

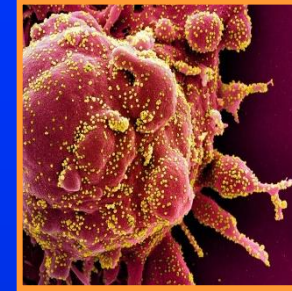


متلازمة ما بعد كورونا

Post COVID-19 Syndrome

Post-acute COVID-19 syndrome

Long COVID



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Gemeinsam Gegen Corona, Together against Corona ماذا تعلمنا من جائحة الكورونا



Union of Arab Medicals and  
Pharmacists in Austria  
اتحاد الأطباء والصيادلة العرب في النمسا



The Joint Annual Meeting of  
Arab Medical and Pharmacy Society in Austria and ARABMED in Europe  
30 – 31 October 2021, Vienna- Austria



ARABMED in Europe  
UN Member (NGO since 1996)  
اتحاد أطباء العرب في أوروبا  
عضو في هيئة الأمم المتحدة

المؤتمر الطبي المشترك لاتحاد الأطباء والصيادلة العرب في النمسا ولاتحاد الأطباء العرب في أوروبا



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up-to-date  
27/10/2021  
AMH

# Introduction

# Covid-19 pandemic

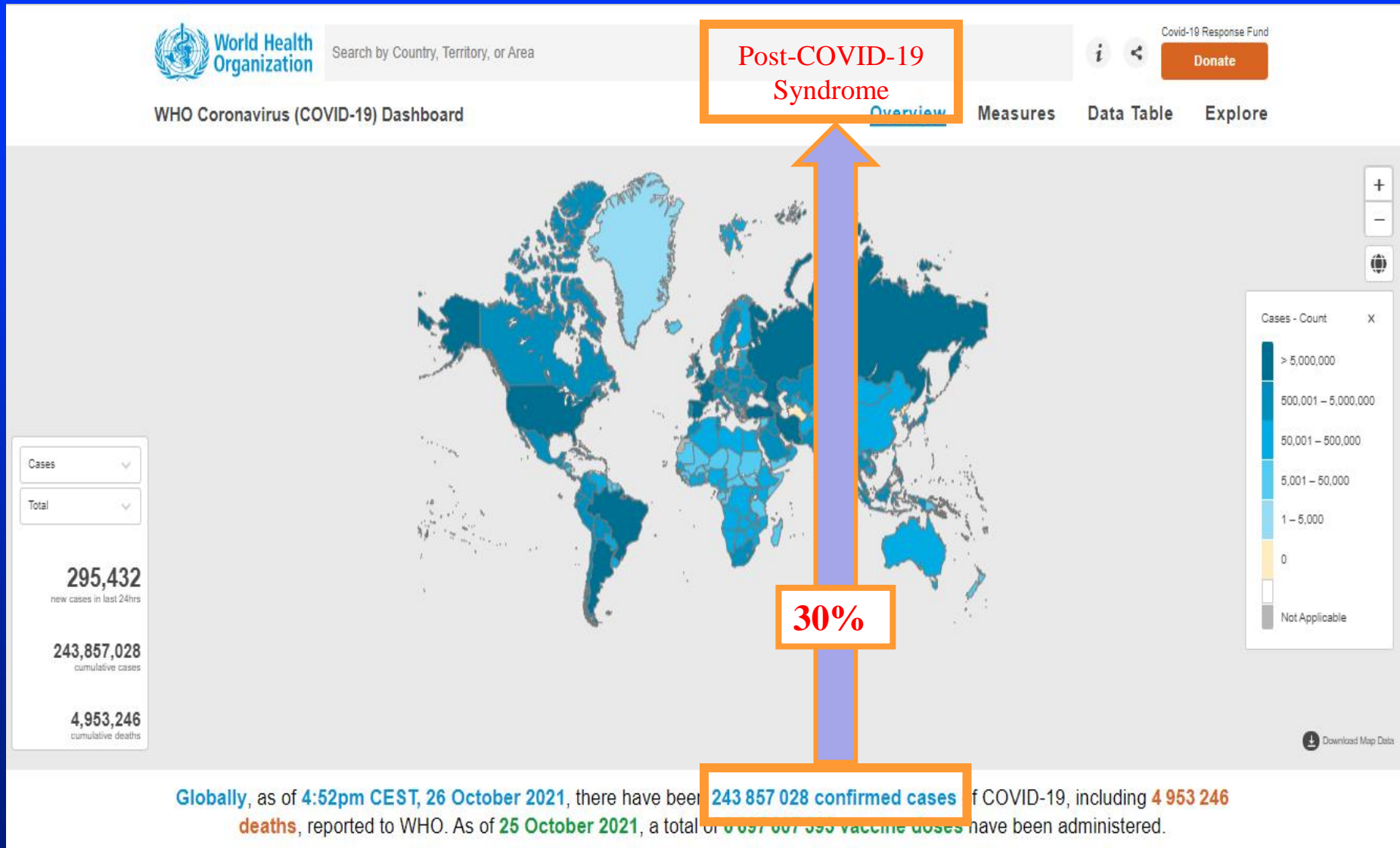


- 1) Who should receive priority in being tested?
- 2) How to implement contact tracing ?
- 3) How to treat patients?
- 4) How to decide who should get ventilators?
- 5) How to decide who should get vaccines ?
- 6) How to manage persistent symptoms post-COVID ?
- 7) What about rehabilitation ?

