Cardiovascular disease

Cardiovascular disease among Long Covid risk (Hindustan Times:20220209)

https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ArticleView

Covid-19 puts people at a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease up to a year after infection and the chances are higher if the disease was more severe, according to an analysis involving the records of over 150,000 people who were infected by the coronavirus in the United States.

The study was based on healthcare databases from the US Department of Veterans Affairs and was published in the journal Nature Medicine on Monday.

The researchers found that beyond the first 30 days of infection, people with Covid-19 had a higher risk of developing cardiovascular issues such as dysrhythmias, inflammatory heart disease, ischemic heart disease, heart failure, and thromboembolic disease.

This added risk meant there was also a raised post-Covid cardiovascular disease burden, the researchers said, predicting added health care costs, morbidity and mortality.

“Because of the chronic nature of these conditions, they will likely have long-lasting consequences for patients and health systems and also have broad implications on economic productivity and life expectancy,” tweeted Ziyad Al-Aly, director of the Clinical Epidemiology Center, at Veterans Affairs St Louis Health Care System. Al-Aly is one of the authors of the report.

The study adds to growing understanding of Long Covid manifestations – diseases that stem from a Sars-CoV-2 infection and continue manifesting well after a person may have gotten rid of the virus. Other Long Covid conditions have been linked to effects on the brain.

In all, the analysis also included records of 5.6 million people who did not have Covid-19 and the records of 5.8 million others from before the pandemic struck. This helped make more robust comparisons of how cardiovascular diseases differed after Covid-19.

Risk and disease burden

In absolute terms, some of the biggest rise in hazard ratios – or chances of developing a particular disease after Covid-19 – were in incidents of stroke, sinus tachycardia (increased
heart rate), myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle), acute coronary disease (impeded blood supply to the heart), heart failure, pulmonary embolism (clot in blood vessel) and deep vein thrombosis (clot in deep vein).

These diseases vary in their severity in terms of mitigation, cost of healthcare and mortality risk. To account for this, the researchers also estimated the highest disease burdens. Heart failure, atrial fibrillation (irregular and often very rapid heart rhythm arrhythmia), acute coronary disease, stroke, and sinus tachychardia were found to be contributing the most to the higher disease burden in the one year after Covid-19.

“Governments and health systems around the world should be prepared to deal with the likely significant contribution of the Covid-19 pandemic to a rise in the burden of cardiovascular diseases,” said Al-Aly in a tweet.

**Covid-19 the only trigger**

The researchers said the higher risks spanned across groups of people. “The risks were evident regardless of age, race, sex and other cardiovascular risk factors, including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and hyperlipidemia,” the researchers said in their study.

“They were also evident in people without any cardiovascular disease before exposure to Covid-19, providing evidence that these risks might manifest even in people at low risk of cardiovascular disease,” they warned.

They also accounted for some cardiovascular conditions associated (very rarely) with vaccines and found that those with Covid-19 were at significantly greater risk. There were also two other key findings. Being admitted or requiring intensive care raised risks of developing such diseases but these were high to begin with, even in those without hospitalisation.

One of the weaknesses of the study, however, was that the records were predominantly of white, male patients, which could “limit the generalizability of study findings”, the researchers said.

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**Girl Education (The Asian Age: 20220209)**

Don’t allow hijab row to hinder girls’ education

Religion should be kept a private affair of individual citizens, but that is an ideal case scenario. Whether we like it or not, elements of religious practices have become part of the culture of believers, and the harmonious co-existence of such customs with the ones of those who practise no religion is a pre-condition for a society’s progress.

India is a secular democracy founded on a Constitution that assures every citizen the right to practise their religion, subject to conditions. Religion being a general term, the courts have elaborated on this constitutional proviso and brought essential religious practices under its protection.

It is in this background that one should view the controversy raging in Karnataka about Muslim girl students wearing the hijab (headscarf). Some colleges objected to the habit and asked the girls to stop attending lessons with headscarves on, which they protested. The issue soon took a communal turn with a section of students parading saffron shawls, saying they, too, have the right to do so. Dalit students chipped in, wearing blue dress in support of the Muslim girls. Islamists did not waste the chances, introducing the niqab, or dress that conceals even the face, seeking the cover of fundamental rights.

