

8.15 Dysfunctional Breathing Phenotype in Post COVID Patients A Yunes¹, SF Raza¹, I Delagua¹, A Valenzona¹, M Rahaman¹, E Judge¹, J Faul¹, L Cormican¹, D Ampazis¹, A Subramaniam^{1,3}

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There is increasing awareness of dysfunctional breathing (DB) causing debilitating symptoms with negative impact on functional status and quality of life. Post COVID patients often present with persistent dyspnoea after acute illness and identifying DB in this cohort can help tailor management. We aimed to describe the DB phenotype in patients attending the post COVID clinic in our centre. A retrospective review was conducted on patients attending the service over 5 months. All patients were screened for DB using Nijmegen questionnaire (NQ) and results were correlated with age, gender, BMI and smoking status. 124 patients attended the service in this period, of which 25 patients (20%) had a positive NQ score, confirming DB. Mean age was 55 ± 13 years, and 68% were female. Majority had an elevated BMI; 20% were overweight and 64% were obese; mean BMI was 33 ± 10 kg/m². Fifty-two percent were either current or ex-smokers. In conclusion, DB is not uncommon in post COVID patients. It is more likely to be observed in female, younger patients and those with elevated BMI. Smoking status showed no relation with DB. Larger studies on DB phenotypes in post COVID patients would enable better recognition and timely treatment.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare