

Category : **Respiratory: mechanical ventilation**

A224 - Recovery from covid-19 critical illness: a secondary analysis comparing recovery from covid-19 and general critical illness

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Introduction:

We aimed to compare the prevalence and severity of fatigue in survivors of Covid-19 versus non-Covid-19 critical illness, and to explore potential associations between baseline characteristics and worse recovery.

Methods:

We conducted a secondary analysis of two prospectively collected datasets. The population included was 92 patients who received invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) with Covid-19, and 240 patients who received IMV with non-Covid-19 illness before the pandemic. Follow-up data was collected using self-reported questionnaires. The main outcome measures were self-reported fatigue severity and the prevalence of significant fatigue at 3-12-months post-hospital discharge.

Results:

Covid-19 IMV-patients were significantly younger with less prior comorbidity, and more males, than pre-pandemic IMV-patients. At 3-months the prevalence (87.5% [7/8] vs. 82.4% [155/188]) and severity (median 5.5/10 vs. 5.0/10) of fatigue was similar between Covid-19 and pre-pandemic populations respectively. At 6-months the prevalence (59.4% [19/32] vs. 87.3% [145/166]) and severity (median 2.0/10 vs. 5.7/10) of fatigue was less in the Covid-19 cohort. In the Covid-19 population, women under 50 experienced more severe fatigue, breathlessness, and worse overall health state compared to other Covid-19 IMV-patients (adjusted mean difference 2.58, 95%CI:-0.19 to 5.35). There were no significant sex differences in long-term outcomes in the pre-pandemic population. In the total sample included, having Covid-19 disease was significantly associated with not reporting fatigue reaching 7/10 severity (adjusted OR 0.35, 95%CI:0.15 to 0.76).

Conclusion:

This study has shown that survivors of both Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 critical illness experience high levels of persistent fatigue. Fatigue may be less severe after Covid-19 than after other critical illness.