

Incidence and severity of SARS-CoV-2 infections in people with primary ciliary dyskinesia

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Why did we do this research and why is it important?

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many were concerned that people with PCD might have more severe symptoms than the general population if infected with SARS-CoV-2. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus causing COVID-19 disease. We wanted to find out how many people with PCD were infected with SARS-CoV-2, how severe their symptoms were, and whether infections and symptoms were related to age, vaccinations, and COVID-19 variants of concern. We therefore set up the COVID-PCD study alongside people who have PCD.

How did we do this research?

We invited people with PCD of all ages and all countries to participate in the COVID-PCD study. Every week from May 2020 to May 2022, study participants completed a short online questionnaire which asked about SARS-CoV-2 infections, symptoms, and vaccinations.

What did we find out?

Among 728 study participants, 87 (12%) reported a SARS-CoV-2 infection. Children were more often infected than adults, and most people got infected during the period when the Delta and the Omicron variant were dominant. Most people only had mild symptoms and 14% of reported no symptoms. 4 people were treated in hospital, but no one needed intensive care, and there were no deaths

reported. People who were infected during the time when the Delta variant was dominant reported more symptoms than during other periods.

What does it mean?

At the start of the pandemic, it was unclear if people with PCD were at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease. However, our results suggest that this is not the case as less people with PCD got infected with SARS-CoV-2 than the general population, and symptoms were mostly mild. This may well be because people with PCD were cautious to avoid infection by using facemasks in public for example, and got vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as they were able to.

Further information: www.covid19pcd.ispm.ch

Full article reference: Pedersen ESL, Schreck LD, Goutaki M, Bellu S, Copeland F, Lucas JS, Zwahlen M, COVID-PCD patient advisory group, Kuehni CE. Incidence and severity of SARS-CoV-2 infections in people with primary ciliary dyskinesia. Preprint: medRxiv 2022.10.14. 2228 1075; doi: 10.1101/2022.10.14.22281075.

You can find the full article in English [here](#).

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