

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

Manuscript NO: 90025

Title: Psychiatric outcomes in outpatients affected by long COVID: A link between mental health and persistence of olfactory complaint

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 07701203

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: France

Manuscript submission date: 2023-12-03

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-21 05:21

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-28 09:15

Review time: 7 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors did a prospective case-control study, involved 34 participants with post-COVID-19 olfactory complaints and 32 participants in the control group. Their findings contribute to the understanding of the intricate relationship between psychiatric history and persistent olfactory complaints in post-COVID-19 patients. They proposed that individuals with a psychiatric history may be at increased risk of developing long-term anosmia after COVID-19 infection. Major comments Abstract— “a psychiatric diagnosis may be an independent contributor to the risk of COVID-19”, – what psychiatric diagnosis? The diagnosis can be a contributor ? You mean risk of long COVID-19? Sorry for confused. Methods—Study registration “Patients where mainly self-referred or referred by general practitioners or colleagues. Patients had either a RT-PCR-proven SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis or a CT-proven SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis secondarily confirmed by serology.” Population “Patients had either an olfactory complaint for over 6 weeks and a molecular-proven SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis or a CT-proven SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis secondarily confirmed by serology.” Are these two parts repetitive with a careful ask? “Patients without persistent olfactory disorders were

recruited at the university infectiology department during the same period.” Is the degree and symptom intensity of COVID-19 infection basically the same between the two groups? “Patients had olfactory complaint for over 6 weeks”. The time of infection with COVID-19 is consistent with the time of olfactory complaint? Mention whether other factors affecting the olfactory system have been ruled out. Result— The average age of the subjects in the two groups was 40.5 ± 12.9 and 61.2 ± 12.2 years. Is age the baseline of the two groups in statistics? Or trying to explain the influence of age on olfactory complaint and psychiatric diagnosis? Due to the files downloaded from the website, the manuscript I saw may have different formats from what you uploaded. Please check that the format of Form 1 complies with the requirements of the magazine. Perhaps the positive results can be represented by figures such as the percentage of previous psychological history between the two groups. “subjective olfactory impairment (qualitative and quantitative dysosmia), the visual analogue scale (VAS) for the subjective assessment of olfactory recovery (ranging from 0% to 100%)” Maybe these data could be used for statistics or discussions to enrich the article? Discussion—“Out results suggests that psychiatric history and certain psychological conditions such as stressful events were more common in patients with persistent olfactory complaints, despite the fact that subjects without persistent anosmia were significantly older, thus more likely, in terms of lifespan, to have a psychiatric history or to have been exposed to trauma/stressors.” “Out” to “our”? I didn't see the influence of age in the results. I advise the author to be cautious about the influence of life span. The sample size of this experiment is small. participates were recruited in different facilities. Whether the age is a variable to be controlled rather than an influence factor? When discussing age, you may need a lot of data to explain. “Moreover, in a large systematic review, Rogers et al., (2020) emphasize the possibility of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other neuropsychiatric syndromes after COVID-19 and, once infected, people with

pre-existing mental disorders are at high risk of experiencing persistent symptoms of COVID.” There is no statistical significance in the data of PTSD in the author's study. It is suggested to discuss why the results are different. If there are relevant requirements for submission, it is suggested to write a part about authors' contributions. Please check the grammar mistakes in the article.