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119829
Clinical correlates and outcomes of coronavirus disease in a cohort of myasthenia gravis patients

Ester Latini1, Melania Guida1, Michelangelo Maestri2, Anna De Rosa3, Gabriele Siciliano4, Roberta Ricciardi5, 6Pisa University Hospital, Section of Neurology, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University Of Pisa, PISA, Italy, 6Unit of Neurology, Asst Nord Milano, Milan, Italy, 7Neurology, University of Pisa, PISA, Italy

Background and aims
Subjects with Myasthenia Gravis (MG) could be at risk for severe complications with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), even though few data are available. The aim of the present study is to describe the clinical characteristics and outcomes in patients with MG and COVID-19 and identify clinical factors associated with COVID-19 severity and risk of hospitalization, requirement of respiratory support and death.

Methods
We retrospectively analyzed demographic variables and clinical characteristics of 63 MG patients (F 47.6%; M 52.4%; mean age 53 ± 16 y) who were diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a PCR test from a nasopharyngeal swab and/or SARS-CoV-2 serology. Main outcomes were the need of hospitalization, the requirement of respiratory support and death for COVID-19.

Results
Overall 5 patients deceased for Covid infection (7.9%). As in general population, older age (p < 0.001) and hypertension were independently associated with hospitalization, whilst obesity (p = 0.022) was associated with poorer outcome disregarding hospitalization. Only Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) class was correlated with worst outcome (p = 0.010). Interestingly no correlation was found between immunosuppressant treatment at baseline and severity and outcome of infection.

Conclusions
Most MG patients in this study fully recovered from Covid-19 and experienced milder forms of infection. Neuromuscular disease was well controlled, at most with increasing steroid dose briefly. Independent risk factors correlated with severity disease and poor outcome were similar to general population. Patients with highest MGFA class have an additional risk for severe disease course and deserve special attention.

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119830
Neurocognitive manifestations of SARS-CoV-2: A narrative review of mechanisms

Mehrdad Roozbeh1,2, Mahrooz Roozbeh3,4,5shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Brain Mapping Research Center, Tehran, Iran, 4shahid Beheshti University, Brain and Cognition, Tehran, Iran

Background and aims
Since the outbreak of COVID-19 that is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in 2020 throughout the world, a lot of aspects of people’s lives are affected including their psychological status. Follow-up assessment of survivors of this infection showed that they had multiple psychological disorders including depression, panic attacks, obsessive compulsive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Methods
A Narrative Review of Mechanisms.

Results
It is estimated that more than one-third of patients with COVID-19 experience neuropsychiatric symptoms, including headache, paresthesia, and disturbed consciousness. Among patients affected by COVID-19, there are different mechanisms that can cause cognitive dysfunction. COVID-19 can affect the central nervous system (CNS) directly by invasion and indirectly by inducing hypoxia, inflammation, and delirium. The pandemic and fear of infection can also cause anxiety which impairs the cognition as well.

Conclusions
By assessing the patients’ cognition and knowing the higher probable cause of cognitive impairment, we can form a better strategy to better treat the impairment. Cognitive behavioral therapy can be effective in reducing the anxiety and cognitive rehabilitation therapy (CRT) can be used to lower the detrimental effects of cognitive impairment caused by COVID-19.

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119831
Sars-CoV2 pandemic and lockdown reported consequences on people with multiple sclerosis

Arianna Sartori, Alessandro Dinoto, Fulvio Pasquin, Sara Baldini, Alessio Bratina, Antonio Bosco, Paolo Manganotti, University of Trieste, Neurology Unit, Department of Medical, Surgical and Health Sciences, Cattinara University Hospital, Asagi, Trieste, Italy

Background and aims
During SARS-CoV-2 pandemic people with multiple sclerosis (PwMS) may experience a worsening due to increased anxiety and depression, reduction in rehabilitation, and less strict connection to MS centres. The aim of our study was to describe the self-reported impact of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and lockdown on PwMS.

Methods
On June 2020, we enrolled PwMS who underwent teleconsult during the lockdown phase (March–May 2020). Self-rated worries for pandemic, perception of change in anxiety, depression, fatigue and spasticity was asked, as well as changes in weight, physical activity and food intake. We compared patients with and without reported increase in: spasticity, anxiety, depression and fatigue. Binary logistic regression analyses were applied including significant variables. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

Results
Ninety-three MS patients were enrolled (71% female, 77% RR, median age 50.3 y, mean disease duration =13 y). Many patients reported an increase of anxiety (36.6%), depression (34.4%), fatigue (26.9%) and, spasticity (18.3%), weight (47.3%) and 63.4% of patients reported e reduction of physical activity; moreover 59.1% and 43% reported particular worries for the pandemic and the perception of greater impact on PwMS of the pandemic compared to general population, respectively. In the multivariate models, anxiety was predicted by depression, particular worries for SARS-CoV2 pandemic and reduction in physical activity; depression by anxiety; fatigue by reduction in physical activity; spasticity by EDSS.