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ROMA
HILTON ROME AIRPORT

LONG COVID

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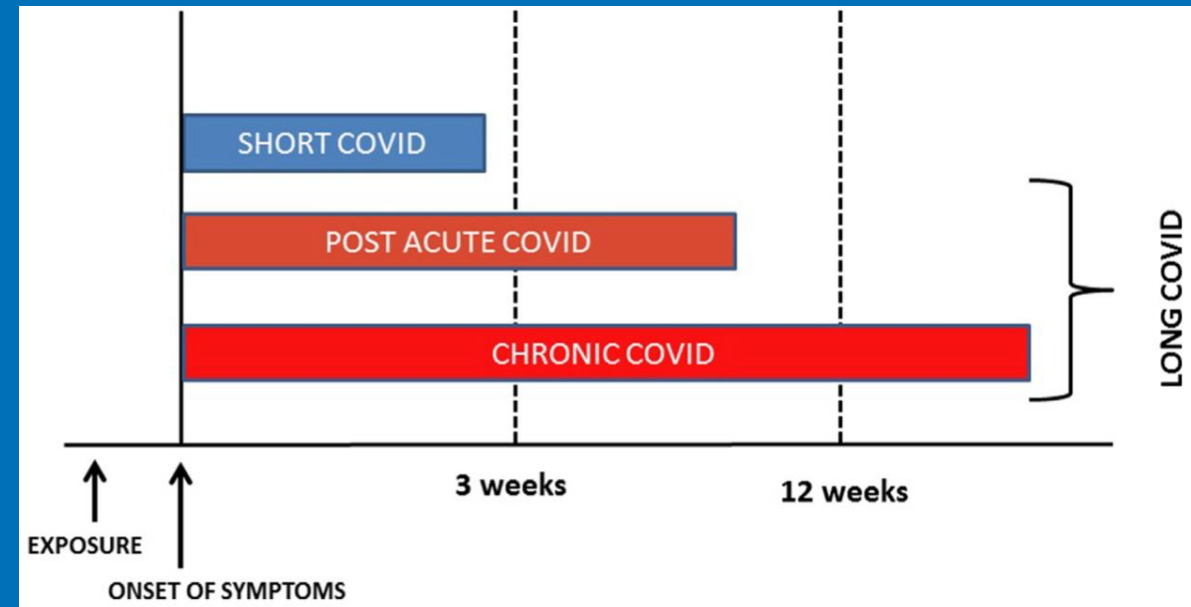
30.09.2021



Definizione di LONG COVID

wide range of health consequences that are present four or more weeks after infection with SARS-CoV-2

- **Malattia COVID-19 sintomatica persistente**
segni e sintomi attribuibili al COVID-19 di durata compresa tra 4 e 12 settimane dopo l'evento acuto
- **Sindrome post-COVID-19**
segni e sintomi che si sono sviluppati durante o dopo un'infezione compatibile con il COVID-19, presenti per più di 12 settimane dopo l'evento acuto e non spiegabili con diagnosi alternative



- Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews 15 (2021) 869e875
- Rapporto ISS COVID-19 n. 15/2021

Epidemiologia

- the accurate reporting of long covid is complicated
- various incidence rates: 76% of people at 6 months (Huang et al. 2021)
32.6% at 60 days (Chopra V et al. 2021)
87% at 60 days (Carfi, Bernabei & Landi 2021)

Il più ampio degli studi, svolto nel Regno Unito dall'*Office for National Statistics* su un campione di oltre 20.000 persone, ha mostrato una prevalenza di sintomi del 13% oltre le 12 settimane post-infezione, con una prevalenza otto volte superiore a quella di un gruppo di controllo, un rischio maggiore nelle donne rispetto agli uomini (14,7% vs. 12,7%) e prevalenza più alta nel gruppo di età 25-34 (18,2%) (41).

In un altro studio svolto nel Regno Unito su oltre 4.000 soggetti (*COVID Symptom Study*), la prevalenza è risultata più bassa, pari al 13% a 4 settimane, del 4,5% oltre le 8 settimane e del 2,3% oltre le 12 settimane. Long-COVID si manifestava con astenia, cefalea, dispnea e anosmia, e il rischio aumentava per i soggetti con un alto indice di massa corporea e per il genere femminile (47). In uno studio osservazionale svolto su pazienti dimessi da 38 ospedali statunitensi, la persistenza di sintomi a sessanta giorni interessava circa un terzo dei 488 soggetti che avevano risposto all'indagine, con dispnea come sintomo più frequente, seguito

Epidemiologia

- grande variabilità di sintomi e segni clinici
- singolarmente o in diverse combinazioni
- transitori o intermittenti
- cambiare nel tempo, oppure possono essere costanti
- più **grave** è stata la malattia acuta, maggiore rischia di essere l'**entità dei sintomi**
- anche persone che hanno avuto in fase acuta unicamente sintomi lievi

Anche in pediatria

- Young children are much less likely to develop severe illness, due to lower levels of expression of receptors
- multisystem inflammatory condition with some features of Kawasaki disease and toxic shock syndrome (Moreira, 2020)
- case series of five children, median age of 12 years, persisting symptoms for 6–8 months (Ludvigsson, 2020)
- **United Kingdom** study of 651 children admitted to hospital with COVID-19, median age was 4.6 years, 11% of children had a systematic mucocutaneous-enteric cluster of symptoms

Va sottolineato che tale sintomatologia potrebbe anche essere dovuta alle conseguenze indirette del COVID-19 nel lungo periodo, fra cui l'isolamento sociale e le ricadute socioeconomiche della pandemia sulle famiglie (43, 44). Infatti la salute dei bambini può risultare profondamente influenzata da modifiche delle

RISK FACTORS

March-June 2020 *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:993-8. doi:10.15585

TABLE 1. Characteristics of symptomatic outpatients with SARS-CoV-2 real-time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)—positive test results (N = 270)* who reported returning to usual state of health or not returning to usual state of health at an interview conducted 14–21 days after testing — 14 academic health care systems,[†] United States, March–June 2020

Characteristic	Total	Returned to usual health, no. (row %)		P-value [§]
		Yes (n = 175)	No (n = 95)	
Sex				0.14
Women	140	85 (61)	55 (39)	
Men	130	90 (69)	40 (31)	
Age group (yrs)				0.010
18–34	85	63 (74)	22 (26)	
35–49	96	65 (68)	31 (32)	
≥50	89	47 (53)	42 (47)	

ONS (Office for National Statistics- UK) reported that:

the prevalence of any long covid symptoms is higher in women compared with men (23.6% versus 20.7%),

while the age group estimated to be most greatly affected by long covid symptoms is 35-49 years (26.8%), followed by 50-69 years (26.1%), and the ≥70 years group (18%)

RISK FACTORS

more severe acute phase may transform into the development of more severe symptoms of long covid
Int J Clin Pract 2021;75:e13746

patients with more than five symptoms during the initial covid-19 infection and those that required hospital admission more likely to experience long covid symptoms. *Nat Med* 2021;27:626-31

pre-existence of asthma *Nat Med* 2021;27:626-31

March-June 2020 *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:993-8. doi:10.15585

No. of medical conditions (7 missing)					0.003
0	123	87 (71)	36 (29)		
1	57	41 (72)	16 (28)		
2	39	21 (54)	18 (46)		
≥3	44	19 (43)	25 (57)		
Individual medical conditions (7 missing all) [¶]					
Hypertension	64	33 (52)	31 (48)	OR 1.3	0.018
Obesity (body mass index >30 kg/m ²)	51	23 (45)	28 (55)	OR 2.31	0.002
Psychiatric condition	49	23 (47)	26 (53)	OR 2.32	0.007
Asthma	36	23 (64)	13 (36)		0.99
Diabetes	28	16 (57)	12 (43)		0.43
Immunosuppressive condition	15	6 (40)	9 (60)	OR 2.33	0.047

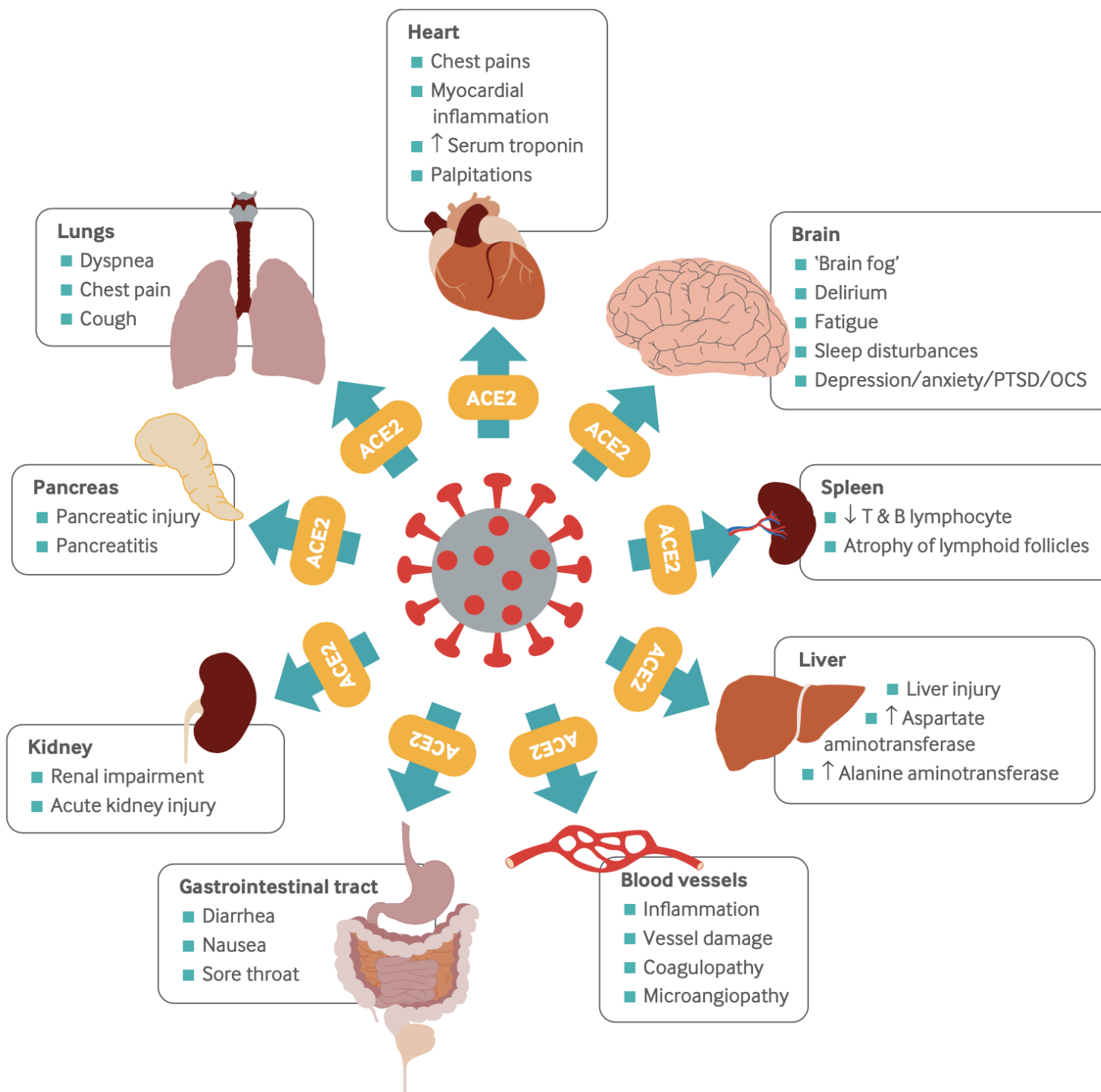
Summary of selected studies on the prevalence of Long COVID in nonhospitalized patients

COUNTRY	STUDY	SAMPLE	NUMBER OF CASES INCLUDED	RESULTS
United Kingdom	Office for National Statistics (2020)	Population representative	8 193	• 21% had symptoms 5 weeks after infection • 10% had symptoms 12 weeks after infection
	Sudre et al. (2020)	COVID Symptom App users (out of which 14% were hospitalized)	4 182	• 13% of cases had symptoms lasting 28 days after symptom onset • 5% of cases had symptoms for over 8 weeks and 2% for over 12 weeks after symptom onset
	Townsend et al. (2020)	Hospital outpatients (out of which 56% were hospitalized)	127	• 52% reported persistent fatigue at 10 weeks after symptom onset
USA	Tenforde et al. (2020)	Hospital outpatients (out of which 7% were hospitalized)	292	• 35% had symptoms after a median of 16 days after testing positively for SARS-CoV-2 infection
Switzerland	Nehme et al. (2020)	Hospital outpatients	669	• About 33% of cases had symptoms 30–45 days after diagnosis
The Netherlands and Belgium	Goërtz et al. (2020) ^b	Facebook group for coronavirus patients with persistent complaints (out of which 5% were hospitalized)	2 113	• Over 99% infected individuals did not fully recover within 12 weeks after symptom onset

Summary of selected studies on the prevalence of Long COVID in hospitalized patients postdischarge

COUNTRY	STUDY	NUMBER OF CASES INCLUDED	RESULTS
Canada	Wong et al. (2020)	78	• 51% had persistently reduced quality of life and 50% had shortness of breath at 12 weeks after symptom onset
France	Carvalho-Schneider et al. (2020)	130	• 40% reported persistent fatigue and 30% breathlessness at 60 days after symptom onset
Italy	Carfi, Bernabei & Landi (2020)	143	• 87% had symptoms, 55% had three or more symptoms at 60 days after discharge
United Kingdom	Cruz et al. (2020)	119	• 68% reported persistent fatigue, 57% sleep disturbance and 32% breathlessness at 60 days after discharge
	Arnold et al. (2020)	110	• 74% had persistent symptoms, typically breathlessness and fatigue and 10% had persistent anomalies on chest X-ray or respiratory function testing at 12 weeks after discharge
USA	Donnelly et al. (2020)	2 179	• 19.9% were readmitted, 9.1% died and 27% were readmitted or died within 60 days after discharge
China	Huang et al. (2021)	1 733	• 76% reported persistent symptoms, and 50% had residual anomalies on chest imaging 6 months after discharge

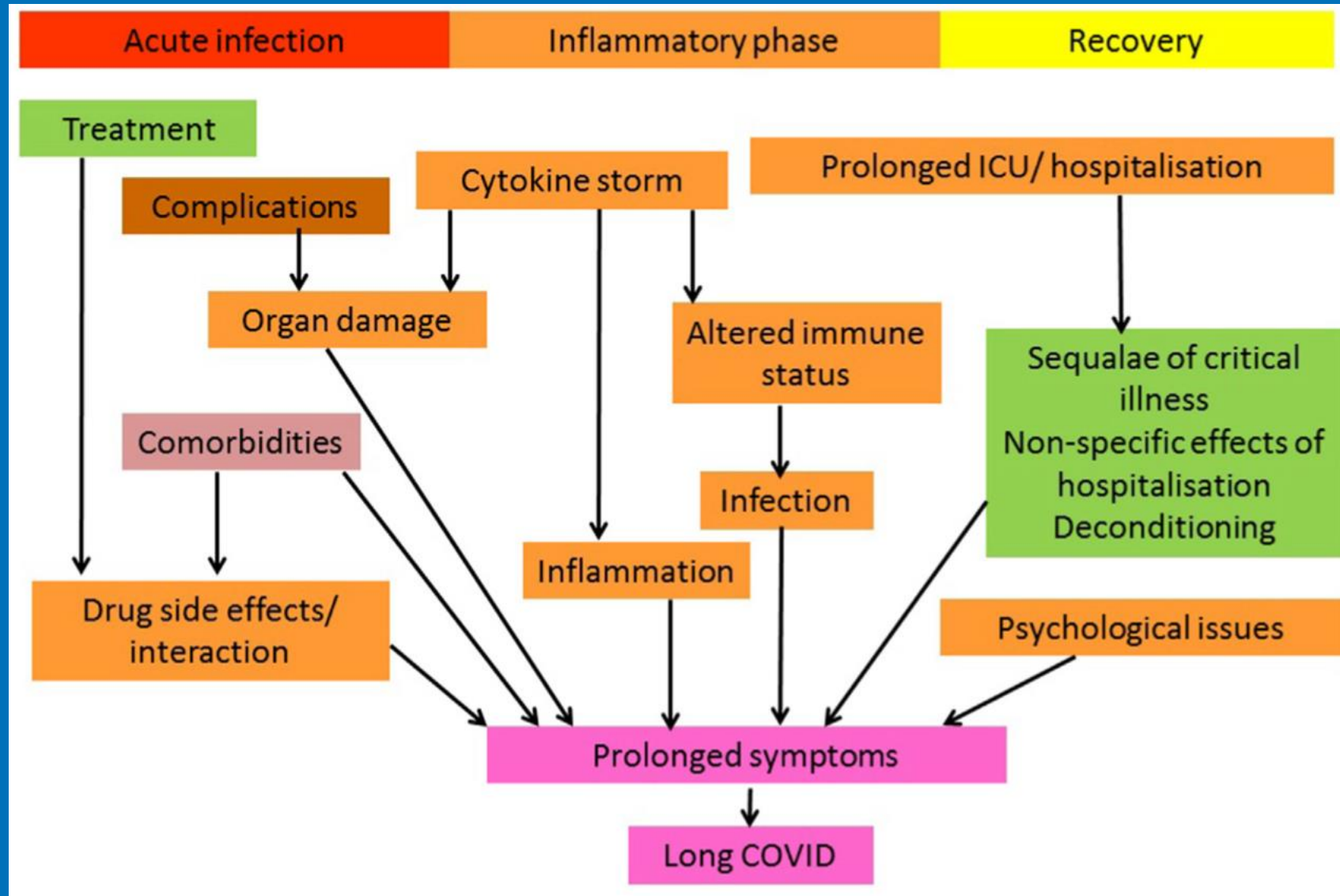
Fisiopatologia



The SARS-CoV-2 virus gains entry into the cells of multiple organs via the ACE2 receptor.

Once these cells have been invaded, the virus can cause a multitude of damage ultimately leading to numerous persistent symptoms.

The exact mechanism behind the persistence of symptoms has to be identified.



Manifestazioni generali

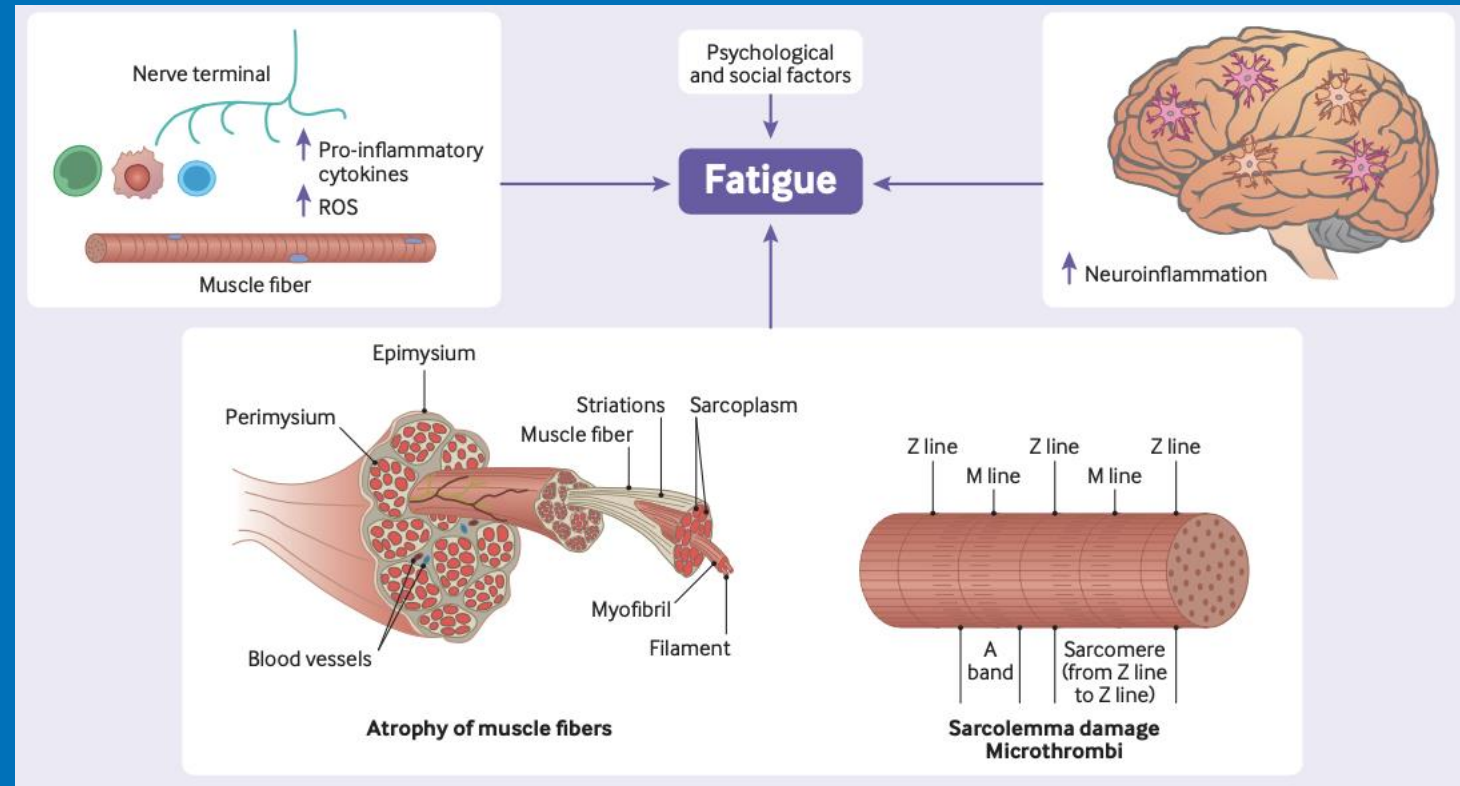
Manifestazioni	Caratteristiche
Generali	- Fatica persistente/Astenia - Stanchezza eccessiva - Febbre - Debolezza muscolare - Dolori diffusi - Mialgie - Artralgie - Peggioramento dello stato di salute percepito - Anoressia, riduzione dell'appetito - Sarcopenia

