care. In Vienna, the admission of SARS-CoV-2 positive psychiatric patients has been centralised in one department, the 1st Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapeutic Medicine, Klinik Hietzing.
Objectives: It will be investigated to what extent the admissions of SARS-CoV-2 positive and negative patients differ with regard to age, gender, diagnosis, need for involuntary admission, medication, duration of treatment, country of birth and the question of where the patients come from and where they are discharged to.
Methods: Between 15 March 2020 and 21 May 2022 (start and end of cohorting of all Vienna SARS-CoV-2 positive inpatient psychiatric patients in one department), 338 SARS-CoV-2 positive and 1312 SARS-CoV-2 negative patients were treated as inpatients at the 1st Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapeutic Medicine of the Klinik Hietzing.
Results: The results of the study will be shown.
Conclusions: The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has presented an outstanding challenge to inpatient psychiatry. An accurate portrayal of differences in the treatment of positive and negative patients is of importance for assessing the impact of the pandemic.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

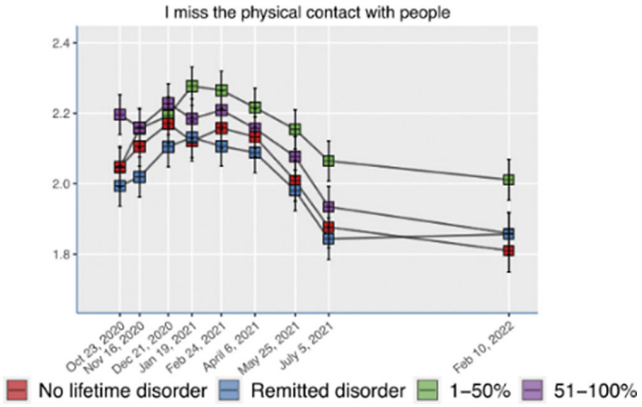
EPP0672

Touch hunger: trajectory and predictors of longing for physical contact during the COVID-19 pandemic in people with and without psychiatric disorders

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Introduction: Little is known about touch hunger (longing for physical contact) during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for people with pre-existing mental health disorders.
Objectives: We aim to investigate the dynamics of touch hunger in people with and without depressive, anxiety, or obsessive-compulsive disorders during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the potential predictors for touch hunger during lockdown.
Methods: Data were aggregated from three Dutch ongoing prospective cohorts with similar methodology for data collection. We included participants with pre-pandemic data gathered during 2006–2016, and who completed up to 9 online questionnaires between October 2020 and February 2022. We compared trajectories between subgroups with different pre-pandemic chronicity of disorders and healthy controls using linear mixed models. Sociodemographic, clinical (number and type of mental health disorders, personality traits) and COVID-19-related variables were analysed as predictors of touch hunger using multivariate linear regression analyses.
Results: We included 1061 participants with (n = 811) and without (n = 250) mental health disorders. In all groups, touch hunger increased during lockdown (Fig. 1). Extraversion (β = 0.256, P <0.001), social distancing due to COVID-19 anxiety (β = 0.122, P = 0.001) and death of a close contact from COVID-19 (β = 0.073, P = 0.02) predicted higher touch hunger, while living with a partner (β = -0.109, P = 0.004) or with a partner and children (β = -0.147, P <0.001) were protective factors for touch hunger. Remarkably, pre-pandemic mental disorders did not predict touch hunger during lockdown.
Image:



Conclusions: Social distancing measures have important psychological and emotional implications, as our study showed an increase in touch hunger during lockdown, which did not differ between people with and without mental health disorders. Extroverted individuals may benefit most from interventions aimed at addressing their need for physical contact during times of crisis.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0673

Pain, fatigability and cognitive impairment in log-COVID: a cohort study

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Introduction: Survivors of the pandemic of COVID-19 suffered from multiple sequelae long time after recovery, such as tiredness and memory dysfunction, affecting daily life activities.
Objectives: To assess fatigability, cognitive impairment and the severity of pain in long-COVID.
Methods: We conducted a prospective cohort study including 121 Tunisian COVID-19 inpatients who had been discharged alive from hospital. Each enrolled patient was asked about the period before the hospital stay, and the 6-9 month-period after hospital discharge, using *the visual analog scale* (*VAS*), *self-completed* unidimensional scale and yes/ no question about fatigability and cognitive impairments.
Results: The median age of participants was 59 years, with extreme values ranging from 18 to 80. Among them, 51.2% were females.

