

8.16 Follow-Up of Survivors of Critical Illness Related to Covid-19 Infection; A Pilot study

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Recent improvements in ICU care has seen a significant increase in the number of patients surviving critical illness. However patients face a wide variety of challenges after discharge. Our study aimed to establish whether patients who had been admitted to an ICU with Covid- 19 pneumonia had persisting deficits 1 year after admission. We conducted a qualitative pilot study of patients that were admitted to the ICU from March 2020 to March 2021 with Covid- 19 infection. A structured interview approach was used to collect outcomes assessing physical, functional and psychological domains. 80% of patients reported that they had not returned to their pre-morbid activity level. 93.3% of patients reported at least one physical impairment. Only 45% of patients had returned to full time employment . A total of 80% of patients reported psychiatric impairment and 40% of patients had an abnormal Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale. The results of our study illustrate the presence of significant physical, psychological and cognitive symptoms experienced by ICU survivors up to 1 year post discharge. The data from our study data is a strong argument on the need for a comprehensive follow-up service post ICU admission to address the complex sequelae of critical illness.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare