

Post-COVID-19 brain health impaired versus healthy controls

December 29 2023, by Elana Gotkine



Brain health after COVID-19 is impaired, but no more than that seen for

patients hospitalized for other medical conditions of similar severity, according to a study published online Dec. 28 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Costanza Peinkhofer, M.D., from Copenhagen University Hospital in Denmark, and colleagues examined whether long-term cognitive, psychiatric, or neurological complications differ for patients hospitalized for COVID-19 versus those hospitalized for other medical conditions of similar severity as well as healthy controls in a prospective cohort study. One hundred twenty patients with COVID-19 were included and matched with 125 patients hospitalized for pneumonia, [myocardial infarction](#), or non-COVID-19 intensive care-requiring illness between March 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, and 100 healthy age- and sex-matched individuals.

The researchers found that compared with healthy controls, patients with COVID-19 had worse [cognitive status](#) (estimated Screen for Cognitive Impairment in Psychiatry [SCIP] score, 59.0 versus 68.8; estimated mean Montreal Cognitive Assessment [MoCA] score, 26.5 versus 28.2); scores were similar when compared with hospitalized controls (mean SCIP score, 61.6; mean MoCA score, 27.2). During all other psychiatric and neurologic assessments, patients with COVID-19 performed worse than healthy controls. The [brain health](#) of patients with COVID-19 was not more impaired than among hospitalized control [patients](#), with the exception of executive dysfunction.

"Although studies with broader cognitive test batteries are needed to confirm these findings, brain health after COVID-19 seems overall comparable to that after other diseases of similar severity," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed ties to the Novo Nordisk Foundation and Lundbeck Foundation, both of which partially funded the study.

More information: Costanza Peinkhofer et al, Brain Health After COVID-19, Pneumonia, Myocardial Infarction, or Critical Illness, *JAMA Network Open* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.49659](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.49659)

Copyright © 2023 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Post-COVID-19 brain health impaired versus healthy controls (2023, December 29) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-12-post-covid-brain-health-impaired-healthy.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.