

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, MALIGNANCY AND CHRONIC DISEASES: A SCOPING REVIEW

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Received:

April, 26th 2022

Revised:

May, 14th 2022

Approved:

May, 16th 2022

At the end of February 2020, the lifestyles of individuals all over the globe were drastically altered by the emergence of a new illness known as COVID-19. This study aims to analyze covid-19 pandemic and its impact on psychological distress, malignancy and chronic diseases. The research method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The type of data used in this study is qualitative data, which is categorized into two types, namely primary data and secondary data. Sources of data obtained through library research techniques (library study) which refers to sources available both online and offline such as: scientific journals, books and news sourced from trusted sources. The results of this study indicate that Covid-19 has a negative impact on the QOL of patients suffering from cancer, distress, and chronic illness. Furthermore, it exacerbates anaemia and fatigue in cancer patients, as well as hypertension or diabetes in cardiovascular patients.

KEYWORDS

Psychological Distress, Malignancy, Chronic Diseases



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How to cite:

E-ISSN:

Published by:

Hamza Khalifa Ibrahim, Noor-Alhoda Milood Al-Awkally, Abdul Samad, Hafeez ur Rehman Ali Khera, Waqar Zaib, Muhammad Hamza. (2022). Covid-19 Pandemic and Its Impact on Psychological Distress, Malignancy and Chronic Diseases: A Scoping Review.

Journal Eduvest. Vol 2(5): 1.017-1.021

2775-3727

<https://greenpublisher.id/>

INTRODUCTION

At the end of February 2020, the lifestyles of individuals all over the globe were drastically altered by the emergence of a new illness known as COVID-19 (F. M. S. Muthanna & Samad, 2022) which is linked to avian Corona virus - an illness that invades the lung of the birds (Samad et al., 2022). In response to the disease outbreak, health institutions implemented essential amendments in individual's management to minimise the chance induced by both urgent and non-urgent people (Kaufman et al., 2020). Even though the effect of COVID-19 outbreaks in various regions is unclear, delays in management and therapy due to coronavirus worries, limitations on healthcare centres like as lowered non-emergency admission to hospital and limited access to doctors can result in a rise in progression of illness, a worse survival rate, and higher death rates, and eventually death (Arif et al., 2022; Sharpless, 2020)

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The type of data used in this study is qualitative data, which is categorized into two types, namely primary data and secondary data. Sources of data obtained through library research techniques (library study) which refers to sources available both online and offline such as: scientific journals, books and news sourced from trusted sources. These sources are collected based on discussion and linked from one information to another. Data collection techniques used in this study were observation, interviews and research. This data is analyzed and then conclusions are drawn.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Effect of COVID-19 on Psychological Distress and Malignancies

Antipsychotic medications are widely used in the treatment of mental disorders, mainly for the treatment of schizophrenia patients (Al-Awkally et al., 2022; F. M. S. Muthanna et al., 2018). Some antipsychotics' anti-inflammatory characteristics may defend against extreme COVID-19 by inhibiting the cytokine waves involved in its disease development, according to growing evidence. According to study results, cancer patients have elevated incidence of anxiety, nervousness, and distress than the general public, and the longer the treatment plan, the greater the depression (Slimano et al., 2020; Tsaras et al., 2018). Actions to prevent the cognitive and emotional anxiety of multiple patients, extremely sensitive and susceptible cancer treatment patients, have long been made. Meanwhile, given the extraordinary nature of the issue, exact assessment of the consequences of outbreaks on the incidence of psychiatric illnesses among people with cancer is required.

2. COVID-19 and Its Impact Of Immunosuppression Diseases

Immunotherapy is a major trigger for COVID-19 infection. Previous research suggests that 2 percent of COVID-19 patients have malignancy (Desai et al., 2020), and 3.7 percent of COVID-19 patients have weakened immune systems (Mehta et al., 2020). Clinical observations indicated that cancer related anaemia, and cancer related fatigue is initial predictive factors of COVID-19 patients. Haematological and pathological

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assessments, as well as bone marrow evaluations, may be valuable screening instruments for people with cancer suffering from anaemia and fatigue (F. M. Muthanna et al., 2022). People with acute illness had considerably higher white blood cell (WBC) numbers and lower lymphoid cells and hematocrit levels. These people also had increased levels of stress hormones, cardiovascular, hepatic, renal function, and clotting indicators (Henry et al., 2020). In COVID-19 patients, infections can cause an alteration in metal hematopoiesis and decreased digestive intake, leading in less iron available for hematopoiesis and red blood cells creation (Bellmann-Weiler et al., 2020). Further, anemia in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) is frequently caused by a reduction in erythropoietin supply by (KHALID, n.d.) and makes CKD patients more susceptible to COVID-19 illness. In this regard, some research findings examined the connection between anemia, fatigue and the intensity of the death rates of COVID-19. Numerous analyses performed in China revealed that anaemic patients or those suffering from fatigue were much more likely to experience severe illness and a higher risk of death. As a result, such patients' quality of life suffers (F. M. S. Muthanna et al., 2020; F. M. S. Muthanna, Hassan, et al., 2021; F. M. S. Muthanna, Karupppannan, et al., 2021) and their social lives too.

3. COVID-19 and Its Impact on Diabetes, Hypertension, and Chronic Kidney Diseases

High blood glucose was completely liable for 1.6 million deaths, according to prior studies. Another 2.2 million deaths were caused by hyperglycaemia (SHABIR & MUTHANNA, n.d.-a). Almost half of all mortalities occur prior to the age of 70 (Feisul & Azmi, 2013). Numerous troubles can arise due of diabetes, including impairment owing to diabetic neuropathy, and the knowledge and awareness among such patients should rise (SHABIR & MUTHANNA, n.d.-b). A recent review of 18 012 COVID-19 patients report that hyperglycaemia and high blood pressure were mildly connected with COVID-19 intensity and death rates, whereas the presence of heart disease was frequently linked with both intensity and morbidity (de Almeida-Pititto et al., 2020; Manzoor, Amin, et al., 2022; Manzoor, Maqbool, et al., 2022).

CONCLUSION

Covid-19 has a negative impact on the QOL of patients suffering from cancer, distress, and chronic illness. Furthermore, it exacerbates anaemia and fatigue in cancer patients, as well as hypertension or diabetes in cardiovascular patients. Future research should concentrate on COVID-19 and its impact on social life in order to facilitate interventions and treatments to reduce disease spread.

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