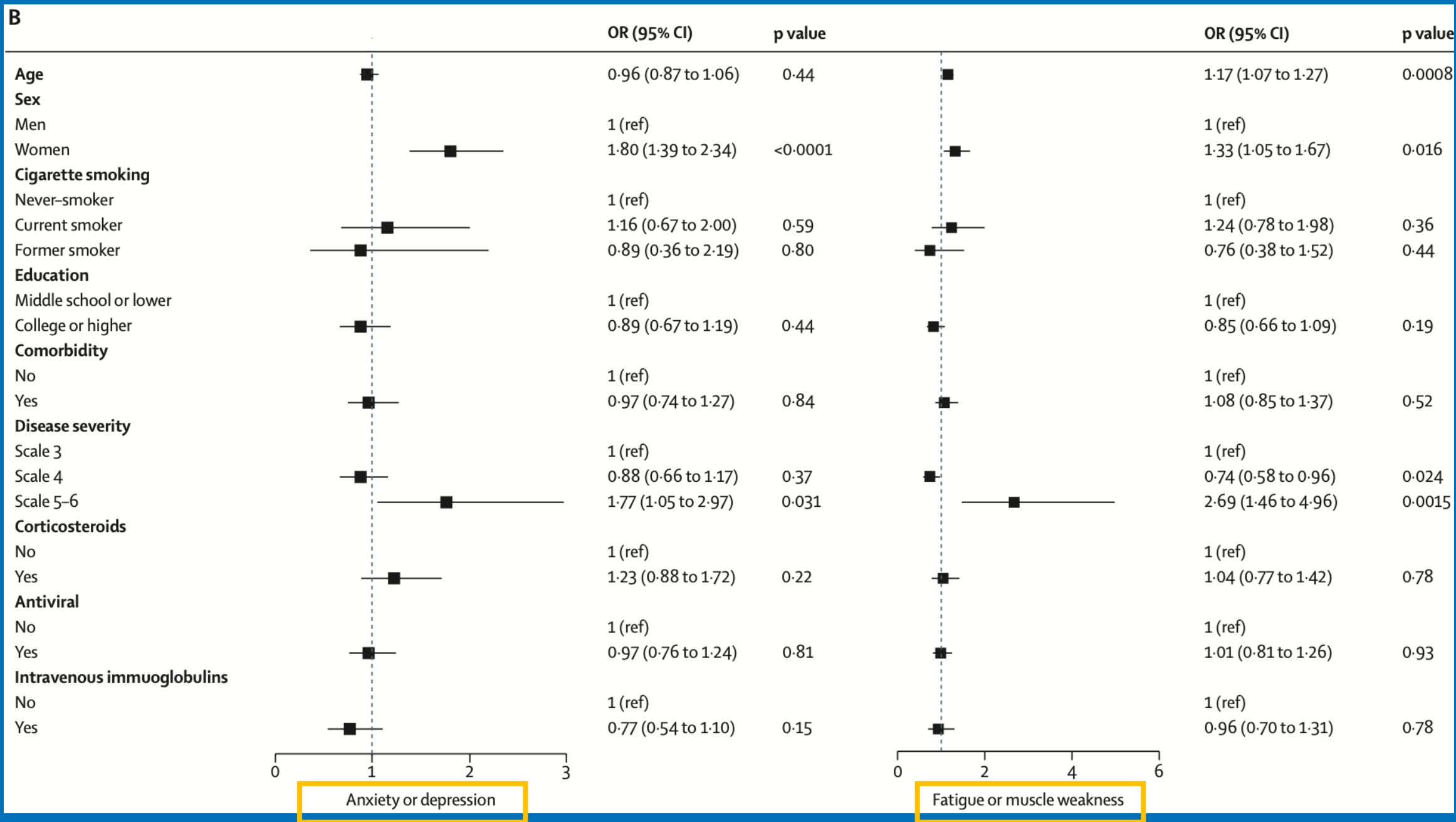
	Total (n=1733)	OR or β (95% CI)	
		Scale 4 vs 3	Scale 5-6 vs 3
Symptoms			
Any one of the following symptoms	1265/1655 (76%)	OR 0.70 (0.52 to 0.96)*	OR 2.42 (1.15 to 5.08)*
Fatigue or muscle weakness	1038/1655 (63%)	OR 0.74 (0.58 to 0.96)*	OR 2.69 (1.46 to 4.96)*
Sleep difficulties	437/1655 (26%)	OR 0.92 (0.71 to 1.21)	OR 1.15 (0.68 to 1.94)
Hair loss	359/1655 (22%)	OR 0.99 (0.74 to 1.31)	OR 1.17 (0.67 to 2.04)
Smell disorder	176/1655 (11%)	OR 0.69 (0.48 to 1.00)	OR 0.90 (0.43 to 1.87)
Palpitations	154/1655 (9%)	OR 0.86 (0.58 to 1.28)	OR 1.31 (0.61 to 2.80)
Joint pain	154/1655 (9%)	OR 0.56 (0.38 to 0.83)*	OR 0.74 (0.36 to 1.50)
Decreased appetite	138/1655 (8%)	OR 0.84 (0.56 to 1.27)	OR 1.56 (0.71 to 3.43)
Taste disorder	120/1655 (7%)	OR 0.84 (0.54 to 1.30)	OR 0.80 (0.32 to 2.02)
Dizziness	101/1655 (6%)	OR 0.77 (0.48 to 1.22)	OR 0.95 (0.39 to 2.31)
Diarrhoea or vomiting	80/1655 (5%)	OR 0.71 (0.42 to 1.22)	OR 0.39 (0.11 to 1.42)
Chest pain	75/1655 (5%)	OR 0.94 (0.52 to 1.67)	OR 2.55 (0.99 to 6.62)
Sore throat or difficult to swallow	69/1655 (4%)	OR 0.91 (0.50 to 1.65)	OR 1.21 (0.40 to 3.73)
Skin rash	47/1655 (3%)	OR 0.64 (0.32 to 1.26)	OR 0.71 (0.18 to 2.87)
Myalgia	39/1655 (2%)	OR 0.80 (0.38 to 1.69)	OR 1.72 (0.47 to 6.27)
Headache	33/1655 (2%)	OR 0.76 (0.35 to 1.69)	OR 1.53 (0.36 to 6.52)
Low grade fever	2/1655 (<1%)	NA	NA