As the Karnataka high court rightly observed while hearing the petition of the girl students, every citizen of this country should go by reason, the law, and the Constitution: not passion and emotion. This is an advice to all those who have taken to violent protests and also to those who come up with whatabouteries to argue their points. They must realise that the Constitution does not mandate banishing of religion; instead, it affords people the right to practise it. The question is how to make it least obstructive in a secular system.

The situation as of today is that while sane persons would be busy seeking to address the question as suggested by the high court, vested interests and extremists have almost hijacked the issue. Protests against the hijab are taking place all across Karnataka now, and it is highly likely that it shall spread to other states, too. Political parties who have religion as their sole agenda to seek power and retain it have a lot to gain from this but rational people have every reason to worry about the future of this nation when people tend to view everything through the lens of religion and nothing but.

The Constitution and the law are made with a view to address issues as citizens of a nation, and not as enemies. It must not be done in a mechanical way in all situations; how a decision would impact the lives of law-abiding people must be a consideration the court should keep in mind. A total ban on the hijab, which Muslims claim to be an essential religious practice, will result in Muslim women either avoiding multi-religious and secular institutions or, worse, becoming dropouts. At the same time, the court cannot give in to the pressure of identity politics and communals and allow each one to wear the dress of their choice. It will thus be called upon to come out with a solution that protects the right to practise religion and the right to education while refusing to yield to the demands of religious obscurantists of all hues. It should ensure that better sense prevails.
Breast cancer

Can exposure to sunlight reduce risk of breast cancer? Here’s what a new study says

Vitamin D is called the sunshine vitamin because the body produces it when exposed to the sun's ultraviolet B rays. Exposure to sunlight is said to be extremely rewarding for the body. (The Indian Express P:20220209)


According to a new study, exposure to sunlight may help reduce the risk of breast cancer — the second most common cancer affecting women, after skin cancer, in the US.

The paper from University of Buffalo and the University of Puerto Rico in the US, which was published in the Journal of Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Preventions, comprised a population-based case–control study of breast cancer among women in metropolitan San Juan, Puerto Rico, examining a cumulative sun exposure index (SEI) based on a comparison of reflectance of sun-exposed and non-exposed skin.

The researchers used a chromameter to measure skin reflectance and estimate the difference between constitutive (unexposed) and facultative (exposed) skin pigmentation in 307 cases and 328 controls. The Puerto Rico study noted that breast cancer risk factors were ascertained with interviewer-administered questionnaires.

Also Read | From improving mood to sleep: Here’s why natural sunlight is crucial for you

The study concluded that there was lower risk of breast cancer associated with greater sun exposure in a population living with high, continuous sun exposure due to higher levels of vitamin D. This beneficial finding should be placed in the context of other effects of sun exposure, it noted.

Vitamin D is called the sunshine vitamin because the body produces it when exposed to the sun’s ultraviolet B rays. Exposure to sunlight is said to be extremely rewarding for the body.

“Sun exposure is generally linked with skin cancers, however as per the study, there was reduction in breast cancer causation rates with increased sun exposure. The investigators correlated this finding with higher levels of vitamin D generated in the body in these women with higher sunlight exposure which was speculated to have lead to lower rates of breast cancer development. This is a very interesting finding that needs to be studied and validated further, specifically in the Indian population,” Dr Sewanti Limaye, director, Medical Oncology, Precision Oncology and Clinical and Transitional Oncology Research, Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital said.
Dr Kanika Sharma, Radiation Oncologist, Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital said that as per few observational studies in US, higher sun exposure decreases the chances of developing this malignancy by 11 per cent. “This happens due to the fact that the human body synthesises vitamin D on exposure to the sun. This helps with decreasing inflammation, improving body’s natural circadian rhythm, and managing obesity. The sun also improves mental health, strengthens the immunity and bones,” Dr Sharma told indianexpress.com.

Vitamin D, what is Vitamin D, Vitamin D sources, importance of Vitamin D in the pandemic, Vitamin D and health, Vitamin D alternative sources, indian express news Sunlight is necessary for vitamin D production (Photo: Pixabay)
Dr Kapoor also added that research suggests that women with low levels of vitamin D have a higher risk of breast cancer. Vitamin D may play a role in controlling normal breast cell growth and may be able to stop breast cancer cells from growing.

Also Read |How sun exposure in the morning and evening at these times can do wonders to your health
“There is a strong association of the sunshine vitamin with many other types of cancers like ovarian, colon, and multiple myelomas. Not just cancer, this is beneficial for other ailments like diabetes, bone diseases, cardiovascular ailments, multiple sclerosis. This wonder vitamin helps in the repair of defective genes, which can cause multiple problems,” said Dr Kapoor.