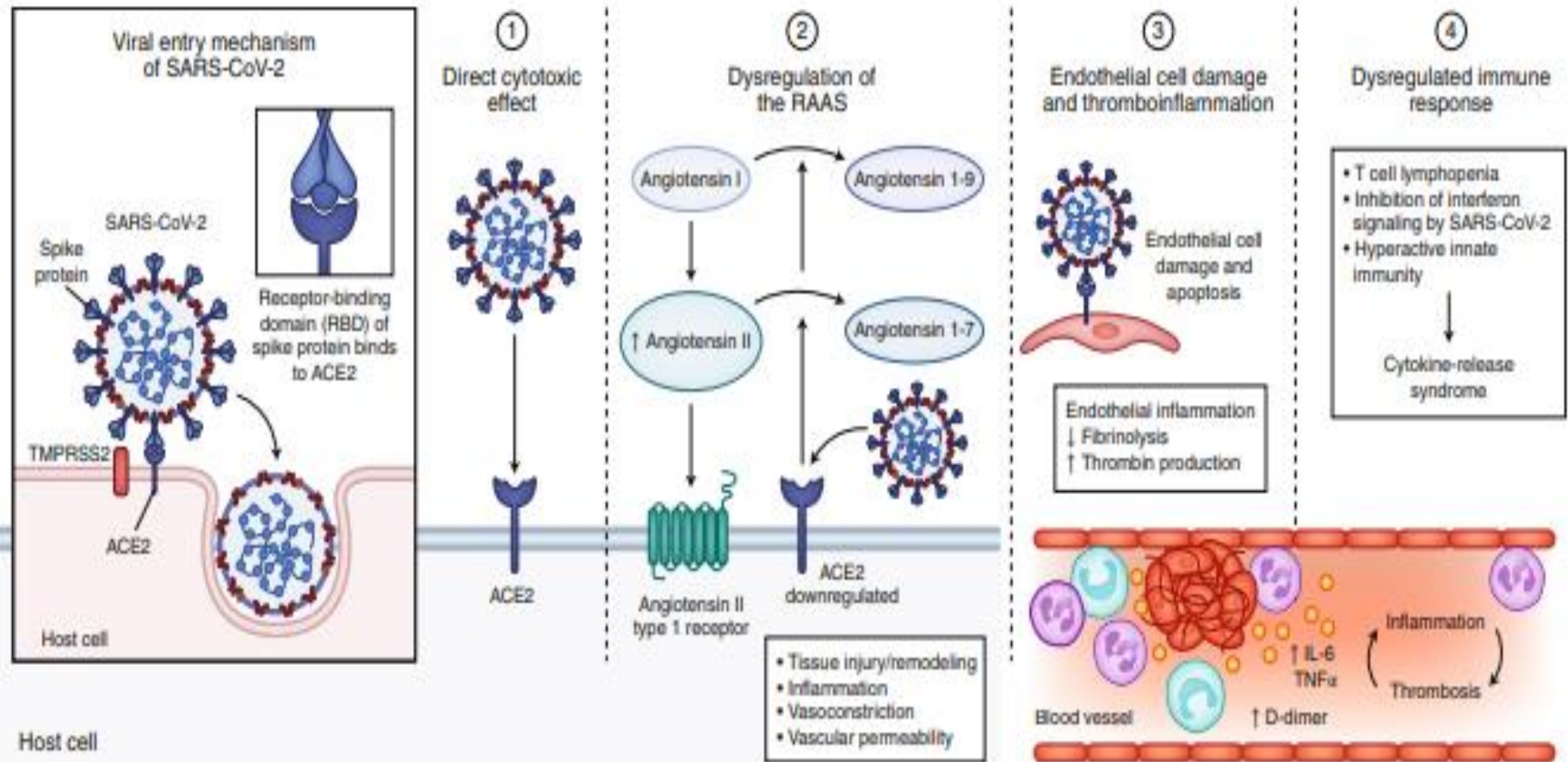
# New cases



# Why talk about Post COVID Syndrom?

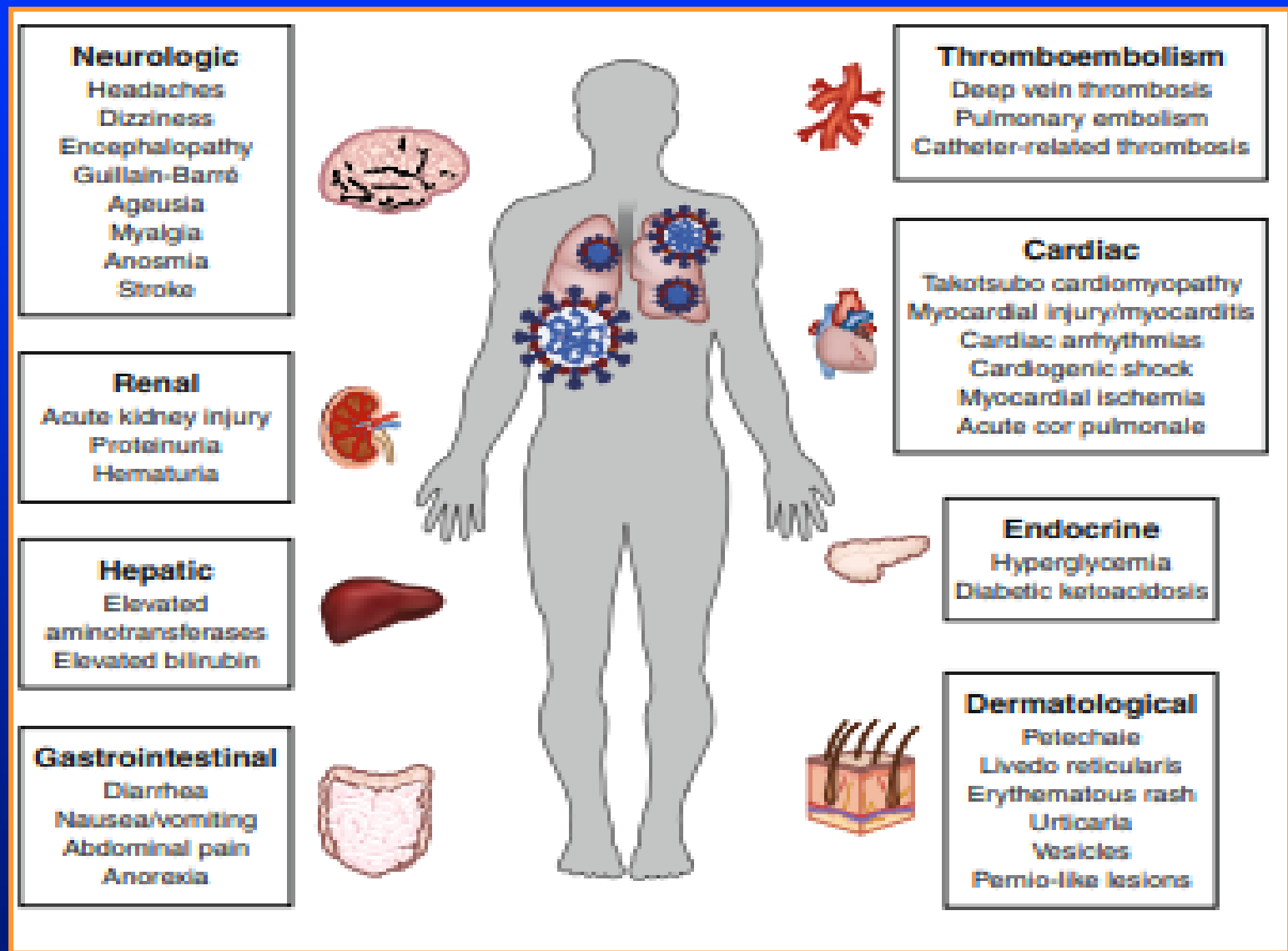


# Pathophysiology of SARS-CoV-2



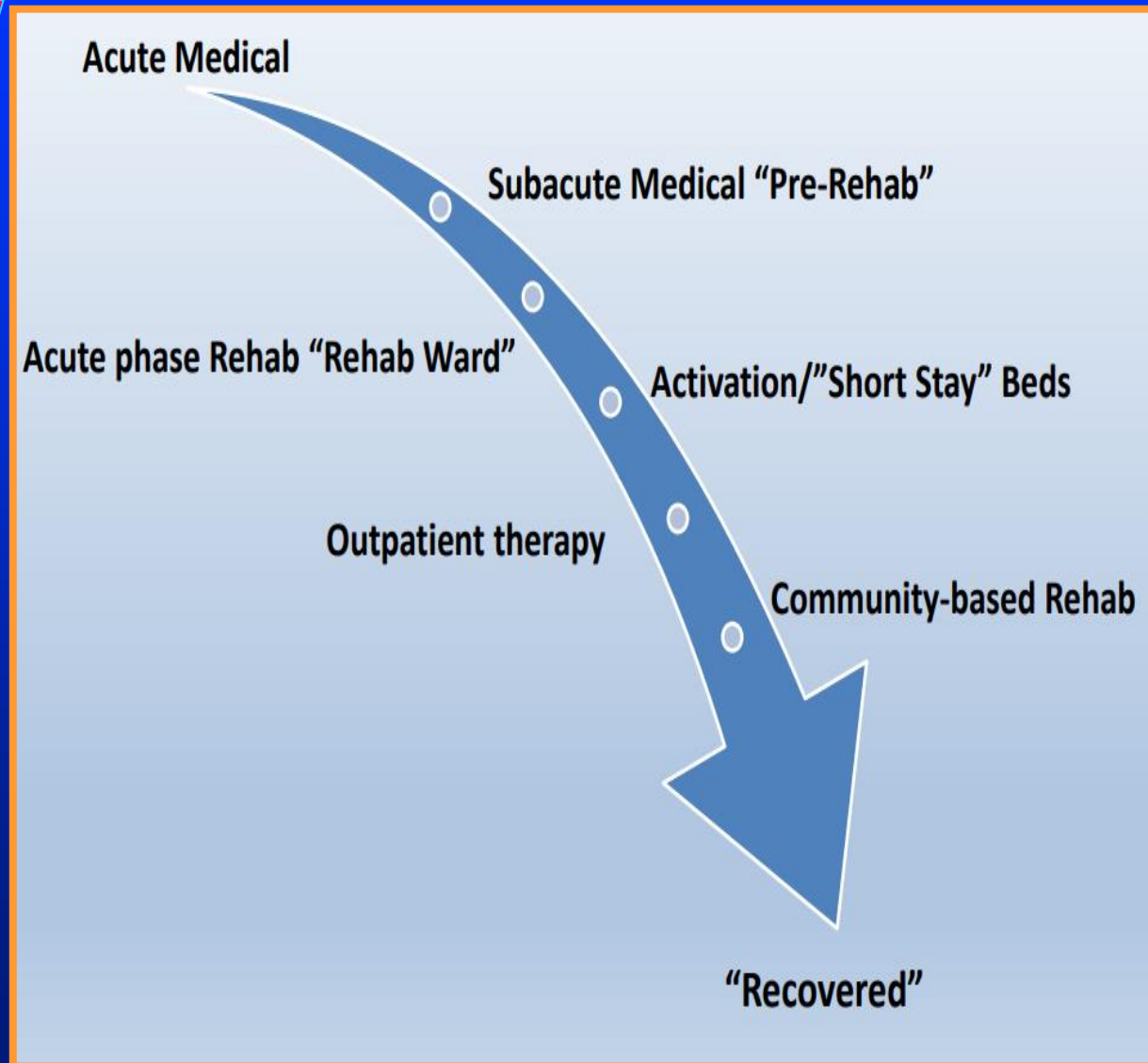
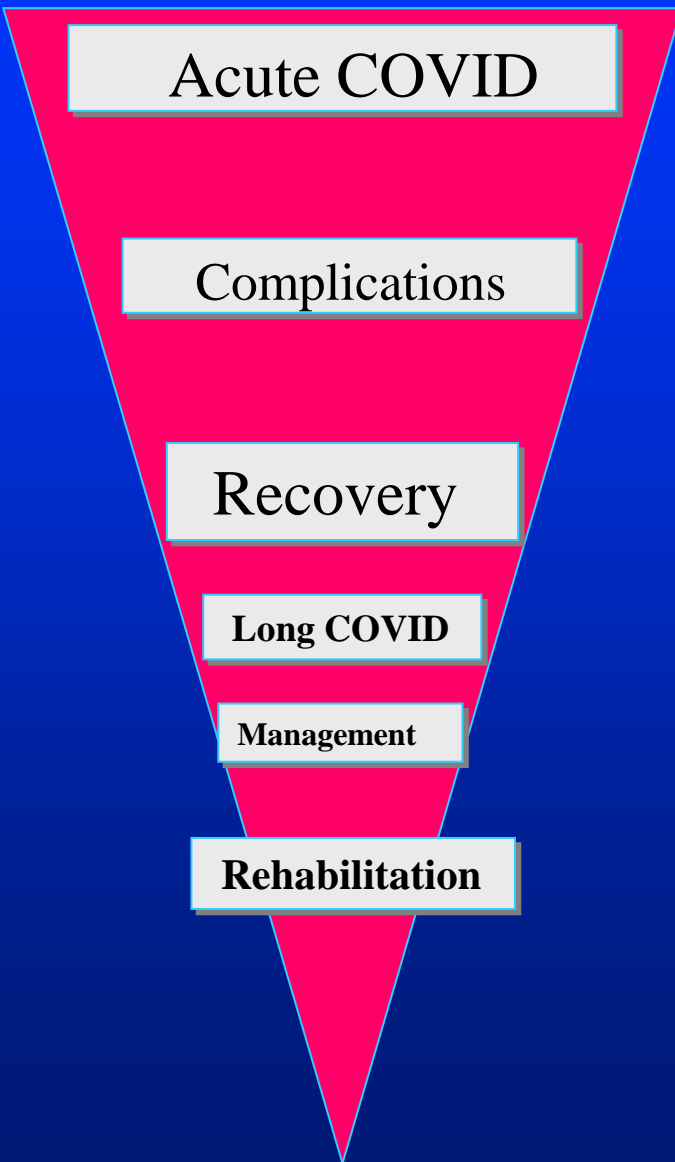


# Multisystemic manifestations of COVID-19



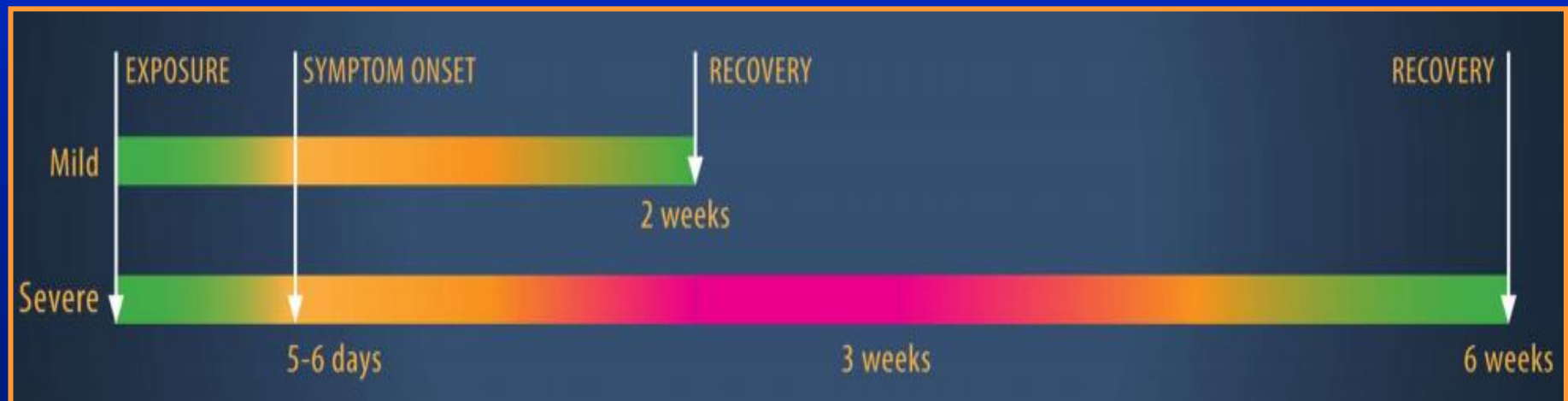


# Evolution of SARS-COV-2

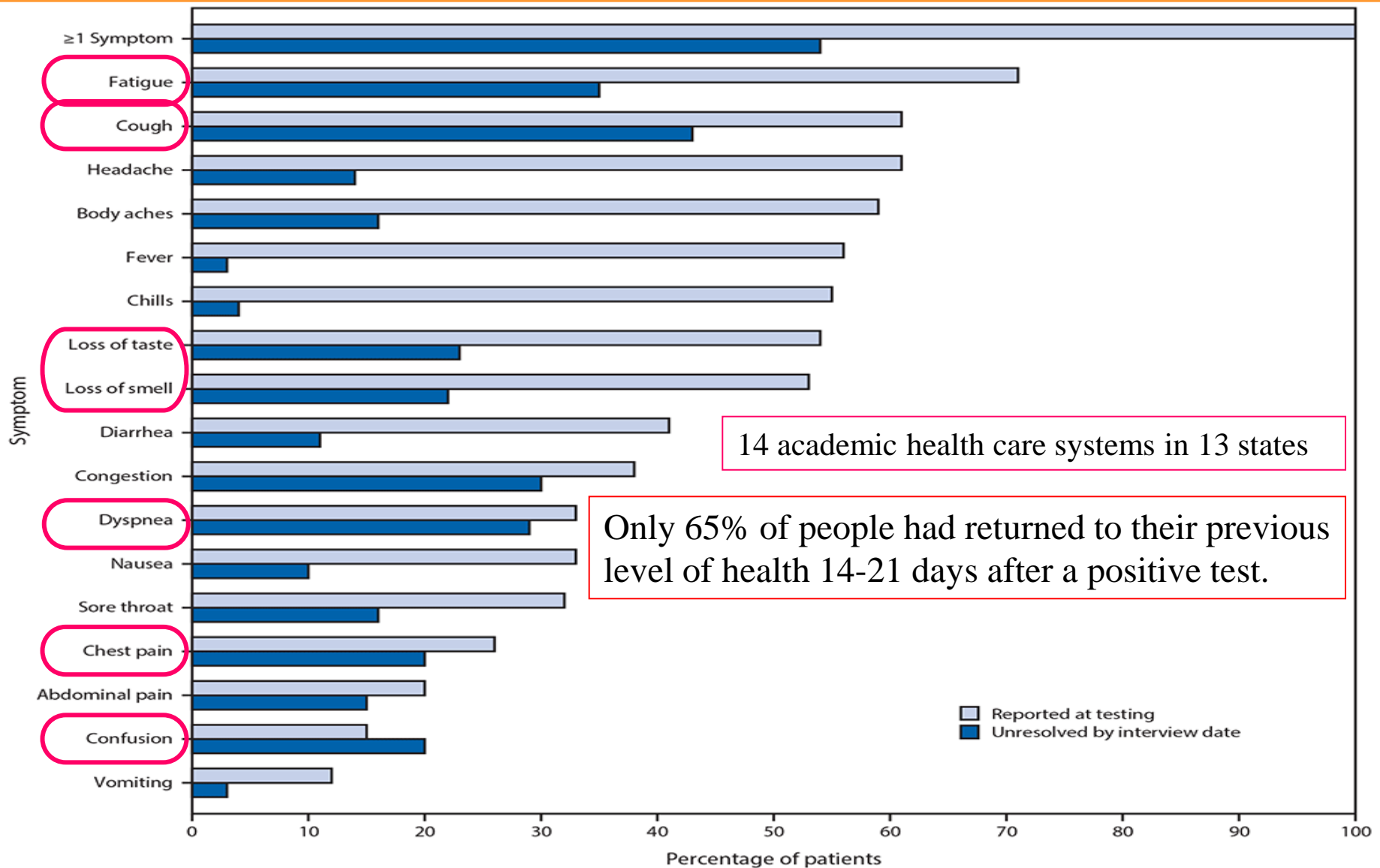


# COVID-19 disease severity and lingering symptoms

- Most people with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms or moderate illness.
- 10-15% of cases progress to severe disease, and about 5% become critically ill.
- Typically people recover from COVID-19 after 2 to 6 weeks.
- For some people, some symptoms may linger or recur for weeks or months following initial recovery.
- People are not infectious to others during this time.
- This can also happen in people with mild disease.
- Some patients develop medical complications that may have lasting health effects.



# Self-reported symptoms at the time of positive SARS-CoV-2 testing results and unresolved symptoms 14–21 days later among outpatients (N = 274)



# Definition

# Definition

- Long Covid :
  1. Post-acute covid-19 as extending beyond 3weeks?/8? weeks from the onset of first symptoms
  2. Chronic covid-19 as extending beyond 12 weeks
- It seems to be a multisystem disease and need multidisciplinary teams
- It may take weeks or months to return to one's pre-infection baseline
- The post-Covid syndrome in 5 questions
  1. What are the symptoms?
  2. How many people suffer from it?
  3. How can we diagnosed this syndrome?
  4. What is the reason for this persistence?
  5. How can these persistent symptoms be treated?

BMJ 2020;370:m3026 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m3026> Published: 11 August 2020

Goërtz YMJ, Van Herck M, Delbressine JM, et al. Persistent symptoms 3 months after a SARS-CoV-2 infection: the post-COVID-19 syndrome?. ERJ Open Res 2020; 6: 00542-2020 [<https://doi.org/10.1183/23120541.00542-2020>].

# Definition

- The precise definition of these long-term complications remains to be defined
- The duration of chronic symptoms after initial presentation.

1. The term “post-acute COVID-19 syndrome” was proposed to define

- ❖ symptoms and abnormalities persisting or present
- ❖ beyond 12 weeks of the onset of acute COVID-19
- ❖ not attributable to alternative diagnoses

2. The term “long COVID”

- ❖ unclear and worrying wording
- ❖ suggest the presence of a chronic SARS-CoV-2 infection

