



HEADACHE AND COVID 19: MOLDOVAN SURVEY

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Introduction: Headache in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic is a hot topic being divided into pre-infection headache, headache attributed to COVID 19 infection and post infection headache. The aim of the study was to characterize the Moldovan cohort of headache and COVID 19 infection patients.

Methods: A survey of people with COVID 19 and headache from January till June 2021 was done. Study sample consist of 138 volunteers, mean age 36.74 ± 8.16 , 89.6% female, that complete online a questionnaire about : demographics, comorbidities, clinical signs of COVID 19 infection, headache before, during and after COVID 19, screening for anxiety, depression and sleep disorders.

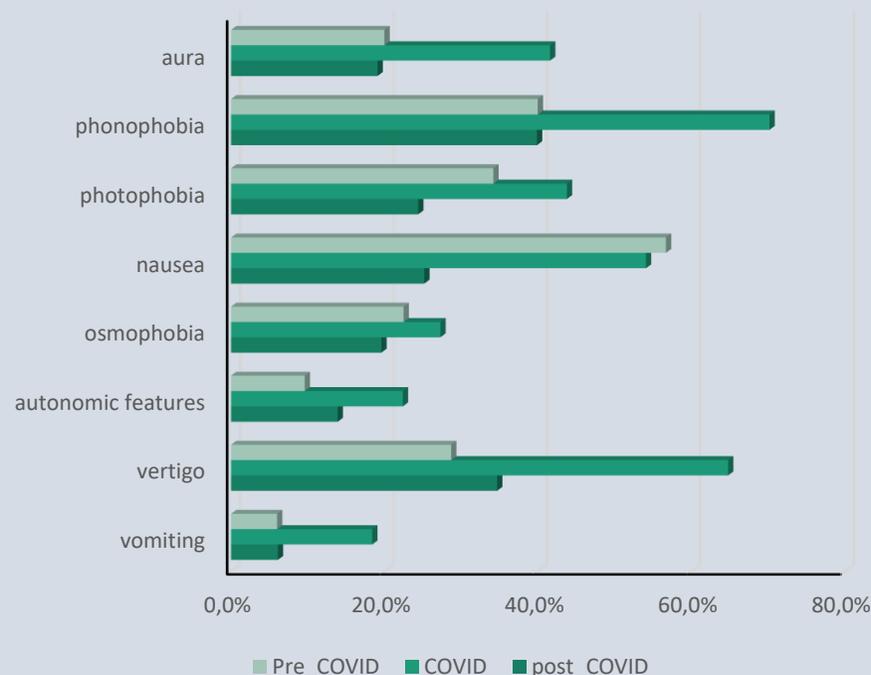


Fig. 1 Headache associated features

Results: the study showed that 58.3% of the respondents had different forms of headache before COVID 19 infection and 17.9% severe forms. During the period of COVID 19 infection - 91% of respondents had bouts of headache attributed to COVID 19 infection and 54.5% severe forms with increased intensity, holocranial localization (30.9%), associated with vertigo (64.8%), nausea (54.1%), peripheral vegetative signs (22.4%), accompanied with pronounced asthenia (80%) and pain with another localization (85.5%). Persistent headaches after COVID presented 62.7% of respondents, being severe for 16.7% of them with associated vertigo (34.7%), nausea (25.2%) and phonophobia (39.9%).

Conclusion: The percentage of patients with a headache in the post-COVID period is worryingly high, it increases the degree of functional disability of patients and the individual and social burden, respectively.

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