WHO

Work from home amid pandemic: WHO, ILO lay down crucial measures to protect workers’ health
Some possible adverse effects of work from home could be - isolation, burnout, depression, home violence, musculoskeletal and other injuries, eye strain, increase in smoking and alcohol consumption, prolonged sitting and screen time and unhealthy weight gain (The Indian Express P:20220209)


The report asked to establish the "right to disconnect" and sufficient rest days (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)
The Covid-19 pandemic restricted millions of working professionals to their homes, making work from home a common, widespread practice. While the arrangement offers the comfort of home, it also poses several health risks. Thus, one must be mindful of certain measures to protect their health while teleworking.

Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) outlined the health benefits and risks of working from home. Further, they highlighted the measures one needs to take to accommodate this shift.
Elucidating the many benefits of working from home, the report by the two UN agencies said that teleworking offers improved work-life balance, opportunities for flexible working hours and physical activity, reduced traffic and reduced time spent community, and a decrease in air pollution.

ALSO READ | National Tele-Mental Health Programme: Experts hail ‘rare mention’ of mental health in Budget 2022
This, according to the report, can improve mental and physical health, and the social well being of workers. Additionally, it also has the potential of higher productivity and lower operational costs for many companies.

The report warned of possible mental health risks of teleworking. (Source: Pexels)
However, it also warns of possible physical and mental health and social wellbeing risks in the absence of proper planning, organisation and health and safety support. Some possible adverse effects could be – isolation, burnout, depression, home violence, musculoskeletal and other injuries, eye strain, increase in smoking and alcohol consumption, prolonged sitting and screen time and unhealthy weight gain.

To prevent these, the report also stressed the role that governments, employers, workers and health services at workplaces should play.

According to Dr Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO, “The pandemic has led to a surge of teleworking, effectively changing the nature of work practically overnight for many workers. In the nearly two years since the start of the pandemic, it’s become very clear that teleworking can as easily bring health benefits, and it can also have a dire impact.”

“Which way the pendulum swings depends entirely on whether governments, employers and workers work together and whether there are agile and inventive occupational health services to put in place policies and practices that benefit both workers and the work,” she added.

From providing relevant information, and guidelines and training to reduce the psychosocial and mental health impact of networking to training managers in effective risk management, distance leadership and workplace health promotions — the report laid down several crucial measures that should be adopted by employers to promote the wellbeing of employers during work from home.

It also asked to establish the “right to disconnect” and sufficient rest days. Occupational health services should be enabled to provide ergonomic, mental health and psychosocial support to teleworkers using digital telehealth technologies, according to the report.

ALSO READ | Is back pain a symptom of Covid-19? Here’s what an expert says
“As we move away from this ‘holding pattern’ to settle into a new normal, we have the opportunity to embed new supportive policies, practices and norms to ensure millions of teleworkers have healthy, happy, productive and decent work.”

Offering recommendations for the organisation of telework that meet the needs of both workers and organisations, the report suggested including measures such as: discussing and developing individual teleworking work plans and clarifying priorities, being clear about timelines and expected results, agreeing on a common system to signal availability for work and ensuring that managers and colleagues respect the system.

Further, it asked organisations with employers working from home to develop special programmes for teleworking by combining measures for the management of work and performances with information and communication technologies and adequate equipment, and occupational health services for general health, ergonomic and psychosocial support.

DELHI NEWS
1DU Academic Council meeting today, draft UGCF on agenda
2Only 35% eligible have received precaution dose in Delhi
3Woman

Food and Nutrition

10 healthy food swaps that will help manage blood sugar, diabetes
Along with lifestyle modifications and regular exercise, it is advised to add a diabetes-specific formula to your diet plan, said Dr Ganesh Kadhe(The Indian Express P:20220209)


Diabetes monitor, fruits, healthHere’s how you can manage your blood sugar. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)
People with prediabetes or diabetes need to be extremely careful with her eating habits. As such, sometimes it can get tricky to ascertain which foods and drinks make for the best choices. But worry not, here are 10 picks by Dr Ganesh Kadhe, associate director, nutrition medical and scientific affairs, Abbott, that will ensure that your blood sugar levels are always maintained.

ALSO READ |Healthy eating: Nutritionist suggests 6 effective ways to maximise nutrition
Beans (of any kind)

Lentils, kidney, black or chickpea beans are low glycemic index foods. It means that their carbohydrates are gradually released, and hence they’re less likely to cause blood sugar spikes. They’re so beneficial that a recent study found that eating a daily cup of beans for three months as part of a low-glycemic diet lowered (hemoglobin A1c) HbA1c level by half a percentage point.
Try it: Swap your regular dal for rajma from time to time.

Apples

You might think there’s no room for fruits in a diabetic meal plan, but apples are also low glycemic. Aiming for foods that are low or medium on the glycemic index is one way to manage blood sugar levels. Eating an apple a day has its benefits – they are high in fibre, vitamin C and fat-free! Not to mention a portable and easy snack option.

Try it: Toss an apple in your lunch bag or grab one between meals. Try baking them with a hint of cinnamon for warm treats when you crave desserts.

ALSO READ | Nutritionist recommends this winter diet routine for a healthy body

Almonds

These crunchy nuts are rich in magnesium, a mineral that helps the body use its own insulin more effectively. Try adding more almonds into your diet to have your daily dose of this blood sugar-balancing mineral. Plus, almonds are high in monounsaturated fatty acids, protein, and fibre, which makes them a great way to help manage blood glucose levels.

Try it: For healthy snacking on-the-go, pack 30g portions of almonds into single-serve containers.

Almonds, nuts, healthy food A quick and easy snack and a great source of magnesium. (Photo: Pexels)

Spinach

This leafy green vegetable has just 21 calories per cooked cup and is filled with blood sugar-friendly magnesium and fibre. Additionally, you can enjoy spinach raw, sautéed with olive oil, in your favourite palak paneer or even blended, making it a versatile choice!

Try it: Toss a handful of baby spinach into your next smoothie or use it in place of lettuce in a salad.

Active Covid cases

Active Covid cases in country decline 71,365 new Covid cases, 1,217 more deaths recorded (The Tribune: 20220209)


Active Covid cases in country decline
India logged 71,365 new coronavirus infections taking the country’s total tally of Covid cases to 4,24,10,976, while the active cases declined to 8,92,828, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,05,279 with 1,217 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am said.

The active cases comprised 2.11 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate had improved to 96.7 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 1,02,063 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The 1,217 new fatalities include 824 from Kerala and 57 from Maharashtra.

A total of 5,05,279 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,43,155 from Maharashtra, 59,939 from Kerala, 39,447 from Karnataka, 37,809 from Tamil Nadu, 26,010 from Delhi, 23,343 from Uttar Pradesh and 20,884 from West Bengal.

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**Covid vaccine**

**DCGI approves single-dose Sputnik Light Covid vaccine for emergency use**

This ninth vaccine against coronavirus in the country, says health minister (The Tribune: 20220209)


DCGI approves single-dose Sputnik Light Covid vaccine for emergency use

Photo for representation. — iStock

The Drug Controller General of India has granted emergency use approval to single-dose Sputnik Light Covid-19 vaccine.

Health Minister Mansukh Madiya confirmed the approval on Sunday.

“DCGI has granted emergency use permission to Single-dose Sputnik Light Covid-19 vaccine in India. This is the 9th Covid-19 vaccine in the country,” Mandaviya said.

He said the approval will further strengthen the nation’s collective fight against the pandemic.
**Omicron strain**

**Omicron strain found in 99% of new US cases**


Omicron strain found in 99% of new US cases
A woman receives her booster dose against COVID-19, amid the spread of Omicron variant in Jakarta, Indonesia. Reuters

The highly contagious Omicron variant accounted for 99.9 per cent of new weekly Covid infections in the US, according to data updated by the US Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Delta variant, which spiked last summer, only made up the remaining 0.1 per cent in the week ending January 29.

