

Appendix 1. Characteristics of the study population and univariate comparison of the three patient groups (N=516)

| | Total N=516 | No COVID n=180 (34.9%) | Confirmed COVID n=166 (32.2%) | Uncertain COVID n=170 (32.9%) | P ^a | Confirmed COVID vs no- COVID OR [95% CI] | P ^b | Confirmed COVID vs uncertain COVID OR [95% CI] | P ^b |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| Age (years) (median, IQR) | 43 [33-56] | 45 [35-56.5] | 49 [39-59] | 36 [29-49] | <0.001 | 1.02 [1.01-1.03] | 0.027 | 1.04 [1.03-1.06] | <0.001 |
| Male sex | 195 (37.8) | 61 (33.9) | 58 (34.9) | 76 (44.7) | 0.074 | 0.99 [0.63-1.56] | 0.957 | 0.58 [0.36-0.93] | 0.046 |
| Caregivers (n=463/165/149/149) | 58 (12.5) | 17 (10.3) | 31 (20.8) | 10 (6.7) | 0.001 | 2.70 [1.39-5.24] | 0.003 | 5.58 [2.50-12.46] | <0.001 |
| Contact with confirmed positive case (n=290/96/98/96) | | | | | <0.001 | | 0.006 | | <0.001 |
| No | 130 (44.8) | 48 (50.0) | 30 (30.6) | 52 (54.2) | | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| Yes | 67 (23.1) | 19 (19.8) | 36 (36.7) | 12 (12.5) | | 3.48 [1.62-7.51] | | 8.77 [3.59-21.46] | |
| Uncertain | 93 (32.1) | 29 (30.2) | 32 (32.7) | 32 (33.3) | | 1.95 [0.95-4.01] | | 2.59 [1.22-5.51] | |
| Smoking (n=159/62/52/45) | 64 (40.3) | 28 (45.2) | 16 (30.8) | 20 (44.4) | 0.235 | | | | |
| At least one comorbidity (n=509/178/164/167) | 207 (40.7) | 85 (47.8) | 77 (47.0) | 45 (27.0) | <0.001 | 0.84 [0.52-1.31] | 0.416 | 1.67 [1.01-2.79] | 0.092 |
| Dyslipidaemia (n=509/178/164/167) | 16 (3.1) | 8 (4.5) | 7 (4.3) | 1 (0.6) | 0.071 | 0.73 [0.24-2.18] | 0.570 | 3.11 [0.36-27.18] | 0.57 |
| Obesity (n=173/59/59/55) | 67 (38.7) | 25 (42.4) | 23 (39.0) | 19 (34.6) | 0.692 | | | | |
| Hypertension (n=509/178/164/167) | 70 (13.8) | 25 (14.0) | 29 (17.7) | 16 (9.6) | 0.100 | 1.05 [0.54-2.03] | 0.882 | 0.88 [0.42-1.88] | 0.882 |
| Diabetes (n=509/178/164/167) | 31 (6.1) | 18 (10.1) | 7 (4.3) | 6 (3.6) | 0.020 | 0.28 [0.11-0.73] | 0.018 | 0.62 [0.19-2.00] | 0.423 |