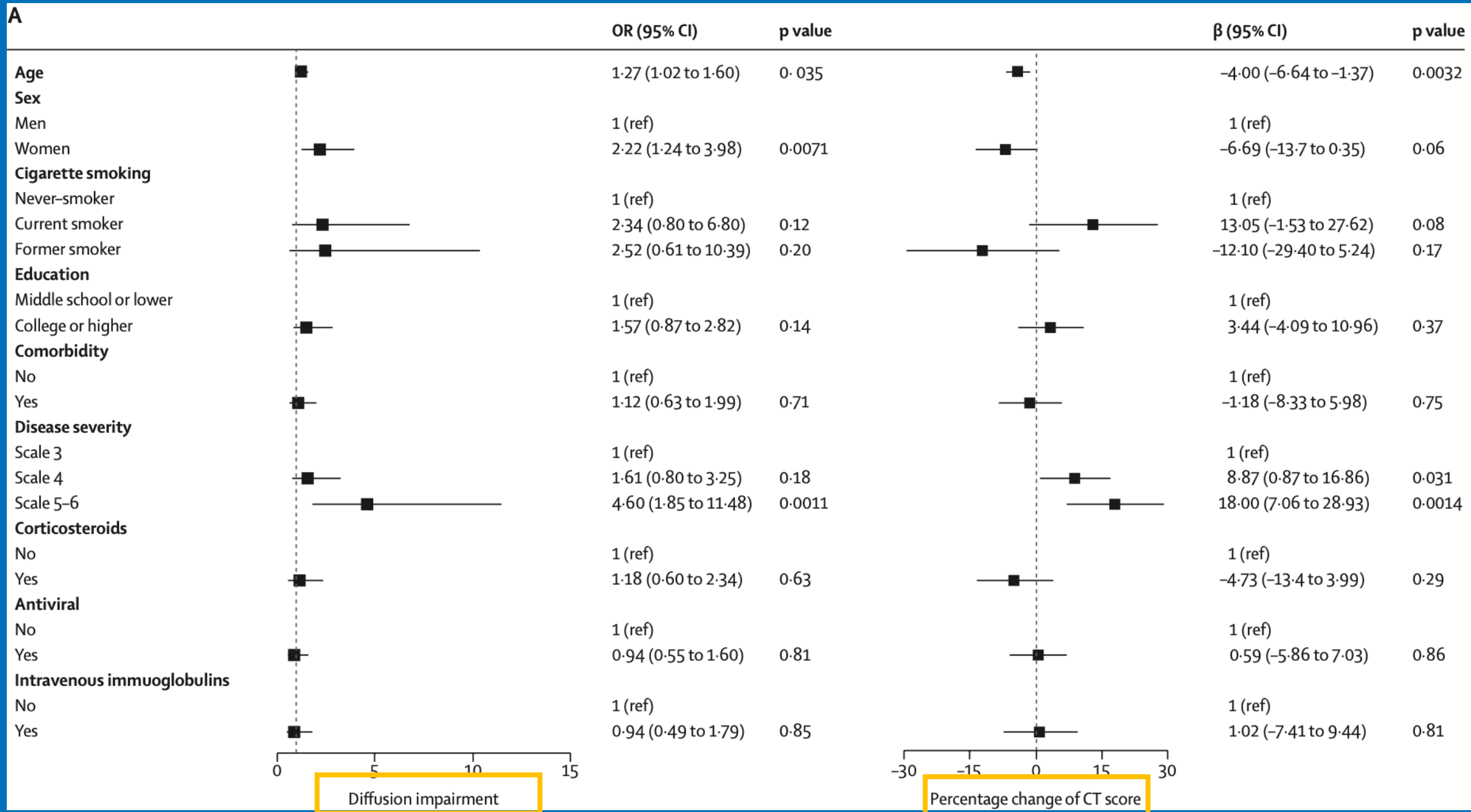
FATIGUE

- Fatigue is more profound than being overtired; it is unrelenting exhaustion and a constant state of weariness that reduces a person's energy, motivation, and concentration.
- may be the result of miscommunication in the inflammatory response pathways
- range of central, peripheral, and psychological factors

- ONS- five week prevalence of fatigue 11.9%
- regardless of severity of the acute stage
- Huang et al. (2021)
1038/1655 (63%)
OR 2.69 (1.96 to 4.96)







Manifestazioni organo-specifiche

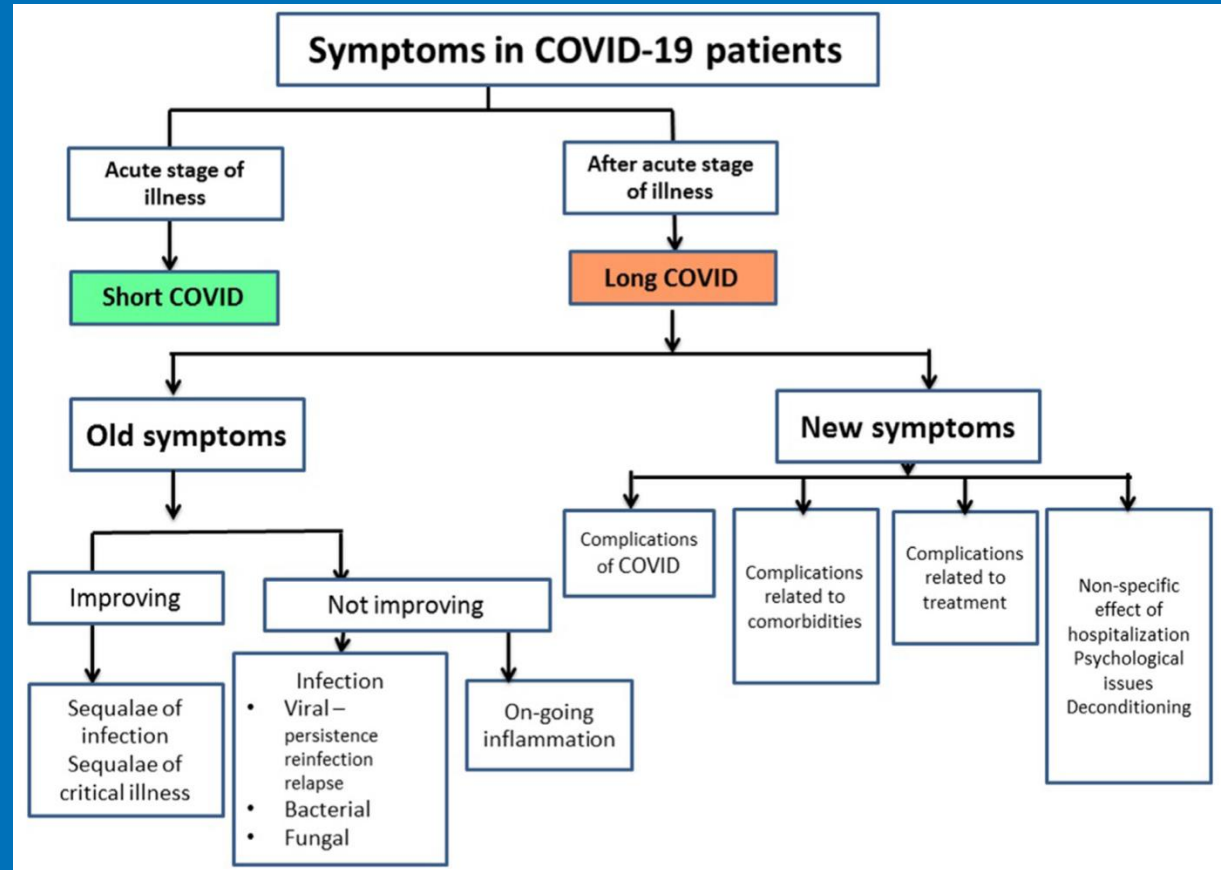
- POLMONARI Dispnea/Affanno, Tosse persistente
- CARDIOVASCOLARI Senso di oppressione toracica, Dolore toracico, Palpitazioni, Tachicardia, Aritmie, Variazione della pressione arteriosa
- NEUROLOGICHE
 - Manifestazioni del sistema nervoso centrale:* Cefalea (spesso refrattaria agli antidolorifici), Deterioramento cognitivo (annebbiamento cerebrale o *brain fog*), Difficoltà di concentrazione e attenzione, Problemi di memoria, Difficoltà nelle funzioni esecutive, Vertigini, Disturbi del sonno, Disautonomia (ipotensione ortostatica)
 - Manifestazioni del sistema nervoso periferico:* Formicolio e intorpidimento (neuropatie periferiche), Perdita di gusto e olfatto
 - Manifestazioni neurologiche rare* (complicanze della fase acuta dell'infezione COVID-19 che potrebbero comportare un danno neurologico permanente): Eventi cerebrovascolari acuti (ictus ischemico/emorragico), Crisi epilettiche, Meningite/encefalite, Mielopatia/mielite, Sindrome di Guillain-Barré, di Miller Fisher, polinevriti craniche, malattia demielinizzante del sistema nervoso centrale
- PSICHIATRICHE/PSICOLOGICHE Depressione, Ansia, Sindrome da stress post-traumatico (PTSD), Sintomi ossessivo-compulsivi, Delirium (negli anziani), Psicosi