The new infections driven by Omicron have risen rapidly since early December. The variant accounted for only 0.6 per cent of new cases in the week ending December 4, rising to 89.3 per cent in the week ending January 1, and 97.8 per cent in the week ending January 15, CDC data showed. Several studies have suggested vaccines could provide protection against hospitalisation and death. —

### Chemotherapy:

**Colorectal cancers raise defensive barrier in response to chemotherapy:**

(New Kerala: 20220209)

Barcelona, February 8: Colorectal cancer occurs when tumours develop in the colon or rectum. Adenocarcinomas are the most common type of colorectal cancer, often growing fr-> View it-> https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/21327.htm
Covid virus

How Covid virus mutates inside a human body Jerusalem, (New Kerala: 20220209)

The last two years has seen the rapid spread of Covid virus and its various variants. In a new study, researchers have focused on what happens in the body of the patient during their illness. View it--> https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/21302.htm

Covid infections

Covid infections raise risk of heart conditions up to a year later New Kerala: 20220209

People, who have had Covid-19, are at increased risk of developing cardiovascular complications within the first month to a year after infection, report a study. View it---> https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/21299.htm

Ageing

Survivors of weather-related disasters may have accelerated ageing: (New Kerala: 20220209)

Study Arizona, February 8: Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico in 2017. It left in its wake, the largest catastrophe in the history of the island. The storm killed over 3,000 people. View it--> https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/21267.htm

Pregnancy

Covid vax in pregnancy produces persistent antibodies in infants: Study (New Kerala: 20220209)

Covid vaccination during pregnancy resulted in more lasting antibody levels in infants, when compared to babies born to unvaccinated, and Covid-infected mothers. View it--> https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/21199.htm
New HIV variant

New HIV variant more contagious, doubles rate of immune system decline
Geneva, (New Kerala: 20220209)

The newly-detected HIV variant from the Netherlands is more transmissible and damaging, according to research. View it: https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/21129.htm

Health Care Services (Dainik Bhasker: 20220209)

https://epaper.bhaskar.com/detail/927936/63305735195/rajasthan/09022022/14/image/
Corona Live

Corona Live: बीते 24 घंटों में कोरोना से 1200 से अधिक लोगों की मौत, 71365 नए मरीज, संक्रमण दर में गिरावट (Amar Ujala: 20220209)


Corona Cases In India, Coronavirus, Covid19 death, Active Cases, Corona Vaccination in india कोरोना के मामले - फोटो: पीटीआई खास बात देश में कोरोना महामारी को हराने के लिए वैसीनेशन अभियान लगातार जारी है। वैसीनेशन अभियान एवं गर्भवती महिलाओं में भी टीकाकरण करवाने के लिए बच्चों को दिखाई देता है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के अनुसार, देश में अब तक 171 करोड़ से अधिक कोरोना वैक्सीन की खुराक मिली है। कोरोना के मामले बुजुर्गों के साथ बच्चों के लिए वैसीनेशन अभियान चल रहा है। कोरोना महामारी को हराने के लिए वैसीनेशन अभियान अब तक 171 करोड़ कोरोना वैक्सीन दिए गए हैं। वैसीनेशन अभियान को देश भर में जारी रखने के लिए लागू हुआ है। वैसीनेशन अभियान का महत्व है कि यह नए मरीजों को पहली खुराक से बचाएगा।

09:33 AM, 09-FEB-2022 भारत में पिछले 24 घंटों में कोरोना से 71,365 नए मरीज, 1217 लोगों की मौत हो गई। इस दौरान, देश में अब तक 171 करोड़ कोरोना वैक्सीन दिए गए हैं। कुल मामले: 4,24,10,976, संयम मामले: 8,92,828, कुल रकवरी: 4,10,12,869, कुल मौत: 5,05,279, कुल वैसीनेशन: 1,70,87,06,705, दैनिक पोजिटिवरेट: 4.54%।

07:59 AM, 09-FEB-2022 तमिलनाडु में पिछले 24 घंटों में कोरोना से 4,519 नए मरीज, 37 लोगों की मौत हो गई। इस दौरान, देश में अब तक 171 करोड़ कोरोना वैक्सीन दिए गए हैं। कुल मामले: 20,237, लोग स्वस्थ भी हो गए।

07:33 AM, 09-FEB-2022 Corona Live: बीते 24 घंटों में कोरोना से 1200 से अधिक लोगों की मौत, 71365 नए मरीज, संक्रमण दर में गिरावट देश में कोरोना महामारी को हराने के लिए वैसीनेशन अभियान लगातार जारी है। वैसीनेशन के दौरान, देश में अब तक 171 करोड़ कोरोना वैक्सीन दिए गए हैं। कुल मामले: 4,24,10,976, संयम मामले: 8,92,828, कुल रकवरी: 4,10,12,869, कुल मौत: 5,05,279, कुल वैसीनेशन: 1,70,87,06,705, दैनिक पोजिटिवरेट: 4.54%।
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