

New symptoms common four months after COVID-19

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(HealthDay)—About half of survivors of COVID-19 who have been

hospitalized report symptoms that did not exist before their COVID-19 illness, according to a study published online March 17 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Luc Morin, M.D., from Université Paris-Saclay, and colleagues conducted a prospective uncontrolled study involving survivors of COVID-19 who had been hospitalized between March 1 and May 29, 2020. At four months after discharge, 478 participants underwent a telephone evaluation, and respiratory, cognitive, and functional symptoms were assessed.

Via the [telephone interview](#), the researchers found that 244 [patients](#) (51 percent) declared at least one symptom that did not exist before COVID-19, including fatigue, [cognitive symptoms](#), and new-onset dyspnea in 31, 21, and 16 percent, respectively. One hundred seventy-seven patients (37 percent) underwent further examination. The median 20-item Multidimensional Fatigue Inventory score was 4.5 and 3.7 for reduced motivation and mental fatigue, respectively. Sixty-three percent of the patients had computed tomographic lung-scan abnormalities, mainly subtle ground-glass opacities. Nineteen percent of the patients had fibrotic lesions; in all but one patient, the lesions involved less than 25 percent of parenchyma. Thirty-nine percent of survivors with [acute respiratory distress syndrome](#) had fibrotic lesions. Anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic symptoms were seen in 23, 18, and 7 percent, respectively, of 94 former intensive care unit patients.

"The cohort in this study revealed wide-ranging physical, cognitive, and emotional symptoms at four [months](#) following hospitalization for COVID-19," write the authors of an accompanying editorial.

"Importantly, symptoms among participants in this study varied markedly."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical

industry.

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