Manifestazioni organo-specifiche

- **GASTROINTESTINALI** Dolori addominali, Nausea, Vomito, Diarrea, Dispepsia, Eruttazione, Reflusso gastroesofageo, Distensione addominale
- **OTORINOLARINGOIATRICHE** Acufeni, Ootalgia, Mal di gola (faringodinia), Difficoltà a deglutire (disfagia), Disfonia
- **DERMATOLOGICHE** Eritema pernio, Eruzioni papulo-squamose, Rash morbilliformi, Eruzioni orticaroidi, Alopecia
- **EMATOLOGICHE** Tromboembolismo
- **RENALI** Ematuria e proteinuria (nefropatia)
- **ENDOCRINE** Diabete mellito di nuova insorgenza e tiroidite subacuta

La diagnosi di Long-COVID è prettamente clinica

- storia di COVID-19 + mancato recupero completo con lo sviluppo di alcuni dei sintomi
- distinto dalla sindrome post-terapia intensiva (Post-Intensive Care Syndrome, PICS)
- e dalla sindrome da fatica cronica
- incertezza nella diagnosi e una ampia variabilità nell'identificazione



Gestione

- **Identificazione del paziente con Long-COVID**
- **Valutazione multidimensionale**
- **Approccio multidisciplinare**
- **Assistenza nelle cure primarie**
 - Stratificazione per classi di rischio di sviluppare Long-COVID
 - Valutazione dei pazienti con sintomi sospetti di Long-COVID
 - Pianificazione del percorso assistenziale
- **Coinvolgimento del paziente e autogestione (*self-management*)**

Riferimenti

- **Indicazioni *ad interim* sui principi di gestione del Long-COVID** - Rapporto ISS COVID-19 n. 15/2021
- **WHO** -<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/339629/Policy-brief-39-1997-8073-eng.pdf>
- CDC- Evaluating and Caring for Patients with Post-COVID Conditions: Interim Guidance, Updated June 14, 2021
- NICE - COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing the long-term effects of COVID-19 NICE guideline [NG188] Published: 18 December 2020
- NIH RECOVER initiative

Post-acute effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection in individuals not requiring hospital admission: a Danish population-based cohort study

Lars Christian Lund, Jesper Hallas, Henrik Nielsen, Anders Koch, Stine Hasling Mogensen, Nikolai Constantin Brun, Christian Fynbo Christiansen, Reimar Wernich Thomsen, Anton Pottegård

Background Individuals admitted to hospital for COVID-19 might have persisting symptoms (so-called long COVID) and delayed complications after discharge. However, little is known regarding the risk for those not admitted to hospital. We therefore examined prescription drug and health-care use after SARS-CoV-2 infection not requiring hospital admission.

- Symptom persistence vary widely—eg, dyspnoea has been reported in 10–20% and up to 75% of patients
- Based on selected patient samples
- Did not have a control group

AIM

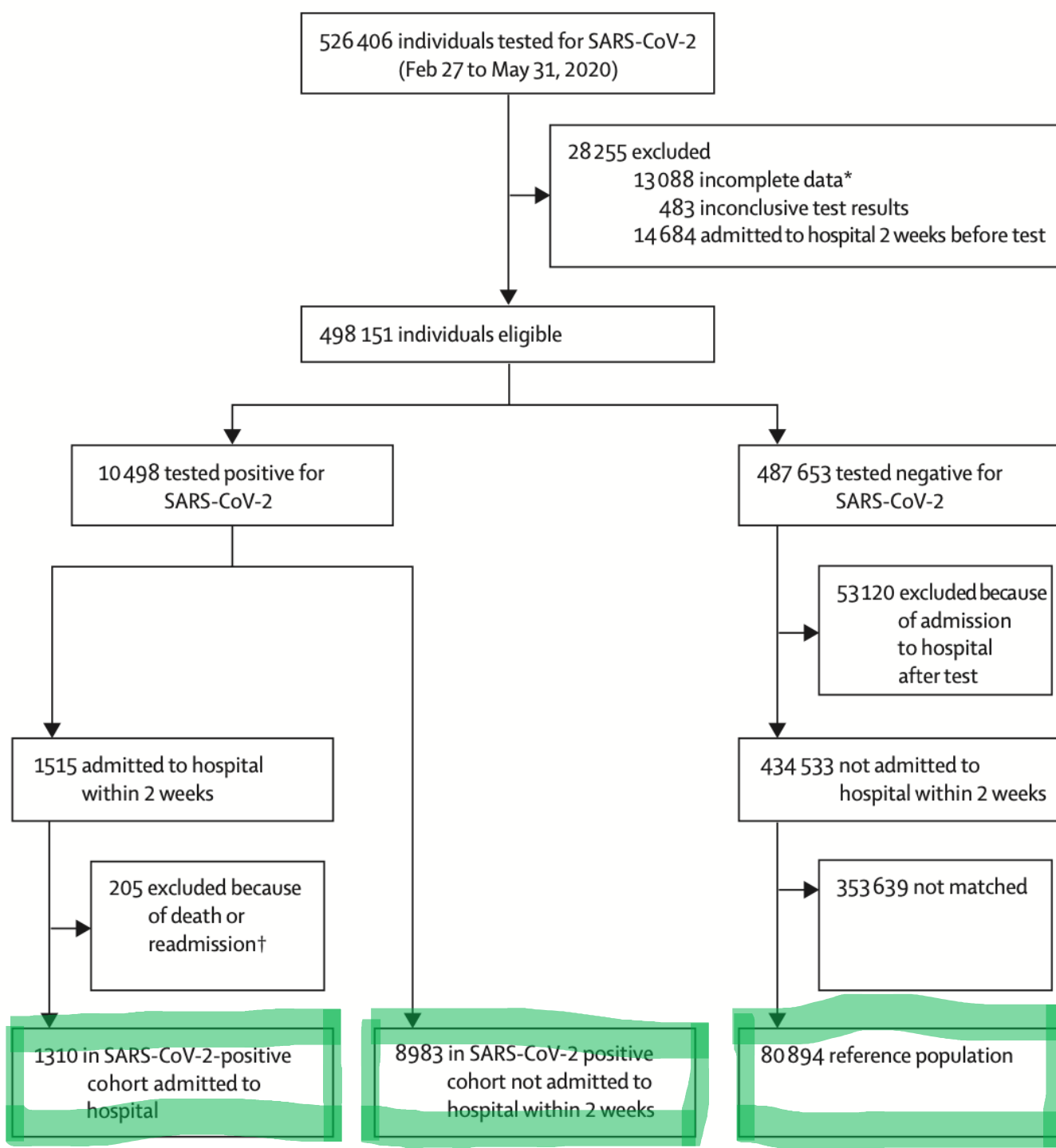
- occurrence of post-acute effects 2 weeks to 6 months after SARS-CoV-2 infection not requiring hospital admission
- initiation of specific drugs, hospital diagnoses, and overall frequency of health-care encounters

Methods

- Danish population-based cohort study used the Danish national health registries and the Danish COVID-19 cohort.
- positive or negative RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 in Denmark between Feb 27 and May 31, 2020
- NB. Danish testing strategy due to global shortage of reagents

Outcomes

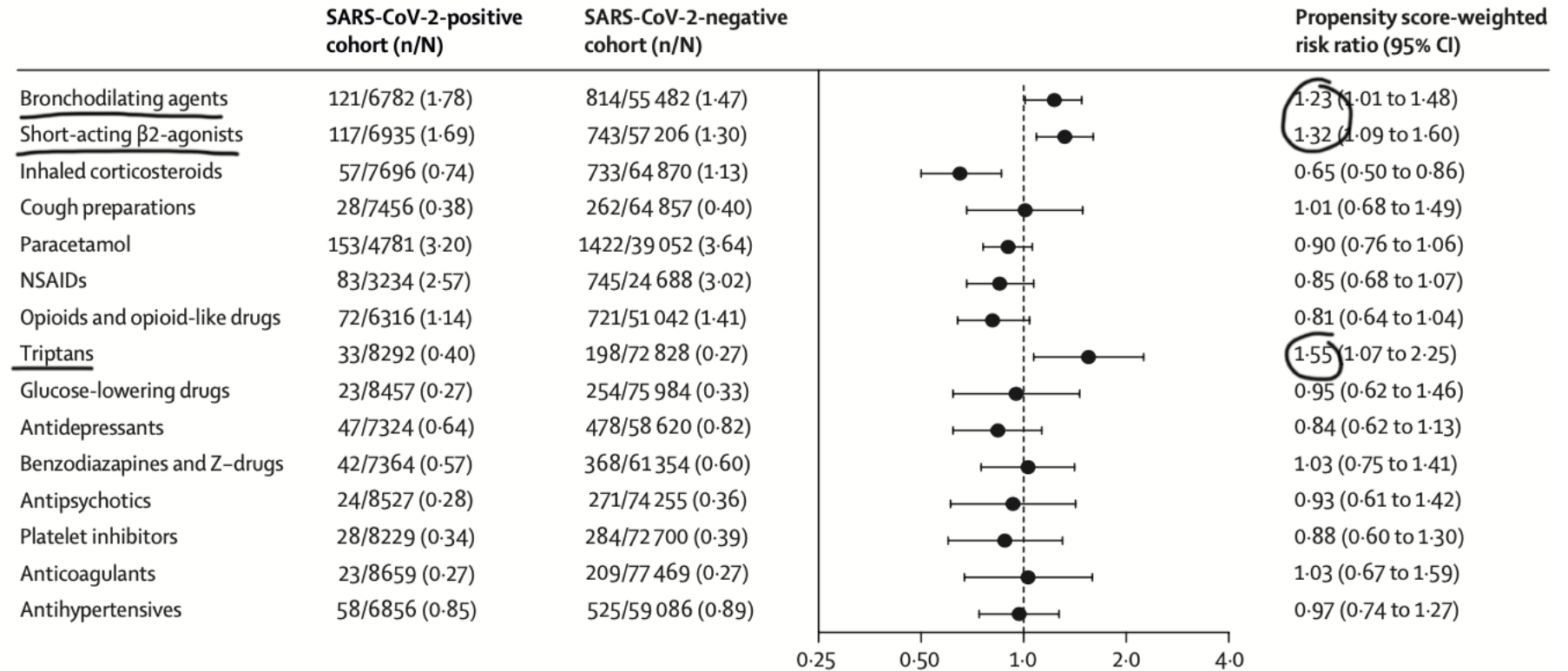
- delayed acute complications, chronic disease, persisting symptoms, and prescription drug use
- overall event rates of general practitioner visits, hospital outpatient visits, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions per 1000 individuals between 6 months and 2 weeks before a SARS-CoV-2 test and 2 weeks to 6 months after the test



BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

	SARS-CoV-2 positive (n=8983)	SARS-CoV-2 negative (n=80 894)	Standardised mean difference	SARS-CoV 2-negative, weighted (n=8977)*	Standardised mean difference, weighted
Demographics					
Age, median (IQR)	43 (30–56)	43 (29–56)	0.02	44 (30–56)	0.00
Age <18 years	584 (6.5%)	5662 (7.0%)	0.02	567 (6.3%)	0.01
Sex					
Female	5471 (60.9%)	51 631 (63.8%)	0.06	5479 (61.0%)	0.00
Male	3512 (39.1%)	29 263 (36.2%)	0.06	3498 (39.0%)	0.00
Tested before April 11, 2020	4342 (48.3%)	34 946 (43.2%)	0.10	4440 (49.5%)	0.02
Prescription drug use†					
Bronchodilating agents	757 (8.4%)	10 984 (13.6%)	0.17	1039 (11.6%)	0.10
Inhaled corticosteroids	531 (5.9%)	7160 (8.9%)	0.11	667 (7.4%)	0.06
Paracetamol	2257 (25.1%)	22 769 (28.1%)	0.07	2279 (25.4%)	0.01
NSAIDs	1485 (16.5%)	15 532 (19.2%)	0.07	1598 (17.8%)	0.03
Opioids and opioid-like drugs	591 (6.6%)	7340 (9.1%)	0.09	612 (6.8%)	0.01
Antidepressants	634 (7.1%)	8896 (11.0%)	0.14	798 (8.9%)	0.07
Benzodiazapines and Z-drugs	362 (4.0%)	4738 (5.9%)	0.08	419 (4.7%)	0.03
Antipsychotics	168 (1.9%)	2453 (3.0%)	0.08	163 (1.8%)	0.00
Platelet inhibitors	396 (4.4%)	4592 (5.7%)	0.06	425 (4.7%)	0.02
Anticoagulants	214 (2.4%)	2245 (2.8%)	0.02	209 (2.3%)	0.00
Loop diuretics	171 (1.9%)	2386 (2.9%)	0.07	180 (2.0%)	0.01
Lipid-lowering drugs	794 (8.8%)	7846 (9.7%)	0.03	790 (8.8%)	0.00
Lifestyle-related diagnoses					
Hospital diagnosis of obesity	682 (7.6%)	7745 (9.6%)	0.07	682 (7.6%)	0.00
Markers of smoking	246 (2.7%)	4548 (5.6%)	0.14	246 (2.7%)	0.00
Alcohol-related disorders	184 (2.0%)	3151 (3.9%)	0.11	184 (2.1%)	0.00
Mental health					
Depression	99 (1.1%)	1278 (1.6%)	0.04	78 (0.9%)	0.02
Anxiety disorders	197 (2.2%)	3240 (4.0%)	0.10	211 (2.3%)	0.01
Psychosis	39 (0.4%)	650 (0.8%)	0.05	35 (0.4%)	0.01
Frailty-related diagnoses					
Cancer	398 (4.4%)	4139 (5.1%)	0.03	399 (4.4%)	0.00
Dementia	69 (0.8%)	426 (0.5%)	0.03	71 (0.8%)	0.00
Chronic conditions					
Diabetes (type 1 or 2)‡	526 (5.9%)	4910 (6.1%)	0.01	529 (5.9%)	0.00
Hypertension†	2127 (23.7%)	21 808 (27.0%)	0.08	2132 (23.7%)	0.00
Cardiovascular disease	837 (9.3%)	9120 (11.3%)	0.06	839 (9.3%)	0.00
Peripheral vascular disease	44 (0.5%)	662 (0.8%)	0.04	56 (0.6%)	0.02
Pulmonary disease	788 (8.8%)	10 173 (12.6%)	0.12	788 (8.8%)	0.00
Kidney disease§	49 (0.5%)	555 (0.7%)	0.02	49 (0.5%)	0.00

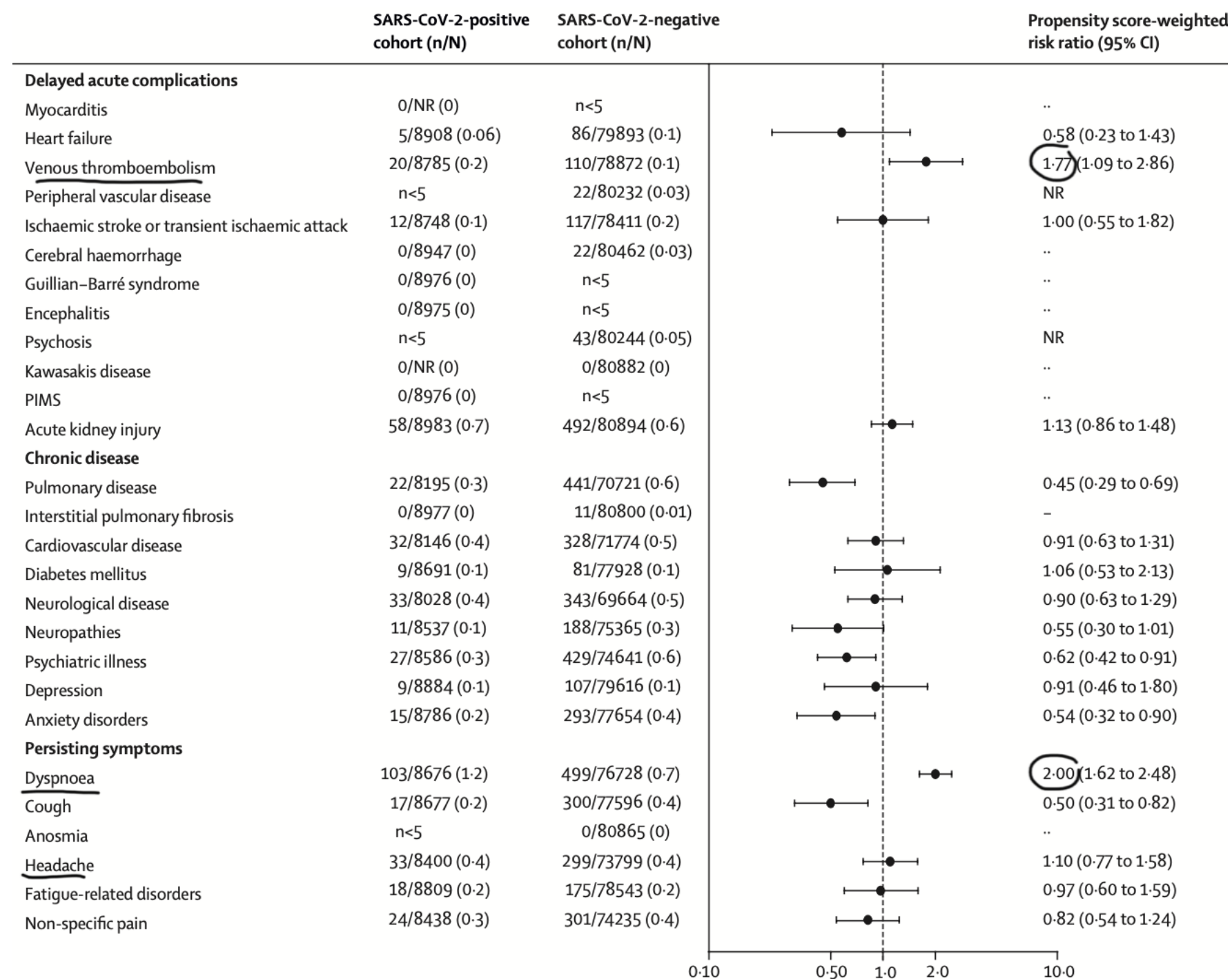
Results



- 2757/8983 SARS-CoV-2-positive (30.7%) initiated new drug treatments during follow-up compared with 28 525/ 80 894 SARS-CoV-2-negative (35.3%)
- increased risk of initiating bronchodilating agents
- and triptans

risks of receiving any new hospital diagnosis during follow-up were 26.3% (2362 of 8983) among SARS-CoV-2- positive individuals and 28.8% (23 314 of 80 894) among SARS-CoV-2-negative

increased risk of receiving a first diagnosis of dyspnoea and venous thromboembolism



Results

By the end of follow-up, 6557 (73·0%) of 8983 non- hospitalised individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection and 62 391 (77·1%) of 80 894 SARS-CoV-2-negative individuals had visited their general practitioner, were seen at a hospital outpatient clinic, or were admitted to hospital

Comparing overall health-care use between SARS- CoV-2-positive and SARS-CoV-2-negative individuals, we observed increased PERR-adjusted rate ratios for general practitioner visits (1·18 [95% CI 1·15–1·22]) and outpatient clinic visits (1·10 [1·05–1·16]) among SARS-CoV-2-positive individuals.



Grazie per l'attenzione