# Definition

- Long Covid :
  1. Post-acute covid-19 as extending beyond 3weeks?/8? weeks from the onset of first symptoms
  2. Chronic covid-19 as extending beyond 12 weeks
- It seems to be a multisystem disease and need multidisciplinary teams
- It may take weeks or months to return to one's pre-infection baseline
- It may affect patients of any age
- The post-Covid syndrome in 5 questions
  1. What are the symptoms?
  2. How many people suffer from it?
  3. How can we diagnosed this syndrome?
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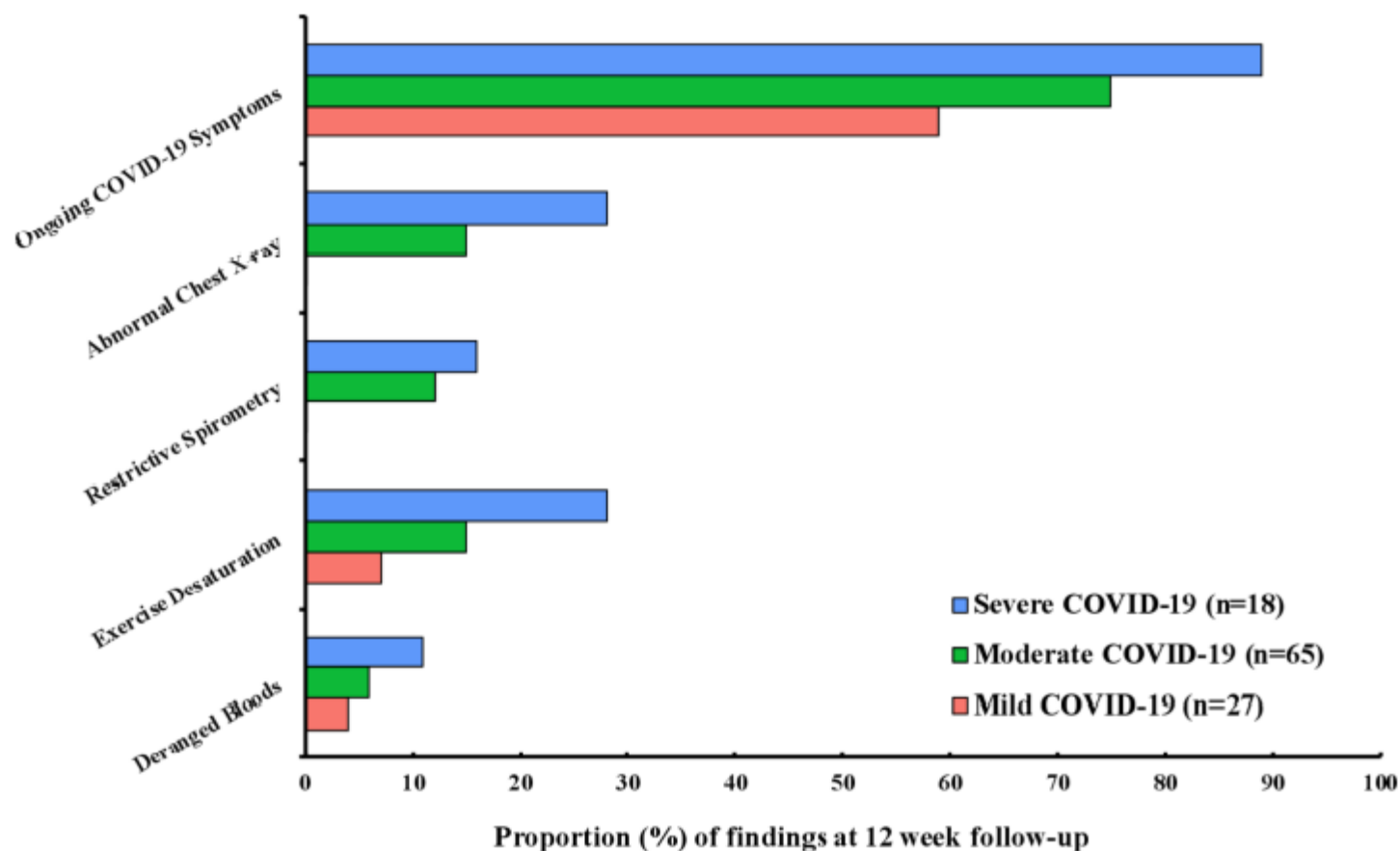
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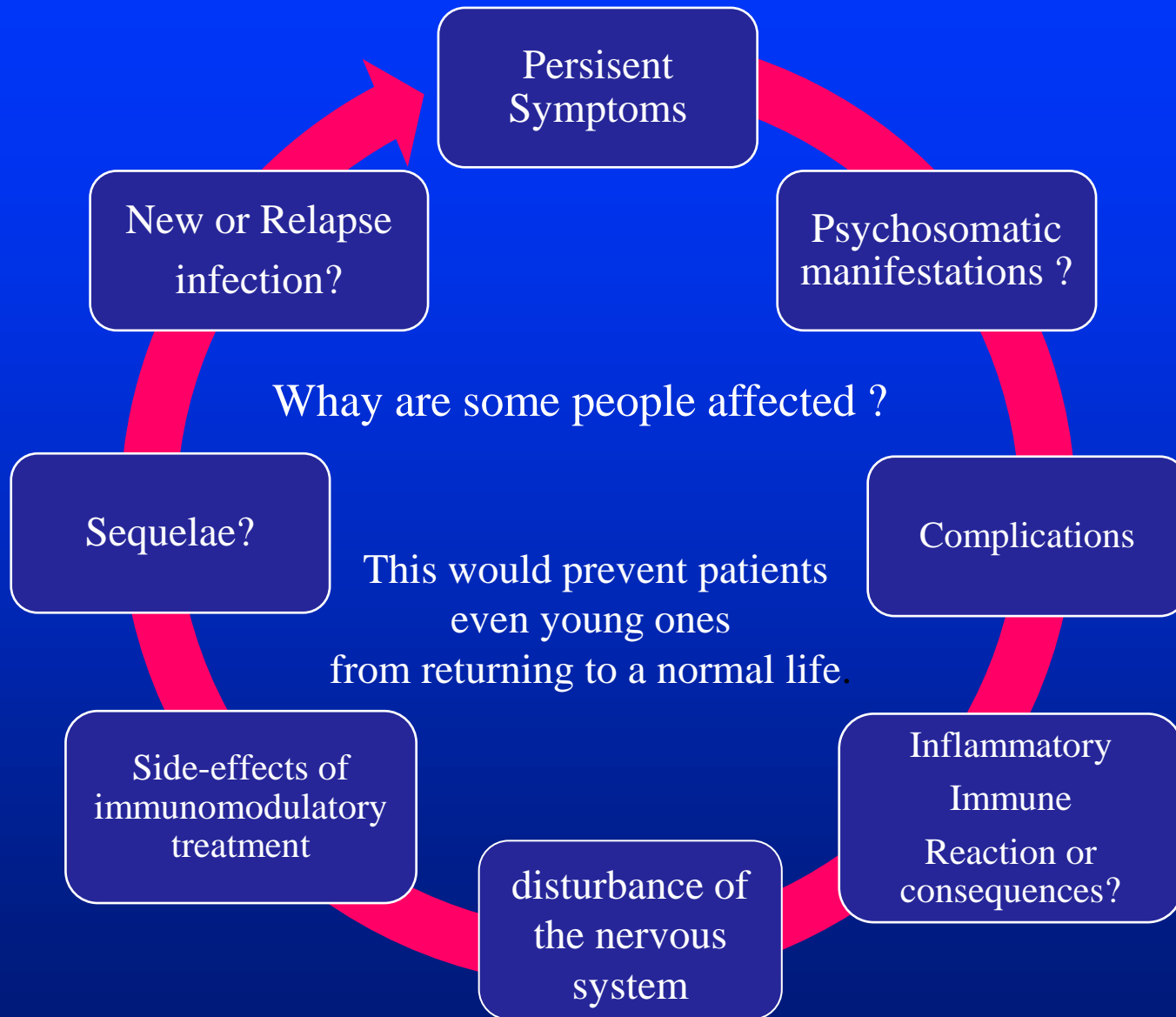
# What is post COVID 19 Syndrome?

- People continue to suffer.
- The return to their former health trajectory is slow and painful.
- Paul Garner, a professor of epidemiology at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK, wrote on the 95th day after the onset of symptoms that
  - ❖ I am unable to be out of bed for more than three hours at a stretch,
  - ❖ my arms and legs are permanently fizzing as if injected with Szechuan peppercorns,
  - ❖ I have ringing in the ears, intermittent brain fog, palpitations,
  - ❖ and dramatic mood swings.
- These patients are
  - ❖ not only those recovering from the severe of the acute disease
  - ❖ but also those who had mild and moderate disease

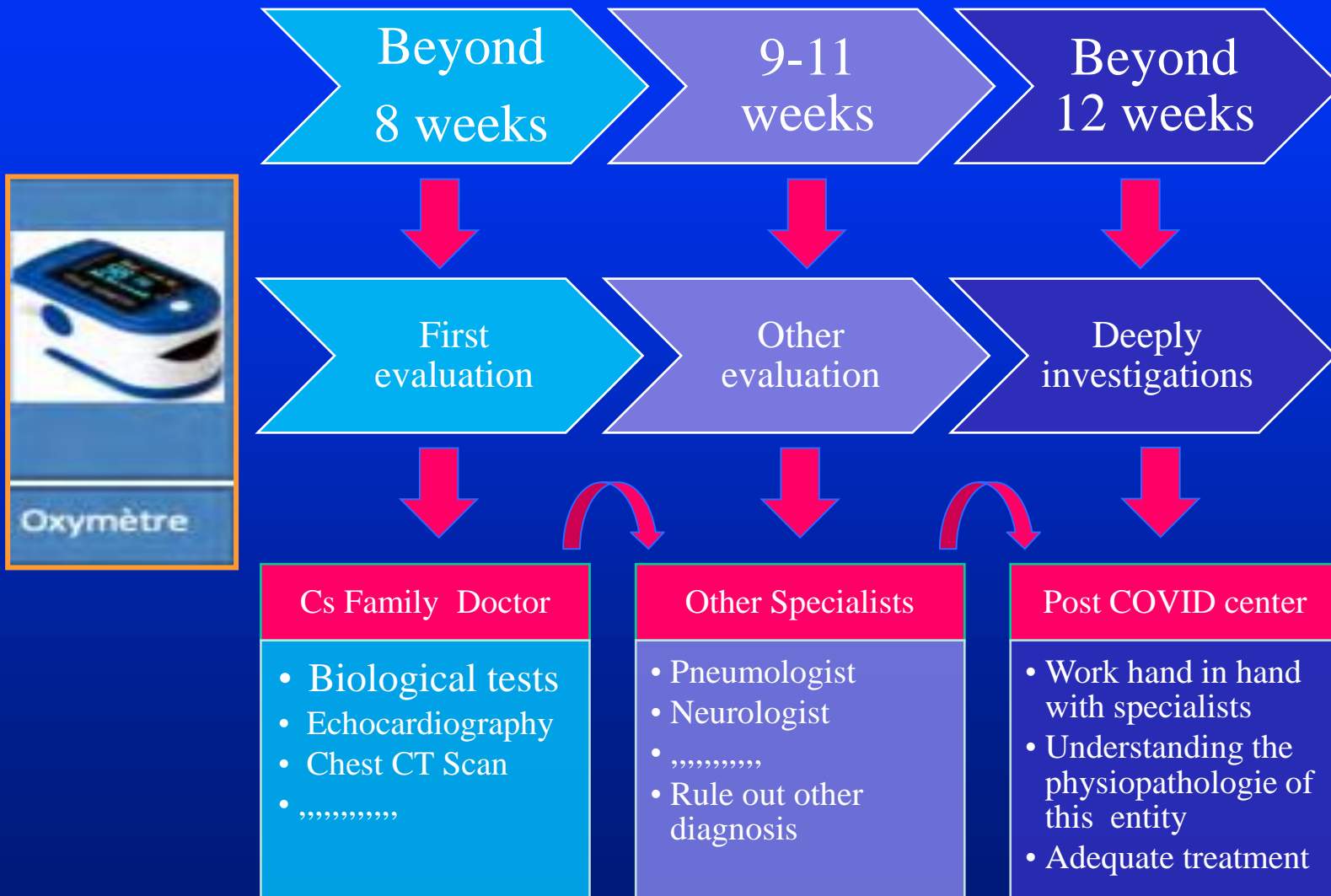
# Summary of symptomatology and clinical results by disease severity



# Cause of Post COVID syndrome



# What tests and consultations are required?



# Symptoms and clinical manifestations

# Multisystemic manifestations of long COVID



# Body systems and organs that can be affected

## 1) Heart

- Damage to heart muscle
- Heart failure

## 2) Lungs

- Damage to lung tissue and
- Restrictive lung failure
- **Dyspnea**

## 3) Brain and the nervous system

- Loss of sense of smell (anosmia)
- Consequences of heart attack, stroke
- Cognitive impairment : memory, concentration, ,,,

## 4) Mental health

- Anxiety
- Depression,
- Post-traumatic **stress** disorder
- Sleep disturbance

## 5) Musculoskeletal and others

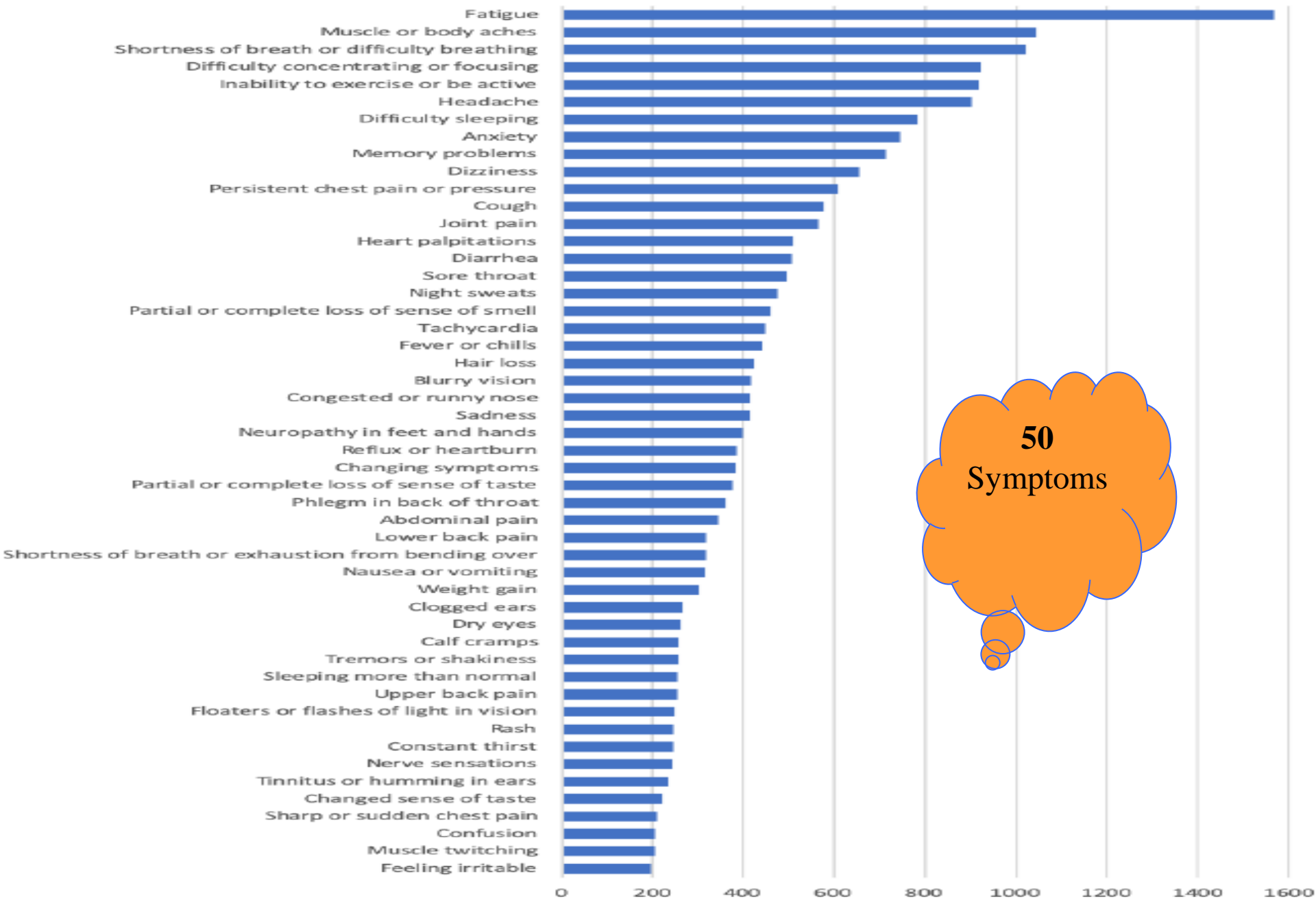
- Pain in join and muscles
- **Fatigue**



