

EC PULMONOLOGY AND RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

Editorial

Post-Acute-COVID-19-Illness Sequelae

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The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that approximately, 57.8 million COVID-19 cases, globally could have health and economic consequences [1]. There is a wide range of reported long-term symptoms, known as post COVID condition (sometimes called chronic COVID syndrome, late sequelae of COVID-19, long COVID, long haul COVID, long-term COVID-19, post COVID syndrome, postacute COVID-19, post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (as of yet, no internationally agreed definition of post COVID condition); individuals past 9-10 days post symptom onset if they have asymptomatic or mild disease, individuals characteristically do not shed SARS-CoV-2 after recovery from acute COVID-19 illness three weeks) after SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection, such as fatigue, lost of smell, persistent cough, shortness of breath, palpitations, diarrhea, abdominal pain, rash, recurrent fever, forgetfulness, depression, muscle pain (myalgia), pins and needles, chest pain, and headache [2]. Inclusion of persistence of development or symptoms of post-acute-COVID-19illness sequelae beyond 3 or 4 weeks from the onset of symptoms of acute-COVID-19 illness has been suggested in the evolving definition of the post-acute-COVID-19-illness timeline [3,4], corresponding to the replication-competence of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) that has not been isolated after 3 weeks of the initial COVID-19 infection [5]. Recent studies suggested the classification of the post-acute-COVID-19illness sequelae into two categories: 1) subacute or ongoing symptomatic COVID-19 illness, that includes abnormalities and symptoms occur from 4 - 12 weeks beyond acute COVID-19 illness; and 2) chronic or post-acute-COVID-19 syndrome; that includes abnormalities and symptoms occur or persisting beyond 12 weeks of the onset of acute COVID-19 illness not causative to the alternative diagnoses [4,6]. Nalbandian., et al. defined post-acute-COVID-19-illness sequelae as persistent symptoms and/or delayed or long-term complications of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection beyond 4 weeks from the onset of initial symptoms [7]. Palpitation, a common persistent symptom was abnormally detected around 78% of the post-acute-COVID-19-illness survivors who underwent cardiovascular MRI at the day 70 after the initial diagnosis of COVID-19 [8]. Thromboembolic-caused stroke can occur during the recovery phase of COVID-19 survivors, particularly in high-risk individuals [9].

In conclusion, characterization of the principal epidemiologic, serologic, diagnostic imaging, and clinical presentations of multi-organ post-acute-COVID-19 illness sequelae are urgently future studies to develop the properly clinical practice guidelines.

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