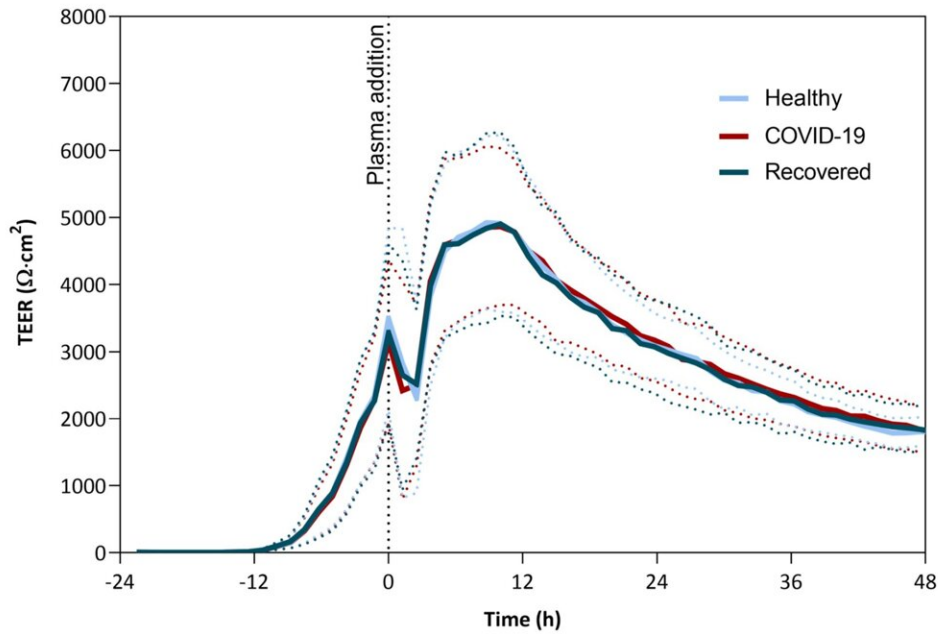
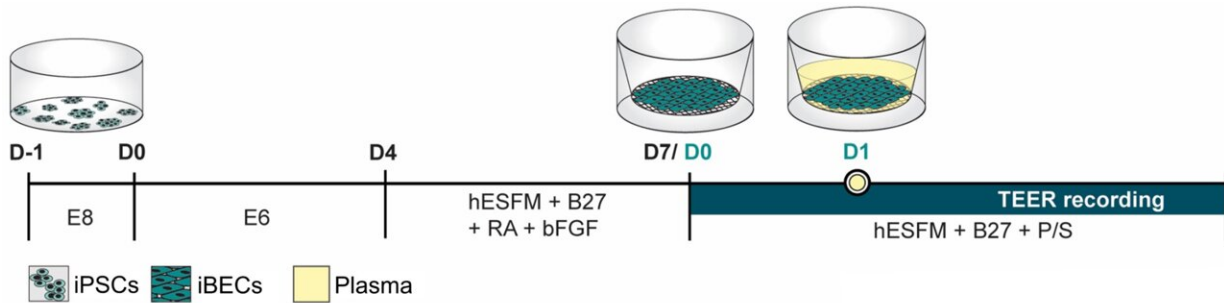


Plasma of people with COVID-19 found not to alter the protective brain barrier

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Graphical Abstract. Credit: *Function* (2024). DOI: 10.1093/function/zqae002

It is now well documented that the coronavirus outbreak triggered a global health crisis. In this study, researchers wanted to know whether blood-brain barrier impairment contributed to the development of neurological problems during COVID-19 progression and to what extent.

The [blood-brain barrier](#) is a filtering mechanism of the capillaries that carry [blood](#) to the [brain](#) and spinal cord tissue while blocking the passage of certain toxic substances. The findings demonstrate that "COVID-19-associated blood plasma inflammatory factors do not affect blood-brain barrier paracellular pathway directly," the researchers wrote.

In addition, the results suggest "pathological remodeling, if any, of the blood-brain barrier during COVID-19 may occur through indirect or yet unknown mechanisms." The study is published in the journal [Function](#).

"Accumulating evidence indicates that cerebral vascular dysfunction is a common feature of COVID-19," the research team wrote. "Therefore, it is important to understand the intricate connections between blood cytokine/chemokine profiles, blood-brain barrier integrity, and the severity of neurological manifestations of COVID-19."

More information: Agnė Pociūtė et al, Plasma of COVID-19 Patients Does Not Alter Electrical Resistance of Human Endothelial Blood-Brain Barrier In Vitro, *Function* (2024). [DOI: 10.1093/function/zqae002](https://doi.org/10.1093/function/zqae002)

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