Our findings showed a significant increase in VAS score after COVID infection (3.82 vs 1.69; p<0.001). Sixty-eight (56.2%) participants reported spontaneously fatigability after the infection and 52 (43%) reported spontaneously a deterioration in memory capacity either with or without previous memory dysfunction. Fatigability was statistically associated to cognitive impairment (55.9% vs 26.4%; P= 0.02). In addition, fatigability and cognitive impairment were statistically associated with pain (P=0.001 and P= 0.022 respectively).
There was no significative association of fatigability nor cognitive impairment with the gender of the survivors.
Conclusions: The clinician should keep in mind to screen for possible somatic or psychological distress, in particular pain, fatigability and cognitive impairment even after resolution of the COVID infection, in order to guarantee a better quality of life.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0675

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of hospital employees: single center experience

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Introduction: Hospital employees are at high risk of developing mental health issues during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Indeed, several studies have shown increased rates of anxiety, depression, stress, and other mental health issues but existing studies show inconsistencies, and each country has some local specificities.
Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on various aspects of the mental health of hospital employees (health workers and non-health workers) from Croatia.
Methods: This cross-sectional questionnaire study was conducted from February to April 2023 period. A validated, anonymous questionnaire that contained questions regarding demographic data, as well as the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), the Zung Self-Rating Anxiety Scale, and the Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale was self-administered to a convenient sample of hospital employees from one general hospital in northwestern Croatia.
Results: The study sample included 360 subjects with a median age of 42 years (interquartile range 35-50), 24.7% males, and 75.3% females. According to the PSQI, 21.1% of subjects presented sleep disturbances. According to the Zung Self-Rating Anxiety Scale, there were 39.4% of subjects with anxiety while according to the Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale, there were 6.4% of subjects with depression. Sleep disturbances were more frequent among subjects who considered their socioeconomic status as under average (p=0.040), and among health workers in comparison to non-health workers employed in hospital (p=0.040). Anxiety was more frequent among females (p=0.010), and subjects with lower levels of education (only elementary school) (p=0.040). Depression was more frequent among females (p=0.030).
Conclusions: The COVID-19 pandemic has a significant negative influence on the mental health of hospital employees where health workers in comparison to non-health workers, females, subjects with lower levels of education, and subjects who considered their socioeconomic status as under average are more prone to the development of investigated mental health issues. The development of appropriate supportive programs that enhance the mental health of all hospital employees during pandemics is needed to address mental health issues in this vulnerable population.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

EPP0678

Understanding the Traumatic Impact of Serious Chronic Illness

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Introduction: The diagnosis of a severe chronic illness represents a deeply impactful traumatic event, frequently giving rise to initial adverse consequences that can manifest as post-traumatic stress. The duration and characteristics of these effects exhibit considerable variation among individuals.
Objectives: This study aims to explore the levels of post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic growth, and psychosocial adaptation among individuals coping with chronic diseases.
Methods: This cross-sectional study involved 92 participants with chronic illnesses, recruited through convenience and snowball sampling. Data collection utilized an online questionnaire that included both demographic questions to provide a comprehensive understanding of participants' experiences, as well as psychometric scales for measuring post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic growth, and psychosocial adaptation.
Instruments used :
1.PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5)
2.Posttraumatic Growth Inventory (PTGI) and Tedeschi and Calhoun Posttraumatic Growth Inventory (TCGI).
3.Psychosocial Adjustment to Illness Scale (PAIS).
Analysis included descriptive statistics and inductive analysis using SPSS ($p < 0.05$). Ethical considerations were observed, with informed consent and data confidentiality.
Results: The study revealed the presence of low to moderate levels of post-traumatic stress (M= 2.45), moderate levels of post-traumatic growth (M= 2.90), and moderate levels of psychosocial adaptation in various aspects of participants' lives, including work (M= 2.36), sexuality (M= 2.11), sociability (M= 2.28), relationships with partners and family members (M= 1.92), and perception of their health (M= 1.94). Furthermore, the overall psychosocial situation of the participants was found to range from low to moderate (M= 2.48). Notably, individuals with fewer chronic illnesses tended to experience lower levels of post-traumatic stress and exhibited less adaptation in their work. Additionally, higher levels of post-traumatic growth were observed in women and patients with higher educational backgrounds. The analysis revealed a positive and statistically