| Cardiovascular disease (n=509/178/164/167) | 33 (6.5) | 9 (5.1) | 16 (9.8) | 8 (4.8) | 0.117 | 1.81 [0.73-4.45] | 0.398 | 0.94 [0.36-2.48] | 0.903 |
| Asthma (n=509/178/164/167) | 52 (10.2) | 19 (10.7) | 15 (9.2) | 18 (10.8) | 0.859 | | | | |
| COPD (n=509/178/164/167) | 9 (1.8) | 6 (3.4) | 0 (0) | 3 (1.8) | | | | | |
| Venous thromboembolism (n=509/178/164/167) | 7 (1.4) | 4 (2.3) | 1 (0.6) | 2 (1.2) | | | | | |
| Inflammatory rheumatic disease (n=509/178/164/167) | 9 (1.8) | 4 (2.3) | 2 (1.2) | 3 (1.8) | | | | | |
| Cancers (n=509/178/164/167) | 13 (2.6) | 8 (4.5) | 4 (2.4) | 1 (0.6) | 0.059 | 0.48 [0.14-1.69] | 0.407 | 2.61 [0.27-25.37] | 0.407 |
| Autoimmune diseases (MS, UC, Crohn's, SLE, sarcoidosis, Basedow etc.) (n=509/178/164/167) | 15 (3.0) | 10 (5.6) | 4 (2.4) | 1 (0.6) | 0.015 | 0.33 [0.10-1.13] | 0.154 | 3.03 [0.32-28.38] | 0.332 |
| Age > 70 and/or presence of at least one comorbidity (n=509/178/164/167) | 210 (41.2) | 85 (47.8) | 78 (47.6) | 47 (28.1) | <0.001 | 1.03 [0.67-1.59] | 0.899 | 2.33 [1.45-3.74] | <0.001 |
| Mode of consultation (n=515/179/166/170) | | | | | 0.526 | | | | |
| Face-to-face | 345 (67.0) | 125 (69.8) | 114 (68.7) | 106 (62.4) | | | | | |
| Teleconsultation | 157 (30.5) | 50 (27.9) | 48 (28.9) | 59 (34.7) | | | | | |
| Phone | 10 (1.9) | 4 (2.3) | 2 (1.2) | 4 (2.3) | | | | | |
| Home visit | 3 (0.6) | 0 (0) | 2 (1.2) | 1 (0.6) | | | | | |
| Symptoms at the initial consultation | | | | | | | | | |
| Fever or feeling feverish (n=469/158/151/160) | 200 (42.6) | 68 (43.0) | 81 (53.6) | 51 (31.9) | 0.001 | 1.58 [0.99-2.53] | 0.058 | 2.15 [1.31-3.52] | 0.004 |
| Asthenia (n=184/74/61/49) | 145 (78.8) | 56 (75.7) | 50 (82.0) | 39 (79.6) | 0.665 | | | | |
| Muscle ache (n=370/117/123/130) | 219 (59.2) | 67 (57.3) | 85 (69.1) | 67 (51.5) | 0.015 | 1.63 [0.95-2.80] | 0.074 | 1.91 [1.11-3.29] | 0.04 |
| Headache (n=358/121/108/129) | 216 (60.3) | 76 (62.8) | 59 (54.6) | 81 (62.8) | 0.349 | | | | |

