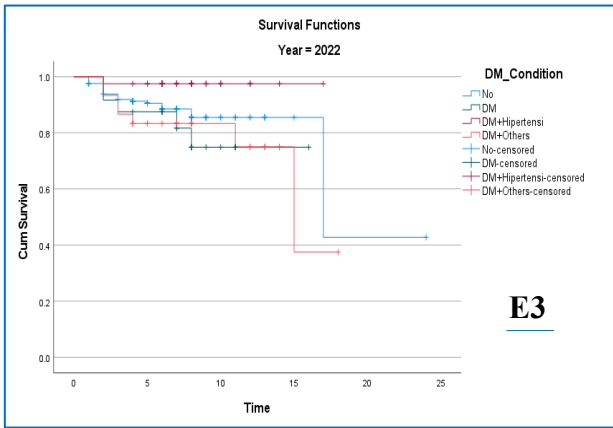


Outcome Status of Patient Diabetes Mellitus with COVID-19 Adjusted by Demographic Characteristic

Table 4 shows significant differences between patients without DM and patients with DM (DM only, DM+Hypertension, and DM+Others) adjusted by year, gender, age, and hospital type with log-rank test p-value <0.001 each. The DM-only group showed the most in 2021 ((182), female (131), age ≤64 years (195), and treated in tertiary hospitals (195), with survival rates of 67.0%, 74.0%, and 74.9%, and 65.6%, respectively. The highest number of DM+hypertension groups were in 2021 (222), female (153), aged ≤64 years (190), and treated in tertiary hospitals (205), with survival rates of 57.7%, 69.3%, 65.8%, and 61.5%, respectively. The DM + other disease group showed the highest number in 2021 (278), female (190), aged ≤64 years (249), and treated in secondary hospitals (299), with a survival value of 55.8%, 57.9%, 59.8%, and 58.9%, respectively. Survival time for each group of DM patients based on years of treatment, gender, age, and type of hospital can be seen in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2. Survival Time of Diabetes Mellitus Patients with COVID-19 Adjusted by Demographic Characteristic. Part E shows the survival time adjusted for year of treatment, E1 for patients in 2020, E2 in 2021, and E3 in 2022. Part F offers the survival function adjusted for gender, F1 for female and F2 for male patients. Part G offers the survival function based on age, G1 for patients aged ≤64 and G2 for patients > 64. Part H shows survival time adjusted for hospital type, H1 for secondary hospital and H2 for tertiary hospital





Cox regression of the risk factors for death in COVID-19 cases

The Cox regression results in Table 5 show that years of treatment, age, type of hospital, cardiovascular system problems, and DM condition are related to the survival rate of COVID-19 patients ($p < 0.05$). Patients treated in 2021 had the highest mortality (CHR=1.449, CI=1.082-1.941). The higher the age, the higher the mortality; this can be seen in the elderly age group, which has the most increased mortality among other age groups (CHR=21.956, CI=5.458-88.326). Patients treated in tertiary hospitals had higher mortality than those in secondary hospitals (CHR=1.222, CI=1.043-1.432). Non-hypertension cardiovascular problems have the most increased mortality among other groups (CHR=2.392, CI=1.711-3.343), while DM patients who have a combination of other diseases also have the most increased mortality (CHR=2.965, CI=2.384-3.686). Even though gender is not related to the mortality of COVID-19 patients, the CHR value shows that male mortality is 1.090 higher than female (CI=0.936-1.271).

Table 5 Cox regression of the risk factors to death in COVID-19 cases

Variable	CHR	p**	95% CI
Year			
2020	0.611	0.006	0.429-0.869
2021	1.449	0.013	1.082-1.941
Gender			
Male	1.090	0.269	0.936-1.271
Age (years)			
Young Age (15-24)	1.817	0.513	0.303-10.873
Adult (25-64)	14.173	<0.001	3.532-56.872
Elderly (>64)	21.956	<0.001	5.458-88.326
Type of Hospital			
Tertiary hospitals	1.222	0.013	1.043-1.432
Cardiovascular System Problem			
Non-Hypertension	2.392	<0.001	1.711-3.343
Hypertension + Others	2.073	<0.001	1.683-2.554
Hypertension Only	1.693	<0.001	1.267-2.261
DM Condition			
Diabetes Mellitus Only	2.024	<0.001	1.546-2.649
Diabetes Mellitus + Hypertension	2.599	<0.001	2.040-3.311
Diabetes Mellitus + Others	2.965	<0.001	2.384-3.686

**Cox Regression; CHR=Cox's Hazard Ratio; CI=Confident interval; p=p-value

DISCUSSION

The findings show that the presence of comorbidities is related to the survival rate of COVID-19 patients; patients who have comorbidities show a higher mortality rate than those who do not. These findings reinforce previous studies linking these comorbidities to adverse outcomes of COVID-19 as independent predictors of mortality (Imam et al., 2020; Piskač Živković et al., 2022; Ssentongo et al., 2020). Studies in Syria (Najjar et al., 2023), Egypt (Albadawy et al., 2021), and India (Saurabh Bobdey et al., 2021) reported lower survival rates in COVID-19 patients with comorbidities. The study showed that COVID-19 patients with cardiovascular system problems were associated with survival rates before and after adjusting for respondent characteristics. Patients without comorbidities have a higher survival rate than patients with cardiovascular issues. The study results align with previous research that cardiovascular assessment predicts the survival rate of patients suffering from COVID-19; patients with cardiovascular problems have a lower survival rate (Hirata & Yamakage, 2021; Lakhani et al., 2022). The involvement of cardiovascular issues in COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU and the higher mortality rate further support the idea that the survival rate of COVID-19 patients with cardiovascular comorbidities is lower (Badkoubeh et al., 2020).

Patients with non-hypertension cardiovascular problems have the highest mortality rate compared to other cardiovascular problems, while patients with hypertension alone have the lowest mortality rate. The majority of patients with non-hypertension cardiovascular problems are congestive heart failure (CHF) patients. These findings are by systematic reviews and meta-analyses revealing an increased risk of death in COVID-19 patients with CHF (Dalia et al., 2021; Ssentongo et al., 2020), confirmed by Nasrullah et al. that poor cardiopulmonary reserve in the hyperinflammatory state seen in CHF and COVID-19 patients

contributes to higher mortality rates (Nasrullah et al., 2023). CHF in COVID-19 patients increases the risk of death due to maladaptive activation of the renin-angiotensin system (Bhatt et al., 2021) and also causes an increase in endotoxins and cytokines, which can trigger a cytokine storm (Choi et al., 2021).

Another comorbid that influences the survival rate of COVID-19 patients is diabetes mellitus, in line with the study results showing that the survival rate of patients without comorbidities is better than that of patients with DM from an analysis that is adjusted for the characteristics of respondents. This research supports previous research that COVID-19 patients with comorbid DM show an increase in severity (Sharif et al., 2021; Souza et al., 2022) and mortality rates (Huang & Huang, 2023; Yan et al., 2020). A meta-analysis study reported that the mortality rate and severity increased twofold in COVID-19 patients with DM compared to non-DM patients (Kumar et al., 2020). The death rate for COVID-19 patients with DM and other diseases is much higher than for patients with DM alone or DM with hypertension, a trend that can be caused by several factors. A systematic review and meta-analysis study by Bepouka et al. highlighted that DM is associated with a pro-inflammatory environment (Bepouka et al., 2022), which triggers a cytokine storm (Azhar et al., 2021), exacerbating mortality in COVID-19 patients.

DM is also correlated with glycemic instability and impaired immune response, which coincides with obesity and heart disease (Kandil et al., 2021), thereby leading to lung dysfunction, such as decreased lung volume (Yan et al., 2020). Typical DM complications such as cardiovascular disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, especially when accompanied by other comorbidities, significantly increase the risk of death in COVID-19 patients (Lim et al., 2021; Najjar et al., 2023). Bello-Chavolla et al. supported this by noting that DM was associated with a threefold increased risk of death from COVID-19 after adjusting for age, sex, and comorbidities (Bello-Chavolla et al., 2020).

Apart from comorbid factors, the results also show that the survival rate of COVID-19 patients is influenced by the year the patient was treated, age and type of hospital. Patients treated in 2021 have a higher death rate than in 2020 or 2022. 2020 was the first time COVID-19 cases occurred, and virus mutations were not as dangerous as the following year (Farhud & Mojahed, 2022). The role of COVID-19 vaccination on mortality rates, although varied (Lv et al., 2021), is also essential; the number of people receiving vaccination and the stages obtained are also greater after 2021 (Surianta & Patunru, 2024). Furthermore, elderly people show almost 23 times the chance of death compared to other age groups. Results are in line with previous studies that case fatality rates were exceptionally high among those who were elderly (Woodall et al., 2021), exacerbated by dementia (Yoshino & Takechi, 2021), and using mechanical ventilation (Tanaka et al., 2021). Factors such as gradual decline of the immune system with age may explain the increased susceptibility to infections and high mortality rates in elderly patients (Yanez et al., 2020). Furthermore, frailty and sarcopenia are significant contributors to increased mortality in the elderly (Na et al., 2022; Seong et al., 2021).

In a comprehensive analysis of outcomes of COVID-19 patients across hospital types, our study found higher mortality rates in tertiary hospitals compared with secondary hospitals. Many factors can cause this difference. Tertiary hospitals typically admit more severely ill patients, often requiring intensive care, indicating a higher initial disease severity (Gupta et al., 2020). Hospital characteristics significantly influence patient outcomes, including variations in survival rates and the economic burden of COVID-19 (Di Fusco et al., 2021; Hayek et al., 2020). Tertiary hospitals often treat more patients with comorbidities such as heart failure and diabetes, which are associated with higher mortality rates (Mok et al., 2021; Niedziela et al., 2022). Increased hospital burden in tertiary settings may strain resources, contributing to higher mortality rates (Rossman et al., 2021). In line with studies such as Asch et al. (Asch et al., 2021), our findings showed significant hospital-level outcome differences, underscoring the need for tailored patient management strategies across different hospital settings.

Several things are limitations to this study. Even though the use of secondary data in survival analysis studies is prevalent, it cannot be denied that secondary data has weaknesses in the form of information bias. Another area for improvement is that many patients had incomplete variables such as date of discharge or reason for leaving the hospital, so this became an exclusion criterion for the research sample. This is likely due to the high workload and movement of workers during the pandemic, so several variables need to be filled in consistently. The following limitation is that the data does not show PCR results in detail; it only says positive or negative; however, these results can still be accounted for. Despite these limitations, the number of respondents is quite large, and the study results are consistent with world literature and are expected to contribute to the epidemiological analysis of COVID-19.

CONCLUSION

Years of treatment, age, and type of hospital are related to the survival rate of COVID-19 patients. Older age indicates a greater risk of death than other age groups. Also, DM and cardiovascular comorbidities are related to the survival rate of COVID-19 patients. DM patients who have comorbidities other than hypertension have a greater risk of death compared to DM patients alone. Likewise, patients with cardiovascular problems other than hypertension have a greater risk of death than others. For this reason, COVID-19 patients with comorbidities, especially DM and cardiovascular issues, need special attention and supervision to reduce the risk of death.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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