A study on behalf of the Canadian COVID-19 Emergency Department Registry Rapid Response Network (CCEDRRN) Patient-reported Health Outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 Tested Patients Presenting to Emergency Departments: A Propensity-score Matched Prospective Cohort Study

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Objective

This study measured the physical and psychological quality of life outcomes in a cohort of patients who presented to Canadian ED and were tested for SARS-CoV-2

Study Population

Cohort 1: 1170 COVID-19 pos. patients
Cohort 2: 3716 COVID-19 neg. patients

Patients were matched at the same hospital site during the same week

Results

Physical health scores were similar:
(Adjusted effect of +0.51, 95%CI -0.36, 1.36)

Psychological health scores were less if SARS-CoV-2 negative:
(adjusted effect of -1.01, 95%CI -1.91, -0.11)

Factors associated with lower self-reported physical health scores

- Severely diseased in ED
- Smoker
- Older age

Factors associated with lower self-reported psychological health scores

- Low annual income
- Illicit substance use
- Fixed housing
- Psychiatric diagnosis

Conclusion 1:
Patients who were SARS-CoV-2 positive and negative had similar long-term physical health scores. This may be explained by barriers to care access in the early pandemic waves. Negative patients may have suffered from challenges related to delayed care seeking.

Conclusion 2:
Poor self-reported psychological health outcomes among COVID-19 patients strengthen the need for targeted psychological health services for COVID-19 survivors.

Conclusion 3:
The social and demographic characteristics of COVID-19 patients play a crucial and multifaceted role in the development of physical and psychological health consequences.

Key Points