



HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF COVID-19 INFECTION :- UPDATE.

Dr. Sujith Anand	Public Health Dentistry Assistant Professor, ANIDS, Andhra Pradesh.
Dr D Thirumal Rao	MDS Senior Lecturer Adhiparasakthi Dental College And Hospital
Dr. Arif Mohiddin*	Clinical Tutor/Demonstrator, Department of Dentistry IPGMER/SSKM Hospital, Kolkata, West Bengal. *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

With more than 375 million documented infections and 5.6 million deaths till now world wide, due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues unabated. The clinical spectrum of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) 2 infection ranges from asymptomatic infection to life-threatening and fatal disease. Current estimates are that approximately 296 million people globally have "recovered"; and In India more than 41 million people infected and 0.5 million death till now noted. around 38 million cases recovered. however, clinicians are observing and reading reports of patients with persistent severe symptoms and even substantial end-organ dysfunction after SARS-CoV-2 infection. Because COVID-19 is a new disease, much about the clinical course remains uncertain—in particular, the possible long-term health consequences, if any.

KEYWORDS :**EPIDEMIOLOGY**

The coronavirus belongs to a family of viruses that may cause various symptoms such as pneumonia, fever, breathing difficulty, and lung infection. These viruses are common in animals worldwide, but very few cases have been known to affect humans. The WHO announced that the official name of the 2019 novel coronavirus is coronavirus disease (COVID-19). And the current reference name for the virus is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was reported that a cluster of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause was linked to a local Huanan South China Seafood Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019.^{1,2,3,4}

Currently, there is no consensus definition of postacute COVID-19. Based on the COVID Symptom Study, in which more than 4 million people in the US, UK and Sweden have entered their symptoms after a COVID-19 diagnosis, postacute COVID-19 is defined as the presence of symptoms extending beyond 3 weeks from the initial onset of symptoms and chronic COVID-19 as extending beyond 12 weeks.⁵ It is possible that individuals with symptoms were more likely to participate in this study than those without them.

Previously described, a postacute syndrome is well recognized in patients who are recovering from a serious illness, in particular an illness that required hospitalization and admission to the intensive care unit. In a 2016 study among 43 patients who had been discharged after intensive care unit stay (46% required mechanical ventilation), 36 (84%) reported impairment in cognition, mental health, or physical function that persisted for 6 to 12 months beyond hospital discharge, collectively known as post-intensive care syndrome.⁶ In a study from Italy that assessed COVID-19 symptom persistence among 143 patients discharged from the hospital, only 18 patients (12.6%) were completely free of any COVID-19-related symptoms after a mean of 60 days after initial symptom onset.⁷

However, postacute COVID-19 syndrome is not just observed among patients who had severe illness and were hospitalized. In a telemedicine survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention among a random sample of 292 adults (-18 years) who had a positive outpatient test result for SARS-CoV-2 by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction, 35% of 274 symptomatic respondents reported not having returned to their usual state of health 2 weeks or more after testing, including 26% among those aged 18-34 years (n = 85),

32% among those aged 35-49 years (n = 96), and 47% among those aged 50 years or older (n = 89).⁸ Older than 50 years and the presence of 3 or more chronic medical conditions were associated with not returning to usual health within 14 to 21 days after receiving a positive test result. Not with standing, 1 in 5 individuals aged 18-34 years without chronic medical conditions had not yet achieved baseline health when interviewed at a median of 16 days from the testing date.

Symptoms and transmission

Like previous coronaviruses, the novel coronavirus causes respiratory disease, and the symptoms affect respiratory health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the main symptoms of COVID-19 symptoms can be very mild to severe and include a fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Many people are asymptomatic. Symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure. Current information suggests that the virus can cause mild, flu-like symptoms, as well as more severe disease. Most patients seem to have mild disease, and about 20% appear to progress to more severe disease, including pneumonia, respiratory failure, and, in some cases, death.^{9,10}

Manifestations

The most commonly reported symptoms after acute COVID-19 are fatigue and dyspnea. Other common symptoms include joint pain and chest pain.³ In addition to these general symptoms, specific organ dysfunction has been reported, involving primarily the heart, lungs, and brain. From a pathogenesis standpoint, these complications could be the consequence of direct tissue invasion by the virus (possibly mediated by the presence of angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 receptor), profound inflammation and cytokine storm, related immune system damage, the hypercoagulable state described in association with severe COVID-19, or a combination of these factors.

Cardiovascular

Myocardial injury, as defined by an increased troponin level, has been described in patients with severe acute COVID-19, along with thromboembolic disease. Myocardial inflammation and myocarditis, as well as cardiac arrhythmias, have been described after SARS-CoV-2 infection. In a German study of 100 patients who recently recovered from COVID-19, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (performed a median of 71 days after COVID-19 diagnosis) revealed cardiac involvement in 78% and ongoing myocardial inflammation in 60%. Nevertheless, among 26 competitive college athletes who

received a diagnosis of COVID-19 by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction, none of whom required hospitalization and the majority without reported symptoms, 12 (46%) had evidence of myocarditis or prior myocardial injury by cardiac magnetic resonance imaging routinely performed for positive testing results (range, 12-53 days later).⁶The durability and consequences of such imaging findings are not yet known and longer follow-up is needed. However, an increased incidence of heart failure as a major sequela of COVID-19 is of concern, with considerable potential implications for the general population of older adults with multimorbidity, as well as for younger previously healthy patients, including athletes.^{11,12}

Pulmonary

In a study of 55 patients with COVID-19, at 3 months after discharge, 35 (64%) had persistent symptoms and 39 (71%) had radiologic abnormalities consistent with pulmonary dysfunction such as interstitial thickening and evidence of fibrosis.⁷Three months after discharge, 25% of patients had decreased diffusion capacity for carbon monoxide. In another study of 57 patients, abnormalities in pulmonary function test results obtained 30 days after discharge, including decreased diffusion capacity for carbon monoxide and diminished respiratory muscle strength, were common and occurred in 30 patients (53%) and 28 patients (49%), If compounded on cardiovascular comorbidity, either preexisting or incident from COVID-19, persistent decline in lung function could have major adverse cardiopulmonary consequences.^{13,14}

Neurologic

SARS-CoV-2 can penetrate brain tissue via viremia and also by direct invasion of the olfactory nerve, leading to anosmia. To date, the most common long-term neurologic symptoms after COVID-19 are headache, vertigo, and chemosensory dysfunction (eg, anosmia and ageusia). Although stroke is a serious albeit uncommon consequence of acute COVID-19, encephalitis, seizures, and other conditions such as major mood swings and "brain fog" have been reported up to 2 to 3 months after initial illness onset.¹⁵ Past pandemics involving viral pathogens (such as SARS-CoV-1, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus [MERS], and influenza) have involved neuropsychiatric sequelae that could linger for months in "recovered" patients, which can seriously threaten cognitive health, overall well-being, and day-to-day functional status

Emotional Health And Well-being

In addition to symptom persistence and clinical sequelae that may last far beyond the initial COVID-19 illness, the extent of emotional and behavioral concerns and general distress for those affected has yet to be determined. A diagnosis of COVID-19, and subsequent need for physical distancing, has been associated with feelings of isolation and loneliness.¹⁶ COVID-19-related stigma has also become pervasive and can result in a sense of hopelessness. Increasing reports of lingering malaise and exhaustion akin to chronic fatigue syndrome may leave patients with physical debility and emotional disturbance. Compounded by the psychological toll of the pandemic experienced population wide, individuals recovering from COVID-19 may be at even greater risk of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorder. These combined effects have the potential to result in a global health crisis, considering the sheer number of COVID-19 cases worldwide.

Diagnostic tests

Rapid diagnostic test (RDT) :-15-40 minutes. The presence or absence (qualitative) of antibodies against the virus present in patient serum.¹⁷⁻²³

Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay(ELISA). 2-4 hours. The presence or absence (quantitative) of antibodies against the

virus present in patient serum. Neutralization assay 3 to 4 days The presence of active antibodies in patient serum that are able to inhibit virus growth *ex vivo*, in a cell culture system. Indicates if the patient is protected against future infection.

CONCLUSIONS

Granted that no long-term data of substantial numbers of patients with various presenting symptoms exist and with comparison groups, and that it is still early in the COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible that large numbers of patients will experience long-term sequelae. Out patient post-COVID-19 clinics are opening in many localities where large outbreaks have occurred, and the term "long-haulers" has been suggested to refer to these patients. Longer-ranging longitudinal observational studies and clinical trials will be critical to elucidate the durability and depth of health consequences attributable to COVID-19 and how these may compare with other serious illnesses.

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