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|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Rhinorrhoea (n=366/126/109/131) | 194 (53.0) | 75 (59.5) | 56 (51.4) | 63 (48.1) | 0.171 | | | | |
| Cough (n=471/163/149/159) | 366 (77.7) | 127 (77.9) | 119 (79.9) | 120 (75.5) | 0.649 | | | | |
| Expectorations (n=265/80/80/105) | 61 (23.0) | 17 (21.3) | 18 (22.5) | 26 (24.8) | 0.846 | | | | |
| Chest pain (n=325/107/103/115) | 80 (24.6) | 39 (36.5) | 19 (18.5) | 22 (19.1) | 0.002 | 0.40 [0.21-0.77] | 0.012 | 0.97 [0.48-1.98] | 0.94 |
| Dyspnoea at rest and/or on exertion (n=370/131/116/123) | 128 (34.6) | 56 (42.8) | 35 (30.2) | 37 (30.1) | 0.051 | 0.56 [0.32-0.96] | 0.07 | 1.09 [0.61-1.96] | 0.77 |
| Sore throat (n=351/122/102/127) | 177 (50.4) | 73 (59.8) | 44 (43.1) | 60 (47.2) | 0.030 | 0.50 [0.29-0.88] | 0.032 | 0.91 [0.53-1.58] | 0.746 |
| Anosmia (n=317/109/100/108) | 74 (23.3) | 11 (10.1) | 42 (42.0) | 21 (19.4) | <0.001 | 7.11 [3.30-15.29] | <0.001 | 3.74 [1.91-7.31] | <0.001 |
| Ageusia (n=282/89/94/99) | 75 (26.6) | 13 (14.6) | 42 (44.7) | 20 (20.2) | <0.001 | 4.79 [2.31-9.93] | <0.001 | 3.38 [1.73-6.59] | <0.001 |
| Nausea and/or vomiting (n=343/120/100/123) | 50 (14.6) | 19 (15.8) | 15 (15.0) | 16 (13.0) | 0.815 | | | | |
| Diarrhoea (n=360/127/110/123) | 84 (23.3) | 33 (26.0) | 32 (29.1) | 19 (15.5) | 0.033 | 1.21 [0.68-2.17] | 0.513 | 2.58 [1.31-5.07] | 0.012 |
| Abdominal pain (n=143/57/44/42) | 19 (13.3) | 7 (12.3) | 7 (15.9) | 5 (11.9) | 0.826 | | | | |
| Number of symptoms (tertile; n=511/179/163/169) | | | | | 0.528 | | | | |
| ≤3 | 181 (35.4) | 68 (38.0) | 49 (30.1) | 64 (37.9) | | | | | |
| 4-5 | 184 (36.0) | 62 (34.6) | 62 (38.0) | 60 (35.5) | | | | | |
| >5 | 146 (28.6) | 49 (27.4) | 52 (31.9) | 45 (26.6) | | | | | |
| Number of systemic symptoms (tertile; n=511/179/163/169) | | | | | 0.020 | | | | |
| ≤1 | 216 (42.3) | 82 (45.8) | 56 (34.3) | 78 (46.2) | | 1 (ref) | 0.100 | 1 (ref) | 0.072 |
| 2 | 142 (27.8) | 40 (22.4) | 49 (30.1) | 53 (31.4) | | 1.80 [1.04-3.11] | | 1.19 [0.69-2.05] | |
| >2 | 153 (29.9) | 57 (31.8) | 58 (35.6) | 38 (22.5) | | 1.42 [0.85-2.37] | | 1.83 [1.04-3.22] | |
| Number of ENT symptoms (tertile; n=511/179/163/169) | | | | | 0.277 | | | | |
| 0 | 182 (35.6) | 62 (34.6) | 55 (33.7) | 65 (38.5) | | | | | |
| 1 | 188 (36.8) | 75 (41.9) | 55 (33.7) | 58 (34.3) | | | | | |
| >1 | 141 (27.6) | 42 (23.5) | 53 (32.6) | 46 (27.2) | | | | | |
| Clinical examination | | | | | | | | | |
| Temperature>38°C | | | | | 0.012 | | 0.343 | | <0.001 |
| No | 325 (63.0) | 110 (61.1) | 92 (55.4) | 123 (72.4) | | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| Yes | 39 (7.6) | 15 (8.3) | 18 (10.8) | 6 (3.5) | | 1.52 [0.71-3.24] | | 4.09 [1.48-11.30] | |
| Not reported or missing | 152 (29.4) | 55 (30.6) | 56 (33.7) | 41 (24.1) | | 1.35 [0.83-2.20] | | 2.30 [1.35-3.91] | |
| Respiratory rate (per minute) (n=101/41/38/22) | 18 [16-20] | 18 [16-20] | 20 [17-20] | 18 [16-20] | 0.387 | | | | |
| SaO2 (%) (n=272/91/96/85) | 98 [97-99] | 98 [97-99] | 98 [97-99] | 98 [97-99] | 0.153 | | | | |
| Abnormalities in a lung examination | | | | | 0.585 | | | | |
| No | 270 (52.3) | 94 (52.2) | 90 (54.2) | 86 (50.6) | | | | | |
| Yes | 48 (9.3) | 20 (11.1) | 16 (9.7) | 12 (7.1) | | | | | |
| Not reported or missing | 198 (38.4) | 66 (36.7) | 60 (36.1) | 72 (42.3) | | | | | |

Data are quoted as the n (%) for qualitative variables and the median [IQR] for quantitative variables

a The p-values were obtained from a chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test for qualitative variables and from the Kruskal Wallis test for quantitative variables

b Age-adjusted multilevel multinomial logistic regression; p-values of pair-wise comparisons were corrected by the False discovery rate method

COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; MS: multiple sclerosis; UC: ulcerative colitis; SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; ENT: ear nose throat; SaO₂: arterial oxygen saturation; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval