

Review of: "Long COVID Syndrome: A Systematic Review of Persistent Symptoms Post-Pandemic"

Sharifah Shakinah

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors report a thorough analysis of the manifestation of long COVID. As the issue of long COVID is still a major topic of discussion regarding the definition and the symptoms that are considered to be related to COVID as the major causes, the authors use a very broad term in the inclusion criteria, which was "The inclusion criteria considered only English articles that conducted systematic reviews and meta-analyses of primary studies on persistent symptoms following SARS-CoV-2 infection."

1. The definition of persistent symptoms was not mentioned, and what tools of evaluation and methods were used in the study to describe the persistent symptoms was also not mentioned (were validated questionnaires used? were phone call interviews conducted?).
2. In the "Principal Insights" part, the authors' description of the study included was very long and detailed. The authors could make a more concise description, highlighting the important points or important findings of those studies included that need to be addressed and what makes them differ from other studies.
3. Regarding the effect of COVID variants on long COVID symptoms, it is also not mentioned whether each study included described what COVID variant was involved or the authors made an assumption during which the studies were done. It is not clear enough.
4. Regarding the risk factors of long COVID, is the study included? Has the right methods in evaluating risk factors? If the studies included are not suitable enough to make a cause-and-effect assumption about long COVID, and the authors have also mentioned that the majority of the studies did not assess many characteristics that may be part of the risk factors, the whole paragraph about risk factors of long COVID is not relevant.