Extreme fatigue
Muscle weakness
Low grade fever
Inability to concentrate
Memory lapses
Changes in mood
Sleep difficulties
Headaches
Needle pains in arms and legs
Diarrhea and bouts of vomiting
Loss of taste and smell
Sore throat and difficulties to swallow
New onset of diabetes and hypertension
Skin rash
Shortness of breath
Chest pains
Palpitations

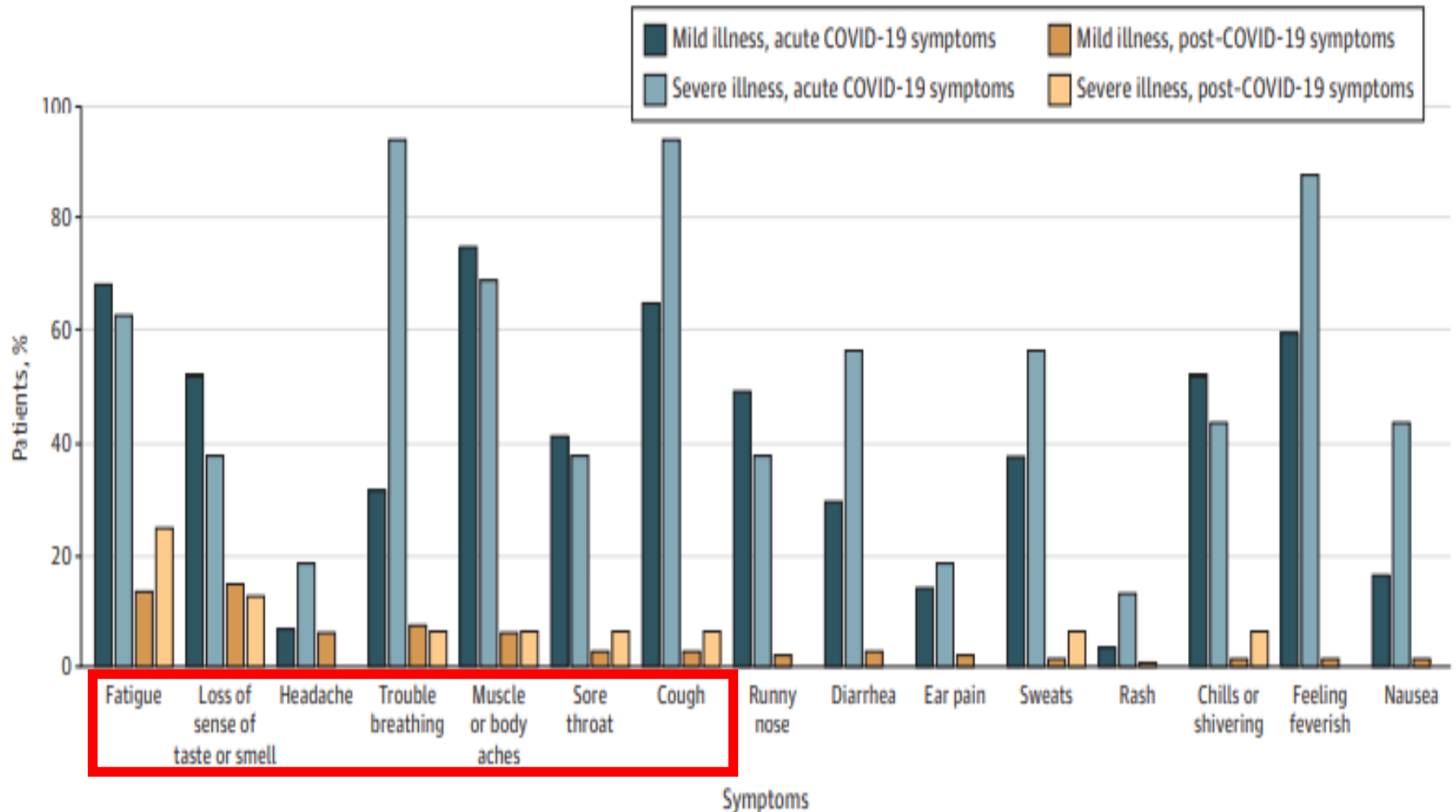


# 50 Most Common Long Hauler Symptoms

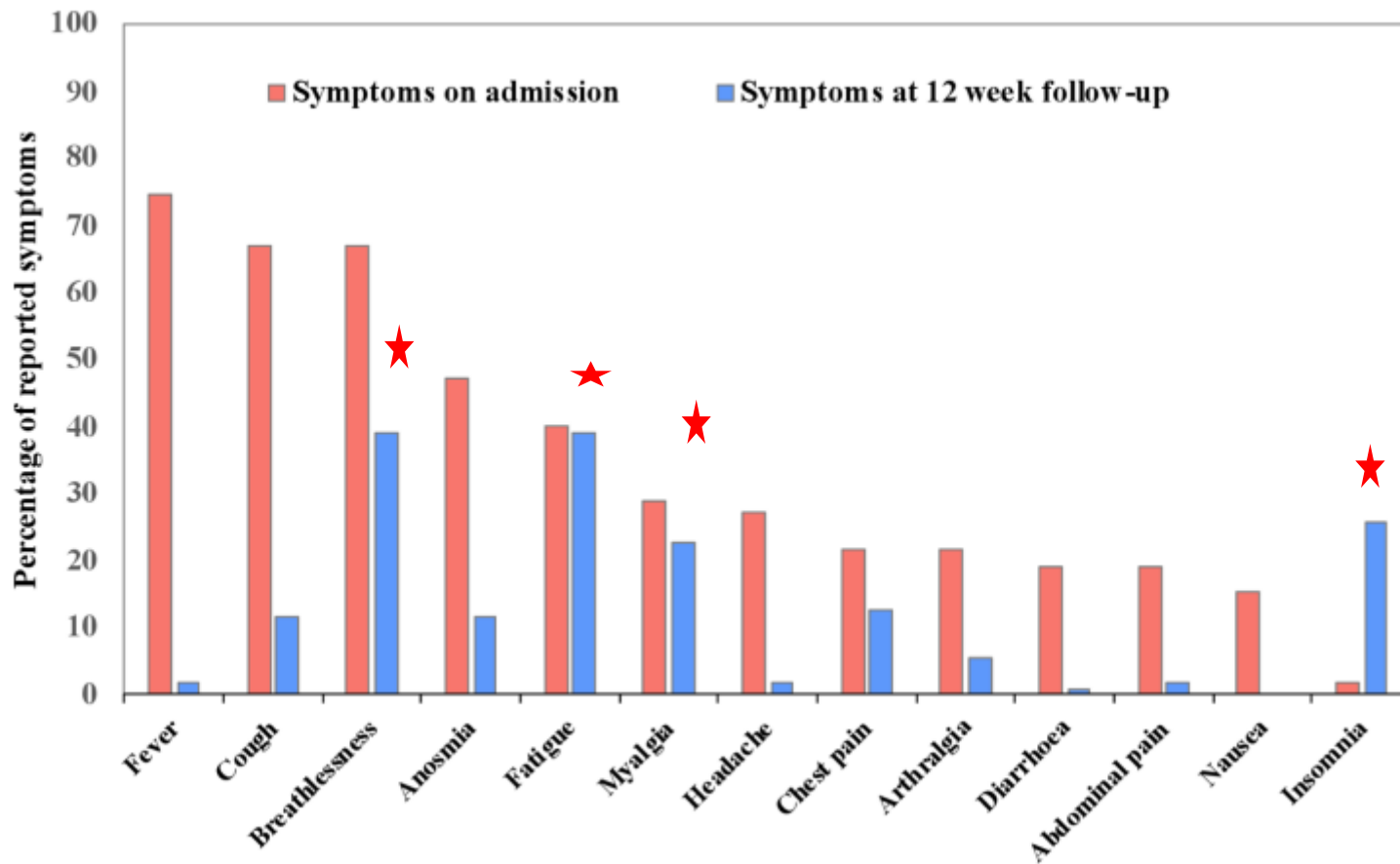


# The most common persistent symptoms

**B** Percentage of participants who reported COVID-19 symptoms during acute illness and at follow-up



# Frequency of symptoms reported at a 12-week follow-up compared with hospital admission




# Covid-19. In China, 3 of 4 patients are reported to remain symptomatic after hospitalisation

## 6-month consequences of COVID-19 in patients discharged from hospital


	Total (n=1733)	Seven-category scale		
		Scale 3: not requiring supplemental oxygen (n=439)	Scale 4: requiring supplemental oxygen (n=1172)	Scale 5-6: requiring HFNC, NIV, or IMV (n=122)
Symptoms				
Any one of the following	1265/1655 (76%)	344/424 (81%)	820/1114 (74%)	101/117 (86%)
Fatigue or muscle weakness	1038/1655 (63%)	281/424 (66%)	662/1114 (59%)	
Sleep difficulties	437/1655 (26%)	116/424 (27%)	290/1114 (26%)	
Hair loss	359/1655 (22%)	93/424 (22%)	238/1114 (21%)	
Smell disorder	176/1655 (11%)	55/424 (13%)	107/1114 (10%)	
Palpitations	154/1655 (9%)	45/424 (11%)	96/1114 (9%)	
Joint pain	154/1655 (9%)	51/424 (12%)	86/1114 (8%)	
Decreased appetite	138/1655 (8%)	42/424 (10%)	85/1114 (8%)	
Taste disorder	120/1655 (7%)	37/424 (9%)	75/1114 (7%)	
Dizziness	101/1655 (6%)	32/424 (8%)	60/1114 (5%)	
Diarrhoea or vomiting	80/1655 (5%)	27/424 (6%)	48/1114 (4%)	
Chest pain	75/1655 (5%)	19/424 (4%)	46/1114 (4%)	
Sore throat or difficult to swallow	69/1655 (4%)	20/424 (5%)	44/1114 (4%)	
Skin rash	47/1655 (3%)	16/424 (4%)	27/1114 (2%)	
Myalgia	39/1655 (2%)	11/424 (3%)	24/1114 (2%)	
Headache	33/1655 (2%)	10/424 (2%)	20/1114 (2%)	
Low grade fever	2/1655 (<1%)	1/424 (<1%)	1/1114 (<1%)	

# Multidisciplinary approach for post-acute COVID-19 syndrome: time to break down the walls

30%

 EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY <i>journal</i> FLAGSHIP SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL OF ERS	
Organ systems	Post-acute COVID-19 symptoms
General assessment	Asthenia Muscle weakness Diffuse pain Myalgia, joint pain Weight loss Deterioration of quality of life
Respiratory	Dyspnoea Cough Radiologic sequelae Functional impairment Dysfunctional breathing Chronic oxygen dependence
Psychiatric and neurological	Post- traumatic stress Depression Anxiety Insomnia Headache Cognitive impairment (brain fog) Dysautonomia
Cardiovascular	Chest pain Palpitations Autonomic dysfunction Myocardial fibrosis Venous thromboembolic disease
Renal	Persistent impaired renal function
Ear-nose-throat	Persistent anosmia or parosmia Persistent ageusia
Endocrine	Thyroiditis Onset or worsening of diabetes
Dermatological	Hair loss Skin rash
Gastrointestinal	Diarrhoea

# Type, Proportion, and Duration of Persistent COVID-19 Symptoms

Persistent symptom <sup>¶</sup>	Proportion of patients affected by symptom	Time to symptom resolution <sup>Δ</sup>
<b>Common physical symptoms</b>		
Fatigue	15 to 87%	3 months
Dyspnea	10 to 71%	2 to 3 months
Chest discomfort	12 to 44%	2 to 3 months
Cough	17 to 26%	2 to 3 months
Anosmia	13%	1 month
<b>Less common physical symptoms</b>		
Joint pain, headache, sicca syndrome, rhinitis, dysgeusia, poor appetite, dizziness, vertigo, myalgias, insomnia, alopecia, sweating, and diarrhea	<10%  UpToDate®	Unknown (likely weeks)
<b>Psychologic and neurocognitive</b>		
Post-traumatic stress disorder	24%	6 weeks to 3 months
Impaired memory	18%	
Poor concentration	16%	
Anxiety/depression	22%	
<b>Reduction in quality of life</b>	>50% 	Unknown (likely weeks)

Carfi A, Bernabei R, Landi F, et al. Persistent Symptoms in Patients After Acute COVID-19. JAMA 2020; 324:603. 2.

Xiong Q, Xu M, Li J, et al. Clinical sequelae of COVID-19 survivors in Wuhan, China: a single-centre longitudinal study. Clin Microbiol Infect 2020

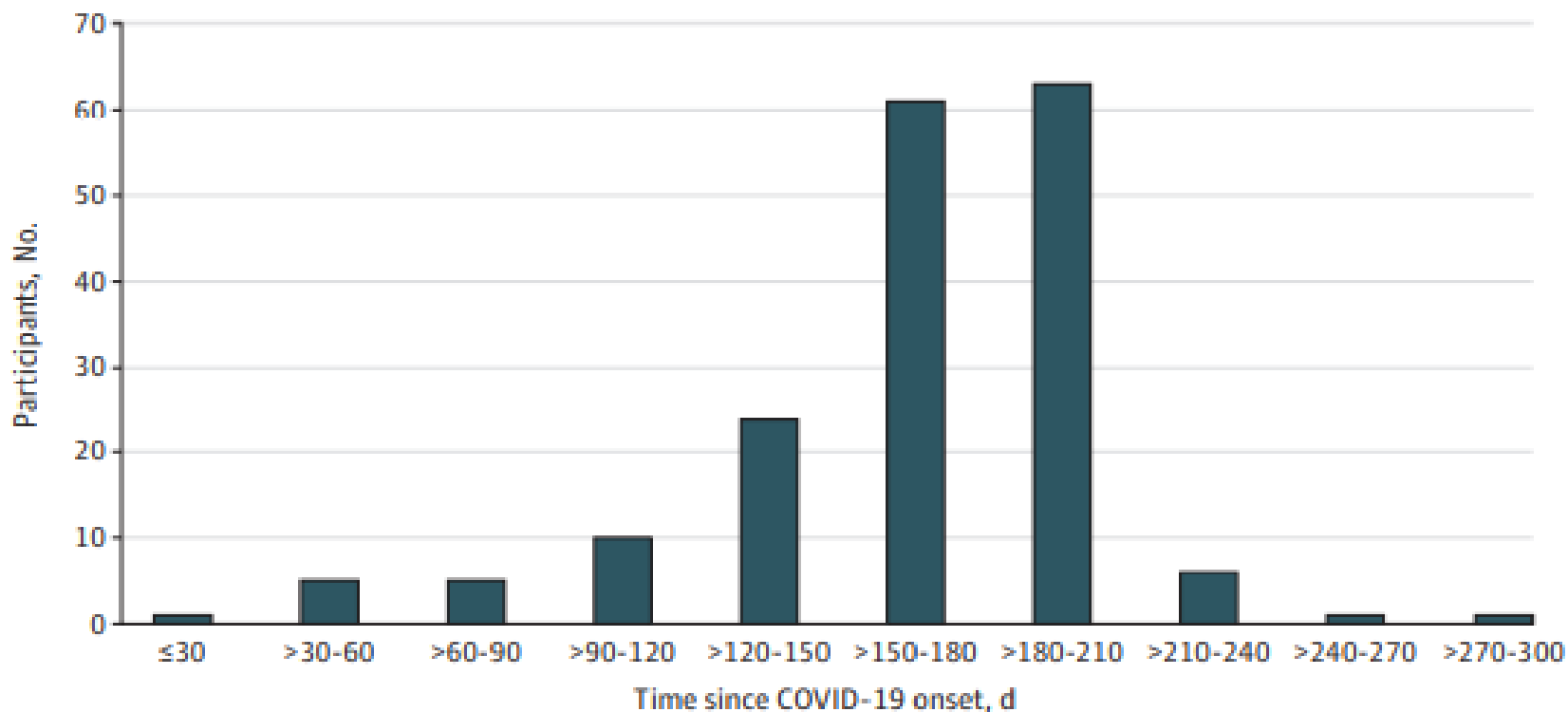
# Longer-term sequelae in outpatients

177 of 234 participants

Characteristic	No. (%)			
	Total recovered individuals (n = 177)	Inpatients (n = 16)	Outpatients (n = 150)	Asymptomatic individuals (n = 11)

## Time of Survey Completion and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Symptoms

**A** Survey completion by days after illness onset





# Management of Post COVID 19 Syndrom

1- **Fluctuating Fever**, for example, may be treated symptomatically with paracetamol

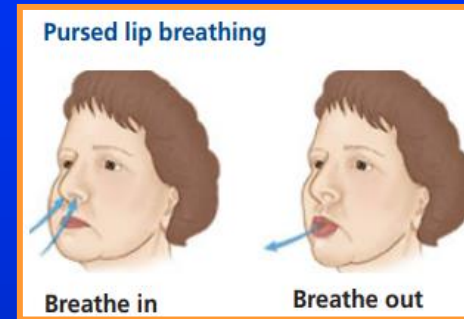
## 2- **Respiratory symptoms :**

Pathophysiological mechanisms

- 1- viral infiltration
- 2- inflammation
- 3- infection
- 4- pleural inflammation

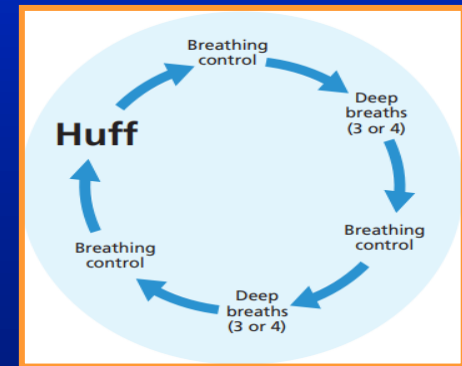
### ➤ **Cough :**

- ❖ Beyond eight weeks.
- ❖ Managed with
  - 1-Breathing control exercises
  - 2-Proton pump inhibitors if reflux is suspected
  - 3-Drink honey and warm lemon can help to soothe the throat
  - 4-Inhaled Corticosteroids
  - 5-Toplexil ?
  - 6- Keep well hydrated



### ➤ **Breathlessness :**

- ❖ Common after acute covid-19
- ❖ Investigations to eliminate all causes of dyspnea
- ❖ Improve with
  - 1-Breathing exercises
  - 2-Pulmonary rehabilitation
  - 3-Breathing control while walking ;  
Breathe in – 1 step  
Breathe out – 1 or 2 steps



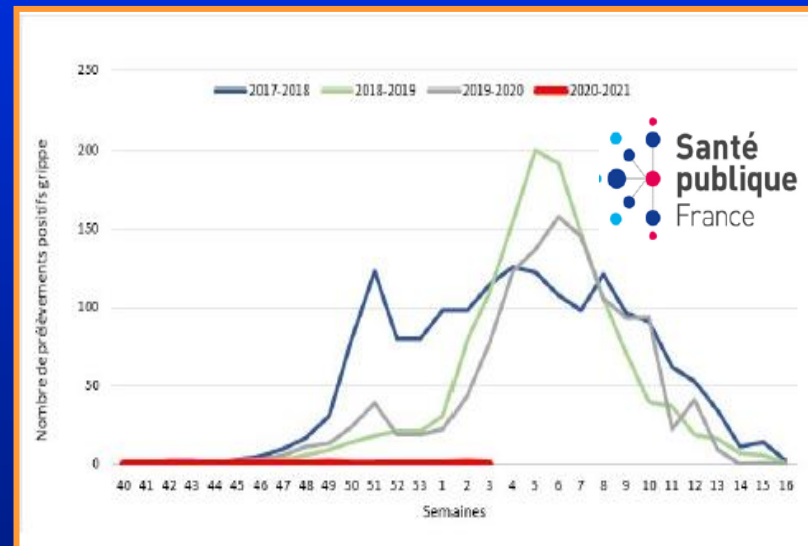
# Persistent or recurrent fever

## Clinical characteristics of COVID-19 and its comparison with influenza pneumonia

Characteristics	COVID-19 (n = 246)	Influenza pneumonia (n = 120)	P value
Age (mean±SD)-year	53.63 ± 15.27	55.41 ± 24.7	>0.05
Age group -no. (%)			
<18 yr	2 (0.81)	14 (11.67)	<0.01
18–65 yr	186 (75.61)	84 (70.00)	>0.05
>65 yr	58 (23.58)	22 (18.33)	>0.05
Sex-no. (%)			
Male	115 (46.75)	68 (56.67)	>0.05
Female	131 (53.25)	52 (43.33)	
Cluster cases-no. (%)	160 (65.04)	12 (10.00)	<0.01
Fever			
Patients-no. (%)	193 (78.46)	107 (89.17)	<0.05
Persistent fever-no. (%)	124 (50.41)	89(74.17)	<0.01
Initial stage fever-no. (%)	69 (28.05)	28(23.33)	>0.05
WBC count abnormal			
Decreased-no. (%)	60(24.39)	13(10.83)	<0.01
Increased- no. (%)	27(10.98)	49(40.83)	<0.01
Lymphocyte count abnormal			
Decreased-no. (%)	60(24.39)	39(32.50)	>0.05
Increased- no. (%)	0(0)	6 (5.00)	<0.01
Urine routine abnormal			
Urine protein(+)	40(16.26)	10(8.33)	<0.05
Urine RBC (+)	27(10.98)	7(5.83)	>0.05
Urine RBC & protein (+)	12(4.88)	9(7.50)	>0.05
Urea nitrogen Increased-no. (%)	47(19.11)	33(27.50)	>0.05
Serum creatinine Increased-no. (%)	37(15.04)	26(21.67)	>0.05
ALT Increased-no. (%)	58(23.58)	19(15.83)	>0.05
Albumin decreased-no. (%)	98 (39.84)	60 (50.00)	>0.05
ESR Increased-no. (%)	163 (66.26)	79 (65.83)	>0.05
CRP Increased-no. (%)	118 (47.97)	69 (57.50)	>0.05
LDH Increased-no. (%)	35 (14.23)	19(15.83)	>0.05
PCT Increased-no. (%)	66 (26.83)	90 (75.00)	<0.01

- Rule out another diagnosis
- Eliminate other causes of persistent or recurrent fever

- 1) Pulmonary infection ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
- 2) urinary tract infection
- 3) Phlebitis



1- **Fluctuating Fever**, for example, may be treated symptomatically with paracetamol

## 2- **Respiratory symptoms :**

Pathophysiological mechanisms

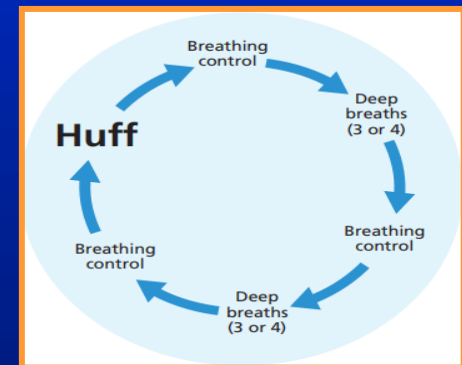
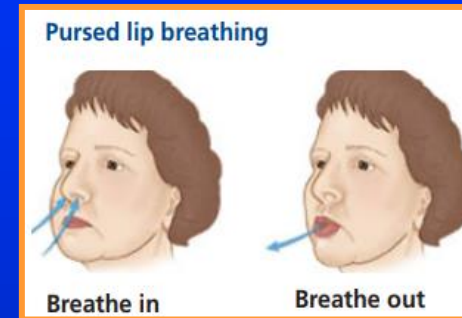
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# Dyspnoea /Breathlessness

- Dyspnoea may be :
  1. Direct consequence of lung infection with SARS-CoV2
  2. Pulmonary sequelae
  3. Other causes of respiratory symptoms may be observed, such as dysfunctional breathing or muscle weakness.
- Detected by:
  1. Chest imaging (ground glass opacities, fibrotic lesions, sequelae of acute pulmonary embolism)
  2. Functional testing (restrictive pattern, low diffusing capacity of lung for carbon monoxide, persistent hypoxemia).

### 3- Cardiopulmonary complications or symptoms

- May present several weeks after acute covid-19
- They are commoner in patients :
  - 1- with pre-existing cardiovascular disease
  - 2- in young, previously active patients
- Pathophysiological mechanisms :
  - 1- viral infiltration
  - 2- inflammation
  - 3- microthrombi
  - 4- down-regulation of ACE-2receptor



- **Dyspnea/Breathlessness** → Specific treatment / rehabilitation
- **Chest pain:**
  - ❖ Common in post-acute covid-19.
  - ❖ Priority is to separate :
    - 1- musculoskeletal → Symptomatic treatment
    - 2- non-specific chest pain as “lung burn” → Symptomatic treatment
    - 3- serious cardiovascular conditions → Specific treatment /investigations
- **Ventricular dysfunction** → Specific treatment /investigations : 1-2 months of rest from cardiovascular training
- **Myocarditis, pericarditis, myocardial infarction, and dysrhythmias**
- **Thromboembolism:**
  - ❖ Common after acute covid-19
  - ❖ Covid-19 is an inflammatory and hypercoagulable state,
  - ❖ Angio CT Scann
  - ❖ anticoagulation



## 4-Neurological sequelae :

- Common : headaches, dizziness, and cognitive blunting (“brain fog”) → Symptomatic treatment /Analgesics
- Rare : ischaemic stroke, seizures, encephalitis, and cranial neuropathies → Referred to a neurologist.
- Neuronal injury , neurodegenerative diseases
- Need some investigations :MRI, EEG

## 5- Anosomia and Hyposmia

- Early symptoms in COVID 19 patients
- Occurring without nasal congestion
- Symptoms of post COVID syndrom
- No Specific treatment (indication for cortisone per os 10 days)
- ENT Consultation

Fuzhou Wang, Long-Term Respiratory and Neurological Sequelae of COVID-19, doi: [10.12659/MSM.928996](https://doi.org/10.12659/MSM.928996)

## 6- Mental health and wellbeing ;

### ❖ Conditions related to :

1. broken routines
2. loneliness
3. social isolation

### ❖ Individual reactions :

1. anxiety
2. stress
3. low mood
4. hopelessness
5. heightened anxiety
6. difficulty sleeping
7. depression

### ❖ May occur :

1. especially in healthcare workers
2. caring responsibilities
3. all patients



Referral to mental health services



Specific treatment /investigations  
Symptomatic treatment  
Specific treatment

## 7-Fatigue

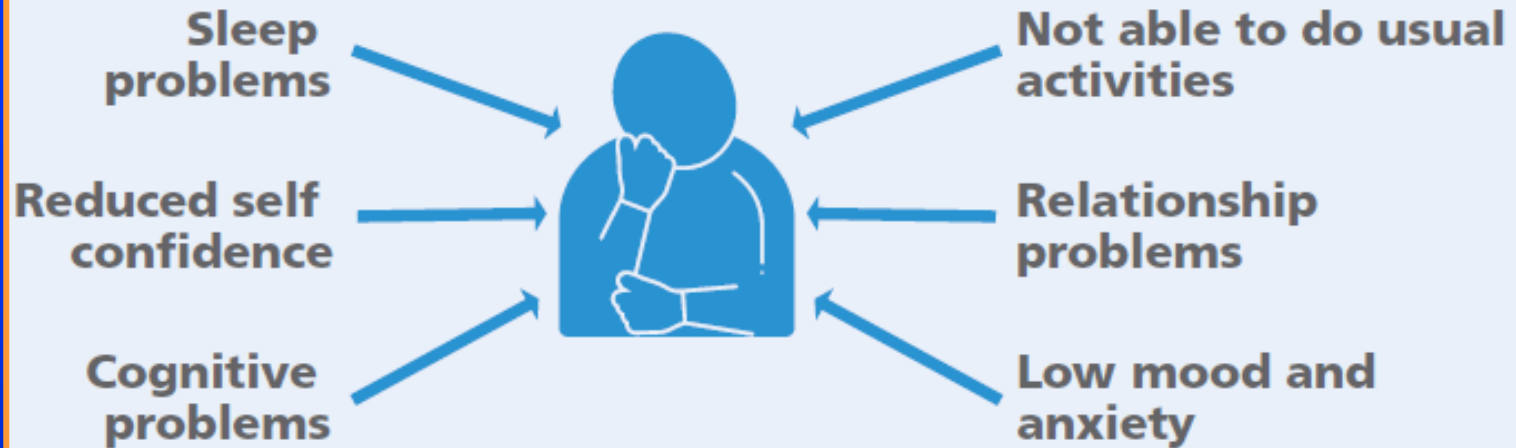
- Is recognised as one of the most common presenting complaints in individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2
- Independent of severity of initial infection and markers of peripheral immune activation and circulating pro-inflammatory cytokines.
- Pathophysiological :Metabolic diseases and malnutrition and loss of muscle mass?
- Make a medical check-up ? discovery of unknown diseases ?
- Female gender and those with a pre-existing diagnosis of depression/anxiety were over-represented in those with fatigue
- In 52 % a median of 10 weeks after their initial illness
- Shares features with chronic fatigue syndrome described after other serious infections (SARS, MERS, and community acquired pneumonia)
- No pharmacological or non-pharmacological interventions efficacy !!!
- Management : guidance for clinicians on return to exercise and graded return to performance for athletes (currently all based on indirect evidence)

Royal College of Occupational Therapists. How to conserve your energy: Practical advice for people during and after having COVID-19. 2020.  
<https://www.rcot.co.uk/conserving-energy>.

Elliott N, Martin R, Heron N, Elliott J, Grimstead D, Biswas A. Infographic. Graduated return to play guidance following COVID-19 infection. Br J Sports Med 2020;  
.doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2020-102637 pmid: 32571796

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.07.29.20164293>

## Impact of fatigue



## Tips for managing fatigue



Post-COVID-19  
Care Center

## 8) Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

- Patients have described symptoms of exhaustion, post-exertional malaise, lethargy and difficulties with memory and concentration lasting for weeks following COVID-19 illness
- The 2015 IOM diagnostic criteria for ME/CFS
  - 1) 3 required symptoms :
    - Reduction in the ability to engage in pre-illness levels of activity (occupational, educational, social or personal life)
    - Post-exertional malaise : worsening of symptoms after physical, mental or emotional exertion
    - Unrefreshing sleep : patients may not feel better or less tired even after a full night of sleep despite the absence of specific objective sleep alterations.
  - 2) 1 of 2 additional manifestations :
    - Cognitive impairment : problems with thinking, memory, executive function, and information processing, attention deficit and impaired psychomotor functions.
    - Orthostatic intolerance : patients develop a worsening of symptoms upon assuming and maintaining upright posture as measured by objective heart rate and blood pressure abnormalities during standing, bedside orthostatic vital signs,

### 3) Other Common Symptoms of ME/CFS

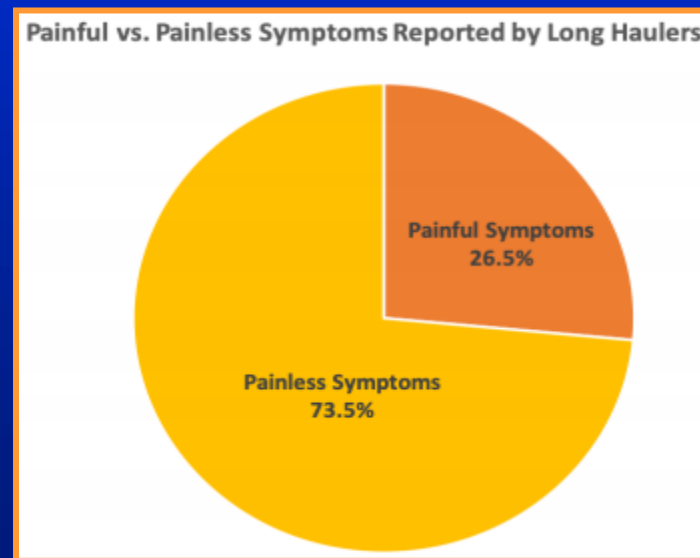
- Muscle pain
- Pain in the joints without swelling or redness
- Headaches of a new type, pattern, or severity
- A sore throat that is frequent or recurring
- Chills and night sweats
- Visual disturbances
- Sensitivity to light and sound
- Nausea
- Allergies or sensitivities to foods, odors, chemicals, or medications

#### ➤ Clinical Management :

- 1) The Food and Drug Administration has not approved drugs to treat ME/CFS
- 2) Focus care on alleviating symptoms, beginning with the most bothersome
- 3) Rule out alternate causes.
- 4) Physical and psychological therapy, good nutrition,
- 5) Symptomatic treatment /Analgesics
- 6) Consider referral to rehabilitation physicians or specialists in ME/CFS
- 7) Consider referral to a neurologist or other appropriate specialist to rule out previously undiagnosed chronic disease

## 9- Joint and Muscle Pain

- Common persisting symptom;
  - 1) Muscle and body aches
  - 2) “sharp” or “burning” pain in the lower back, neck, joints and extremities
- Myalgia and arthralgia are common long-term sequelae of viral infections, likely caused by persisting low levels of inflammation or residual effects of a cytokine surge
- Clinical Management : if necessary, use analgesics to reduce pain.





## 10) Sleep Disorders

A rise in sleep disorders associated with COVID-19,

Including :

- 1) hypersomnia,
- 2) insomnia
- 3) misuse of sleep medication

These may be related to

- 1) anxiety related to one's finances or long-term health
- 2) depression caused by social isolation, reduced exposure to sunlight while spending more time indoors,
- 3) disruptions to normal daily routines

Clinical Management :

Screen for and treat anxiety and depression.

Counsel patients to practice good sleep hygiene:

- 1) Avoid lying down or taking naps during daytime hours.
- 2) Establish a consistent nighttime routine.
- 3) Avoid caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.
- 4) Remove smartphones, televisions, computers and other electronic devices from the bedroom.



# Considerations

## 1) The older patient

- ❖ Covid-19 tends to affect older patients more severely.
- ❖ Those who survive are at high risk of , malnutrition, depression, and delirium.,,,,,,,
- ❖ Post-covid-19 chronic pain may affect patients of any age but seems to be commoner in elderly patients.

## 2) Social , medical and cultural considerations

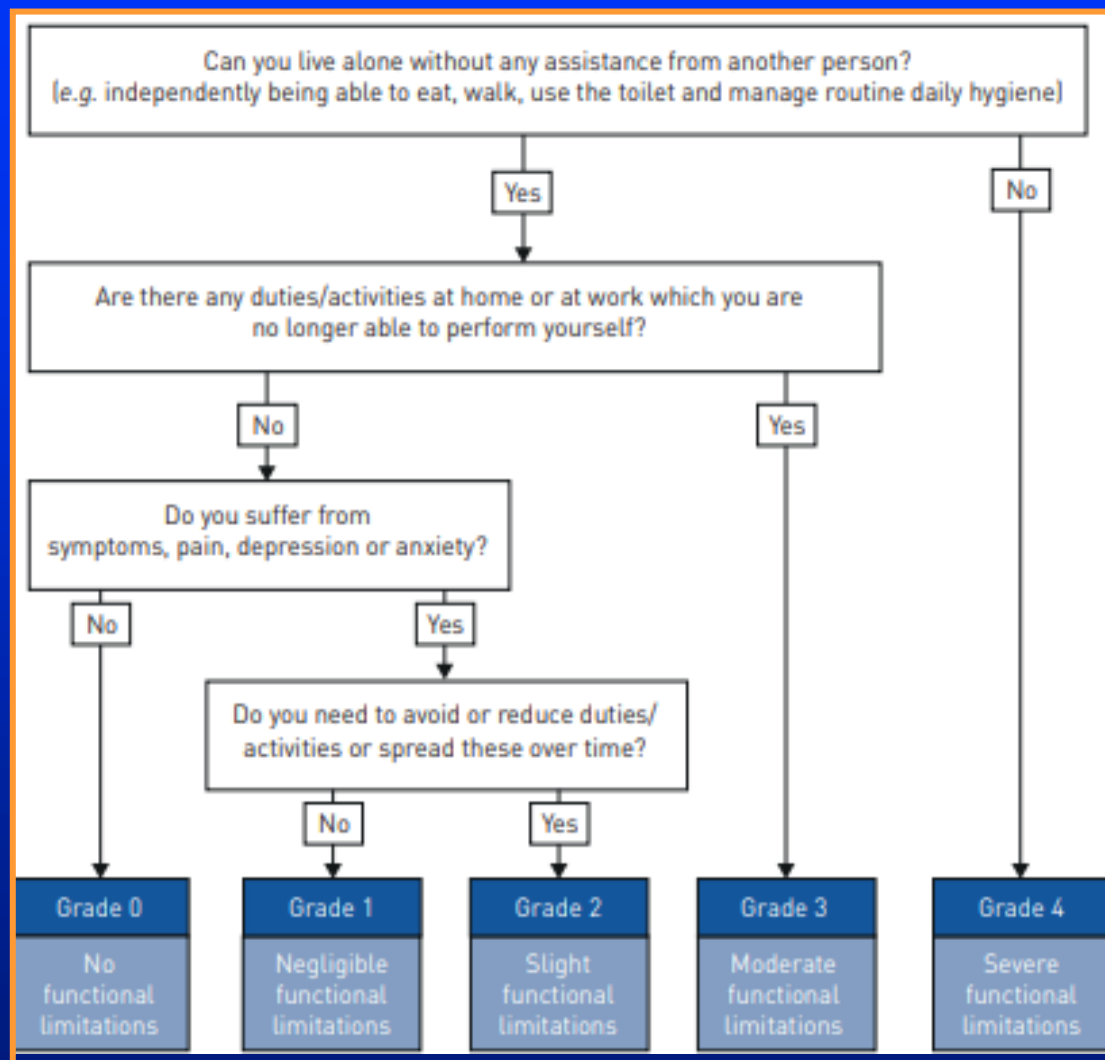
- ❖ worse prognosis in the acute phase in people who are poor, elderly, and from certain minority ethnic groups
- ❖ Patients are from diverse social and cultural
- ❖ Comorbidities including diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, or ischaemic heart disease.
- ❖ Family history of : job losses and consequent financial stress and food poverty
- ❖ Advice from specialist social care, lay care, and faith organisations
- ❖ Management of post-acute covid-19 must occur in conjunction with management of pre-existing or new comorbidities
- ❖ Some patients need accommodations !!!

# Functional Status scale and assessment

How to deal with patient?

How to classify patient?

# The Post-COVID-19 Functional Status scale



How much are you currently affected in your everyday life by COVID-19? (Please indicate which one of the following statements applies to you most)	Corresponding PCFS scale grade
I have no limitations in my everyday life and no symptoms, pain, depression or anxiety related to the infection.	0
I have negligible limitations in my everyday life as I can perform all usual duties/activities, although I still have persistent symptoms, pain, depression or anxiety.	1
I suffer from limitations in my everyday life as I occasionally need to avoid or reduce usual duties/activities or need to spread these over time due to symptoms, pain, depression or anxiety. I am, however, able to perform all activities without any assistance.	2
I suffer from limitations in my everyday life as I am not able to perform all usual duties/activities due to symptoms, pain, depression or anxiety. I am, however, able to take care of myself without any assistance.	3
I suffer from severe limitations in my everyday life: I am not able to take care of myself and therefore I am dependent on nursing care and/or assistance from another person due to symptoms, pain, depression or anxiety.	4

# Physical activity advice - how hard should it be?

## Breathlessness scale

When you are  
doing physical  
activity, it is ok to  
feel moderately  
breathless



0	Not at all
0.5	Very, very slight (just noticeable)
1	Very slight
2	Slight
3	Moderate
4	Somewhat
5	Severe
6	
7	Very severe
8	
9	Very, very severe (almost maximal)
10	Maximal

# Psychometric Validation of the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5)

PCL-5 Item	0/1/2/3/4
1. Disturbing memories of experience	
2. Disturbing dreams of experience	
3. Suddenly feeling or acting as if the stressful experience were actually happening again	
4. Upset when reminded of stressful experience	
5. Physical reactions to reminders of the experience	
6. Avoiding memories, thoughts or feelings related to experience	
7. Avoiding external reminders of the stressful experience	
8. Trouble remembering experience	
9. Negative beliefs of self, other people and the world	
10. Blaming self or others for experience	
11. Having strong negative feelings such as fear, horror, anger, guilt, or shame?	
12. Loss of interest in activities	
13. Feeling distant or cut-off from other people	
14. Trouble experiencing positive feelings	
15. Irritability, angry outbursts, or acting aggressively	
16. Taking too many risks or doing things that could cause you harm	
17. Being "superalert" or watchful or on guard	
18. Feeling jumpy or easily startled	
19. Having difficulty concentrating	
20. Trouble falling or staying asleep	

**>33 Anxiety Syndrom**  
**38 >Posttraumatic Stress**

# Nijmegen Questionnaire

	Not at all	Rare	Sometimes	Often	Very often
Symptoms	0	1	2	3	4
Chest pain					
Feeling tense					
Blurred vision					
Dizzy spells					
Feeling confused					
Faster or deeper breathing					
Short of breath					
Tight feelings in chest					
Bloated feeling in stomach					
Tingling fingers					
Unable to breathe deeply					
Stiff fingers or arms					
Tight feelings around mouth					
Cold hands or feet					
Palpitations					
Feelings of anxiety					
	Total:				

hyperventilation syndrome  
score ranges from 0-64.  
Positive >26

# "Long covid" in primary care

thebmj Visual summary 

## Assessment and initial management of patients with continuing symptoms

Post-acute covid-19 appears to be a multi-system disease, sometimes occurring after a relatively mild acute illness. Clinical management requires a whole-patient perspective. This graphic summarises the assessment and initial management of patients with delayed recovery from an episode of covid-19 that was managed in the community or in a standard hospital ward.

### An uncertain picture

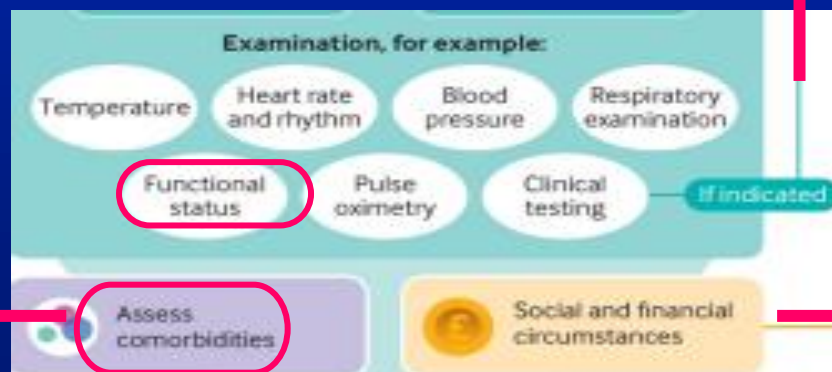
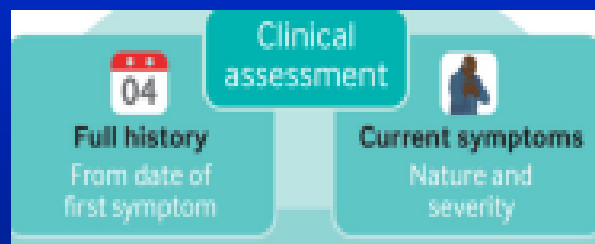


The long term course of covid-19 is unknown. This graphic presents an approach based on evidence available at the time of publication.

However, caution is advised, as patients may present atypically, and new treatments are likely to emerge

### Managing comorbidities

Many patients have comorbidities including diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease or ischaemic heart disease. These need to be managed in conjunction with covid-19 treatment. Refer to condition specific guidance, available in the associated article by Greenhalgh and colleagues



### Investigations

Clinical testing is not always needed, but can help to pinpoint causes of continuing symptoms, and to exclude conditions like pulmonary embolism or myocarditis. Examples are provided below:

#### Blood tests

Full blood count    Electrolytes  
Liver and renal function    Troponin  
C reactive protein    Creatine kinase  
D-dimer    Brain natriuretic peptides  
Ferritin — to assess inflammatory and prothrombotic states

#### Other investigations

Chest x ray    Urine tests  
12 lead electrocardiogram

### Social, financial, and cultural support

Prolonged covid-19 may limit the ability to engage in work and family activities. Patients may have experienced family bereavements as well as job losses and consequent financial stress and food poverty. See the associated article by Greenhalgh and colleagues for a list of external resources to help with these problems



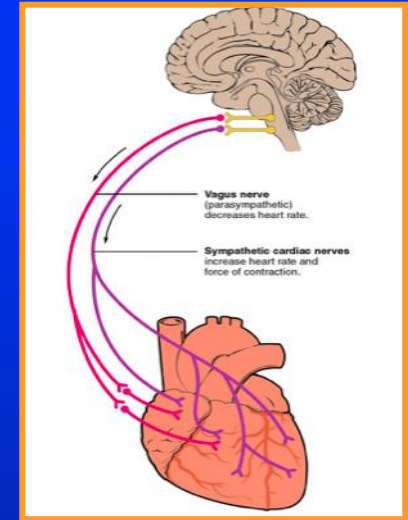
# Tests in Consultation



Walk test



Sitting upright test



Standing and lying heart rate variability test





Assess  
comorbidities



Social and financial  
circumstances

## Safety netting and referral

The patient should seek medical advice if concerned, for example:

Worsening breathlessness

$\text{PaO}_2 < 96\%$  Unexplained chest pain

New confusion Focal weakness

Specialist referral may be indicated, based on clinical findings, for example:

➔ **Respiratory** if suspected pulmonary embolism, severe pneumonia

➔ **Cardiology** if suspected myocardial infarction, pericarditis, myocarditis or new heart failure

➔ **Neurology** if suspected neurovascular or acute neurological event

➔ **Pulmonary rehabilitation** may be indicated if patient has persistent breathlessness following review

## Medical management

Symptomatic, such as treating fever with paracetamol

Optimise control of long term conditions

Listening and empathy

Consider antibiotics for secondary infection

Treat specific complications as indicated

## Self management

⚡ Daily pulse oximetry

♥ Attention to general health

📅 Rest and relaxation

🚶 Self pacing and gradual increase in exercise  
**If tolerated**

✅ Set achievable targets

Diet  
Sleep  
Quitting smoking  
Limiting alcohol  
Limiting caffeine

## Mental health

In the consultation:

Continuity of care

Avoid inappropriate medicalisation

Longer appointments for patients with complex needs (face to face if needed)

In the community:

Community linkworker

Patient peer support groups

Attached mental health support service

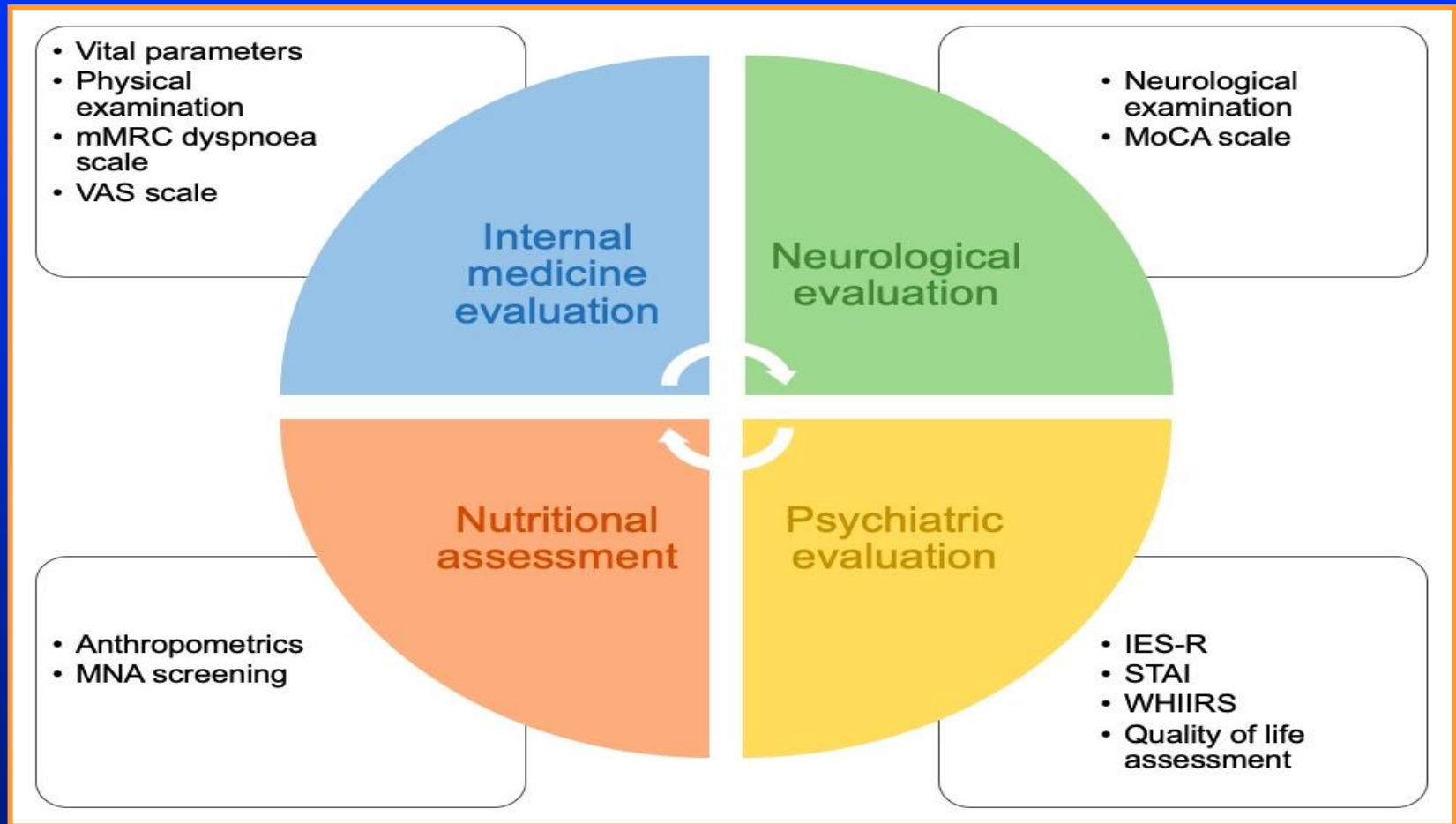
Cross-sector partnerships with social care, community services, faith groups

# Organisation of Post COVID center

# How is long COVID 19 treated in the world?

- In New York, the Center for Post-COVID Care at Mount Sinai Hospital
- In Italy, the Genoa Rehabilitation Center
- In Paris, the Hôtel-Dieu Sports Medicine Investigation Center , and Foch center
- In the United Kingdom, the government has launched the online service "Your COVID Recovery"

# Multidisciplinary organisation and assessment measures of the COVID-19 Follow

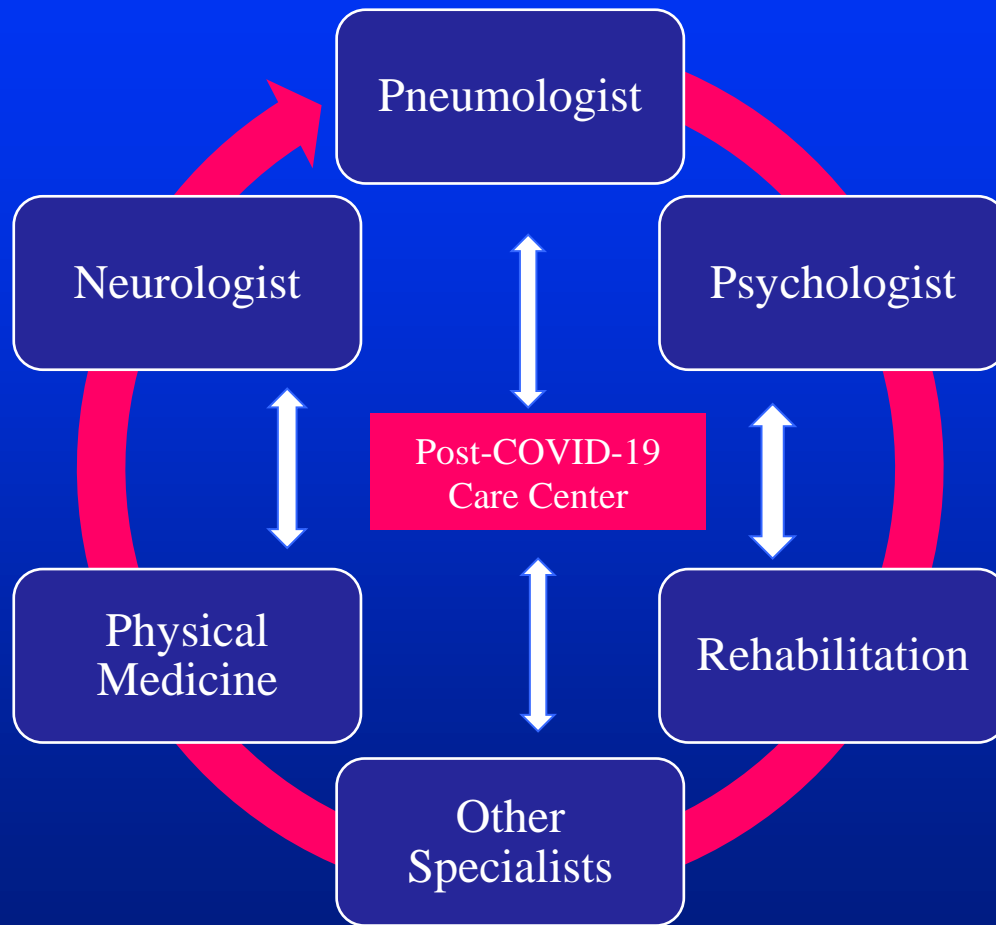


De Lorenzo R, Conte C, Lanzani C, Benedetti F, Roveri L, Mazza MG, et al. (2020)

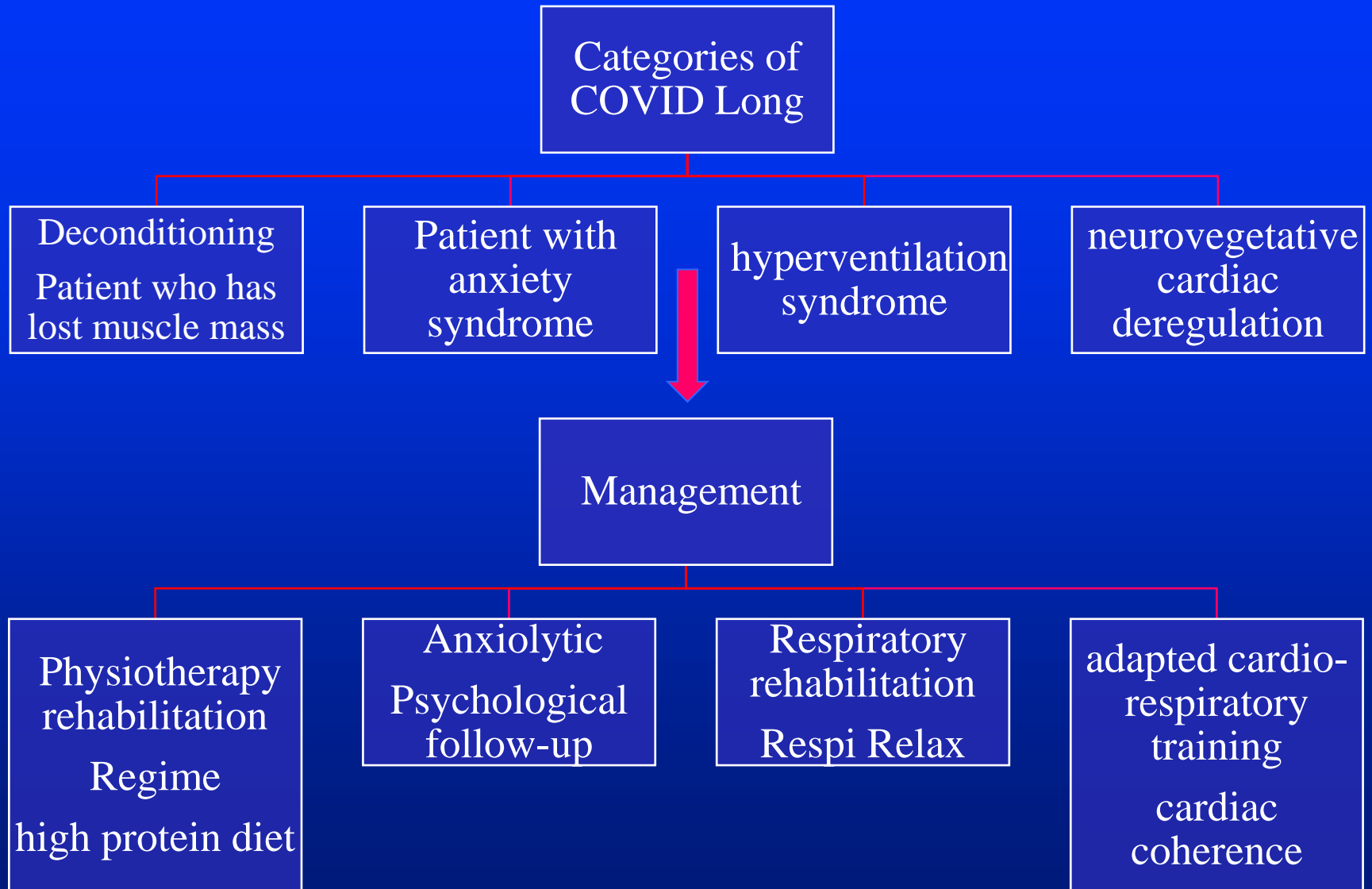
Residual clinical damage after COVID-19: A retrospective and prospective observational cohort study. PLoS ONE 15(10): e0239570.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0239570>

Eur Respir J 2021; in press (<https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01090-2021>).

# Post-COVID-19 Care Center



# Categories of COVID Long



# Rehabilitation



# Rehabilitation

Physiotherapy  
rehabilitation

Respiratory  
rehabilitation

Psychological  
rehabilitation

Nutritional  
rehabilitation

Restore  
physical  
respiratory  
function

To pre COVID  
level of activit 

Help  
To

Reduce anxiety

Restore good  
quality of lif

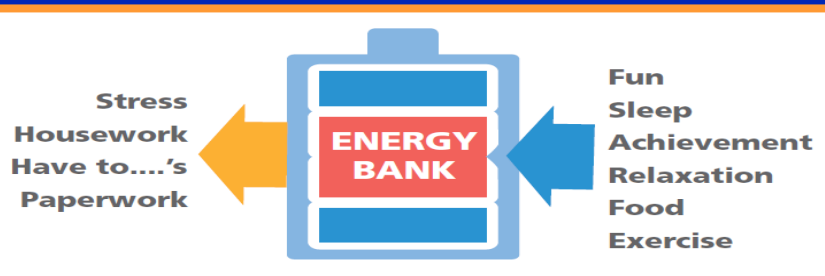
# The sportsperson returning to exercise

- 1) After recovery from mild illness: 1 week of low level stretching and strengthening before targeted cardiovascular sessions
- 2) Very mild symptoms: limit activity to slow walking or equivalent. Increase rest periods if symptoms worsen. Avoid high-intensity training
- 3) Persistent symptoms (such as fatigue, cough, breathlessness, fever):  
limit activity to 60% maximum heart rate until 2-3 weeks after symptom resolve
- 4) Patients who had lymphopenia or required oxygen need respiratory assessment before resuming exercise
- 5) Patients who had cardiac involvement need cardiac assessment before resuming

# Physiotherapy Rehabilitation

- Start SLOWLY to see how your body responds
- Increasing your levels of exercise
- Understanding your energy levels
- Planning includes organising daily routines to allow completion of essential activities when you have the most energy.

<b>WEEK 1:</b>	Walking 10 minutes every other day, 5 minutes stretching x3 per week
<b>WEEK 2:</b>	Walking 10 minutes every other day, 5 minutes stretching x3 per week
<b>WEEK 3:</b>	12 minutes of walking every other day, 6 minutes of stretching x 3 per week
<b>WEEK 4:</b>	12 minutes of walking every other day, 6 minutes of stretching x 3 per week
<b>WEEK 5:</b>	14 minutes of walking every other day, 8 minutes of stretching x 3 per week
<b>WEEK 6:</b>	14 minutes of walking every other day, 8 minutes of stretching x 3 per week



# Nutritional Rehabilitation

Aim to have **5\*** handfuls of **fruit and vegetable** from this group each day



**Getting enough vitamin and minerals:**

Eat with the rainbow; different colours provide different **vitamins and minerals**.

Aim to have **3** hand size items from this **Protein** group daily



Beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins.  
Eat more beans and pulses, less red and processed meat.

Aim to have **3** thumb size items from this **Dairy\*** group daily



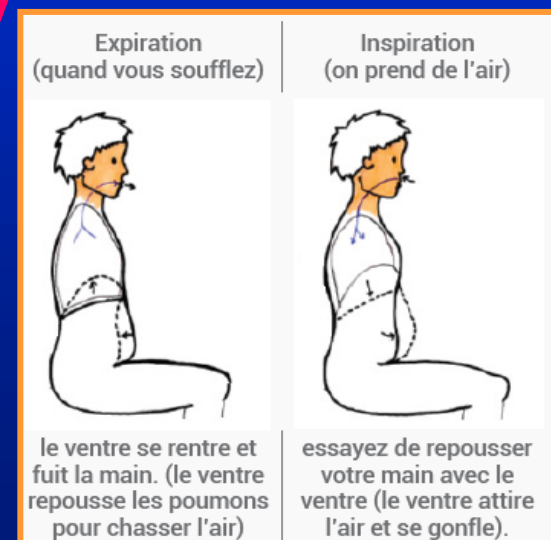
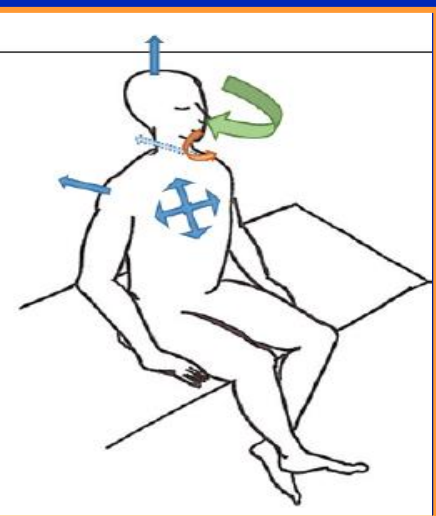
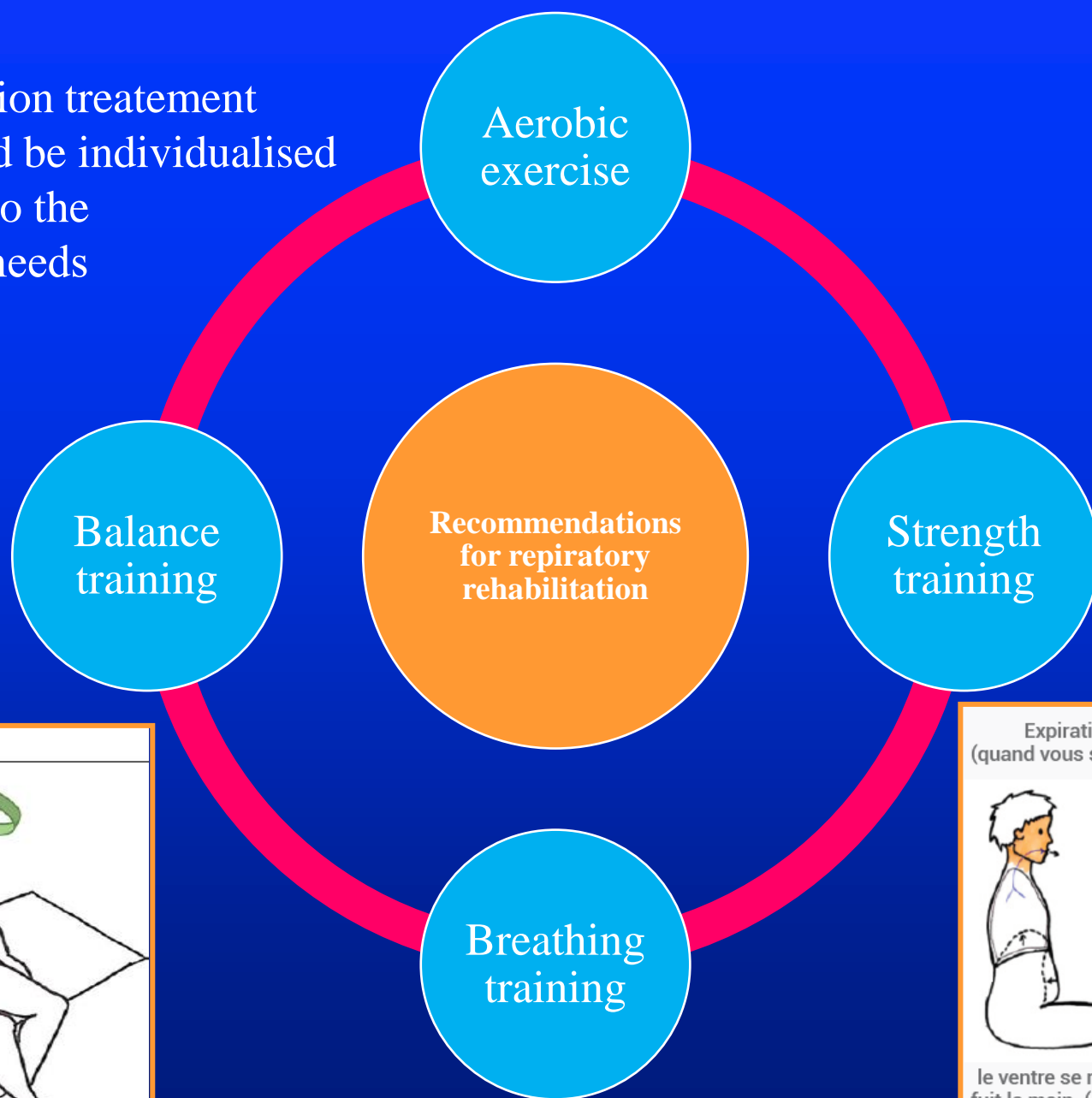
**\*If you want to gain weight choose the full fat and full sugar versions.**

# Pulmonary Rehabilitation

- After 6 weeks ? 2 weeks !
- To help patients recover to their pre-COVID 19 level of activity
- Those who have had significant respiratory illness
- Multidisciplinary intervention based on personalised evaluation and treatment
- Make a medical check-up ????
- Exercise training, education, and behavioural modification designed to improve the physical and psychological conditions
- May be delivered by various virtual models, including video linked classes and home education booklets with additional telephone support
- Rehabilitation services / self management



Rehabilitation treatment plans should be individualised according to the patient's needs







**British Society of  
Rehabilitation  
Medicine**

Promoting quality through  
education and standards

# Rehabilitation in the wake of Covid-19 - A phoenix from the ashes

## case by case

### **Factors affecting rehabilitation for individuals**

- The range of impairments and disabilities experienced.
- The **rate of recovery** from these impairments.
- Personal and environmental circumstances including:
  - **Comorbidities.**
  - **Premorbid functional abilities.**
  - **Psychological background** of the person, such as their usual coping mechanisms, self-efficacy and abilities to adapt.
- The **home environment** or place that the individual will be discharged to.
- **Individual social context**, such as the social group the person inhabits and their economic circumstances.
- Occupation, whether paid, 'informal' or voluntary work.
- Other activities that the person finds fulfilling.

### **Factors affecting the healthcare system**

- Timing of Rehabilitation Assessment and Prescription
  - To be optimally effective this should be as the person is recovering from the acute infection.
  - Late or no assessment can result in avoidable complications affecting physical and psychological health, socioeconomic circumstances and relationships.
- Discharge destination following acute infection:
  - Many patients are discharged directly home for review by Primary Care, and without referral to rehabilitation services.
- The availability of professional and voluntary personnel to assist in rehabilitation.
- The resources available, both generally and, more specifically, trained rehabilitation personnel.
- Education of healthcare professionals regarding the consequences

# Smoking and COVID-19

- Smoking tobacco products increase your risk of infection due to the harm caused to your immune system and lungs.
- Smoking is linked with poorer outcomes in COVID-19.
- Its never too late to stop.
- By stopping you can see benefits within some days





# General Considerations for COVID-19 Long

- 1) Understand that physiologic complaints of COVID-19 long-haulers are real, not “merely” psychological.
- 2) Rule out other possible etiologies of symptoms, such as flu, asthma exacerbation, etc.
- 3) Continue to manage the patient’s chronic comorbidities.
- 4) Coordinate care with specialists when appropriate.
- 5) Inform COVID-19 patients that prolonged symptoms are common
- 6) Let patients know that, they are unlikely to be contagious to others more than 10 days after symptom onset, even if their symptoms persist.
- 7) Social support, mindfulness and self-care.

# Take Home message

- 1) Approximately 10-30% of people experience prolonged illness after covid-19
- 2) Management of covid-19 after the first 6-12 weeks is currently based on limited evidence
- 3) Many such patients recover spontaneously (if slowly) with holistic support, rest, symptomatic treatment, and gradual increase in activity
- 4) Keep Cool
- 5) Indications for specialist assessment include clinical concern along with respiratory, cardiac, or neurological symptoms that are new, persistent, or progressive
- 6) Post COVID-19 care Center

# Take Home message

1

Recovery from COVID-19 can take a long time,  
even in young adults with no chronic conditions

3

Fatigue /depression

Dyspnea

Chest discomfort

Cough

Anosmia

4

Rule out another  
diagnosis

Symptomatic  
treatment

Rehabilitatinon

5

To stay well and protect others...

2

**2 in 5**

previously healthy young  
adults\* weren't back to  
usual health 14-21 days  
after testing positive

6



Stay 6 feet away from others not  
living in your household

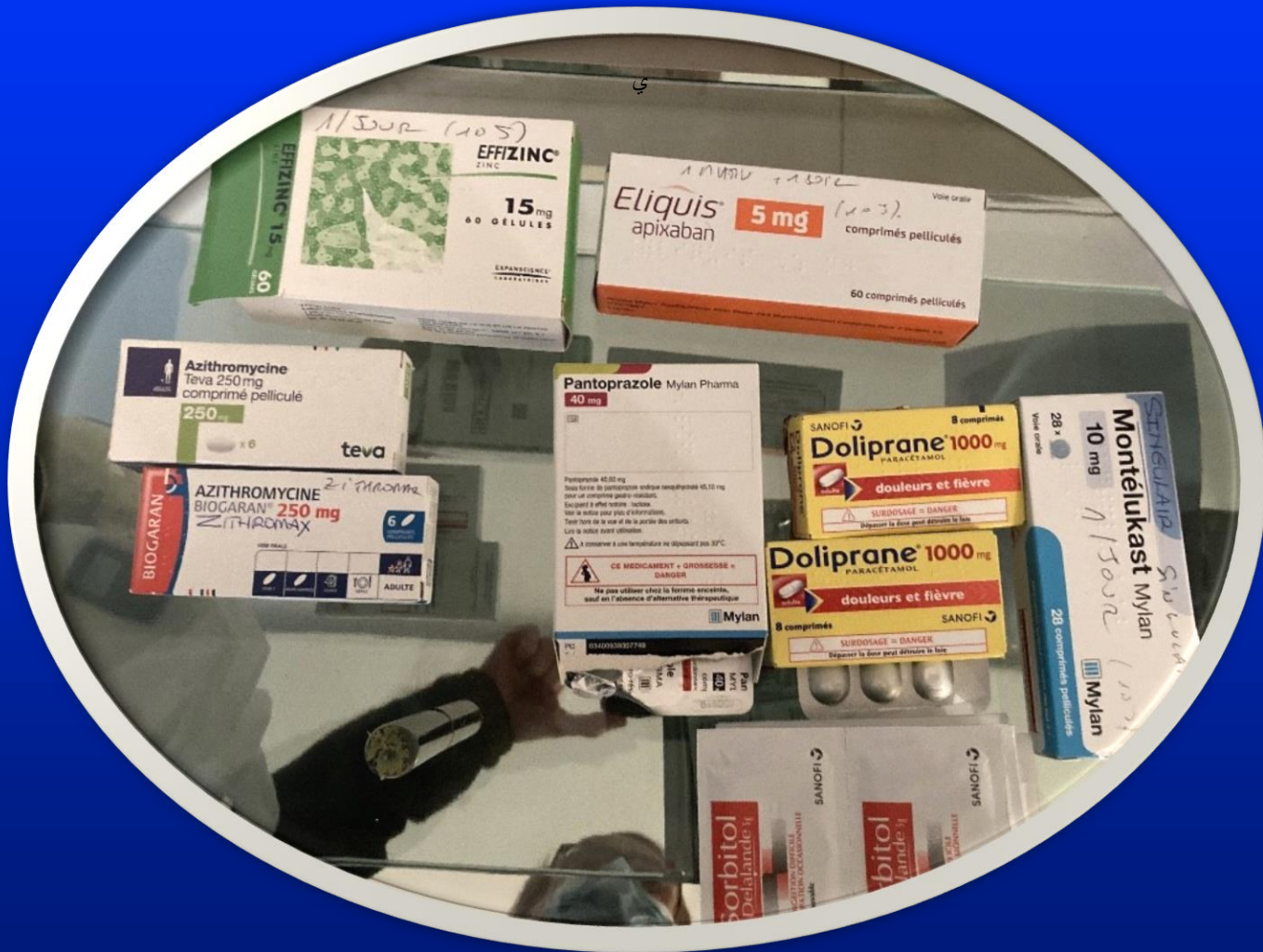


Wash hands often



Wear face coverings consistently  
and correctly in public

# Be careful





MERCI شكرا

السلام عليكم و رحمة الله و بركاته  
نتمنى السلامة للجميع

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