

Objectives: 1) To learn about the mental health challenges for children, adolescents, and young adults returning to school after the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

2) To identify the factors and challenges that parents and caregivers face during the COVID regarding the return of their children to school.

Methods: We conducted a literature search using relevant medical subject heading (MeSH) terms in PubMed, PubMed Central, Web of Science, and Medline databases. We identified all published relevant articles until June 4, 2021. After a thorough review of relevant published articles until October 30, 2022, we included 5 articles in our qualitative synthesis.

Results: A cross-sectional study in China measured depression, anxiety, and social support in back-to-school students via PHQ-9, GAD-7, and SSQ, respectively. They found a significant rise in anxiety and depression among these students. This correlation was weak at higher social support. Data collected from 15 children's hospitals found that students want to participate actively in returning to school and the recovery process as they are concerned about their future, family, and society. Another 2021 cross-sectional study in Texas revealed that parents are concerned about their children's health and prefer an onsite-virtual hybrid learning setup over in-person learning (Limbers C. A. et al. *The Journal of school health* 2021; 91(1), 3–8.). Parents in Italy favored school reopening with reduced student numbers (70.1%), social distancing within classes (45.3%), and masks as they were concerned about their children due to COVID (Pierantoni, L et al. 2021; *Acta paediatrica (Oslo, Norway : 1992)*, 110(3), 942–943). Fewer White parents were supportive of a mask mandate for students and staff members (62.5%) than parents of ethnicities like Hispanic (79.5%, $p = 0.026$) and other racial/ethnic groups (66.9%, $p = 0.041$) (Gilbert, L. K. et al. *MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report* 2020; 69(49), 1848–1852).

Conclusions: The return to school after COVID is challenging for students and parents due to the rise in anxiety and depression in children. Social support has been found to be protective of children's mental health. Future well-designed studies should identify challenges and factors that can help safeguard children's mental health and develop appropriate policies.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0576

Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of older adults, people with dementia, and carers in lower- and middle-income countries: An international qualitative study

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.876

Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health problems in many countries, yet little evidence has focused on older adults.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to qualitatively explore the impact of the pandemic on the mental health and well-being of older adults living in Uganda

Methods: Semi-structured interviews with older adults, family carers, and people living with dementia, plus focus groups with

care professionals were conducted remotely via the telephone. Data were collected at two time points between March and July 2021. Non-professionals were asked about their experiences of the pandemic and their mental well-being. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. All transcripts were also translated into English and a selection were second-coded by the another team.

Results: A total of 30 interviews were conducted with older adults, people with dementia, and unpaid carers participating at baseline ($n=30$). Using inductive thematic analysis, we generated three overarching themes: Mental health needs overridden by need for basic necessities; Social isolation; Increased worry about restrictions and pandemic in dementia. For most people, limited access to basic necessities, including food, featured more prominently in responses than any direct acknowledgement of how the pandemic has affected their mental well-being. Participants were upset and worried about being socially isolated, with carers concerned about the welfare of many people with dementia and often feeling emotionally exhausted.

Conclusions: Older adults, carers, and people living with dementia in Uganda not only require support to cope with the mental health impact of the pandemic, but most importantly require improved financial governmental support to be able to access sufficient food and other basic necessities, as a group their health is poor and associated risk of deterioration high

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0577

Implementation of Global Action Plan On the Public Health Response to Dementia (GAPD) in Sub-Saharan Africa: Comprehensive Reviews

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.877

Introduction: Despite the fact that, age is a strongest know risk factor for onset of dementia, and developing countries are projected to have highest number of ageing population, few national dementia strategies have been put in place to address this impending scourge. In 2017, World Health Organization(WHO) released and called for countries to adapt and contextualize the Global Action Plan on the Public health response to dementia, few Sub-Saharan countries have slowly adopted plan. The outcome of the unprecedented increase populations with dementia will be immense. The substantial increase in morbidity and mortality pose a threat to the over stretched health care system and undermine the potential to achieve sustainable development goal (SDGs).

Objectives: Understanding the implementation of Global Action Plan on the Public health response to dementia in the developing countries

Methods: This paper is a view of published and grey literature relevant to Global Action Plan On the Public Health Response to Dementia (GAPD) in sub-Saharan Africa. The overall approach to the review had an exploratory and inductive focus. Articles were categorized around a guiding conceptual framework. Like; A description of structural arrangements and content of national dementia strategy development and normative underpinnings within policy frameworks

Results: Nearly all countries within the SSA hadn't developed the national dementia strategy plans. Countries like South African, Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia had drafts of national dementia strategy, though not yet operationalized. Few countries highlighted some of the parallel targets of GAPD within their national mental health policy and strategy, but it was not comprehensive. Countries where Civil societies that advocate/champion dementia activities were strongly presently were more likely to possess a draft of GAPD.

Conclusions: Although there some initiatives for different countries to develop national strategy for dementia plans, there are gaps in the extent of engagement of different stakeholders and how these strategies will be operationalized may limit the impact on addressing the escalating burden of dementia in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

COVID-19 and related topics 06

EPP0578

Association between inflammatory parameters and neuropsychiatric symptoms in COVID-19 patients treated in hospital del mar Post-COVID psychiatry functional unit

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.878

Introduction: There is increasing interest in the association between neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with COVID-19 and the proinflammatory status of the disease. Hospital del Mar Post-Covid Psychiatry Unit carried out a descriptive study to analyze the link between inflammation and mental health symptoms in COVID-19 patients.

Objectives: Relate inflammation parameters to the presence of neuropsychiatric symptoms in COVID-19 patients treated at the Hospital del Mar Post-Covid Psychiatry Unit.

Methods: A database of patients evaluated by the Post-covid Psychiatry unit was developed. Clinical variables, whether hospitalization is required and inflammation indicators during COVID-19 infection (PCR and IL-6 analytical values) were recorded.

Three screening scales for psychiatric symptoms were given to the patients: PHQ-9 for depression (1-4: minimal depression, 5-9: mild, 10-14: moderate, 15-19: moderately severe, 20-27: severe), GAD-7 for anxiety (cutoff point ≥ 6) and PCL-5 for post-traumatic stress symptoms (cutoff point > 6).

T-student statistics for independent samples and the Pearson correlation were used to relate inflammation parameters to depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress symptoms obtained from the scales.

Results: 149 patients were attended between May 2020 and April 2021. 78 patients had PCR value and 52 had IL-6 value. There is no correlation between the score obtained on the PHQ-9, GAD-7 and PCL-5 scales and PCR or IL-6 value.

There is no relation between being hospitalized for covid infection and the values of PHQ9 and GAD7. Patients hospitalized had lower scores in PCL-5 scale ($t=2.67$, $p=0.009$). There are no differences in

the scale scores among patients requiring orotracheal intubation or not.

Conclusions: In this descriptive study, inflammation parameters were not related with psychiatric symptoms in COVID-19 patients. Neither association was found between the inflammation parameters and the severity of COVID-19 symptoms, measured in terms of hospitalization requirement.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0579

Post-COVID psychiatry functional unit of hospital del mar: Treatment and monitoring of COVID-19 patients who developed neuropsychiatric symptoms

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.879

Introduction: There is growing evidence on the prevalence of neuropsychiatric disorders in patients suffering from COVID-19. On Hospital del Mar, a multidisciplinary post-COVID unit was created in May 2020 for COVID-19 patients.

Objectives: Explain the functioning of the Post-COVID Psychiatry Functional Unit and the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of treated patients.

Methods: The Post-COVID Unit assessed all patients treated for COVID at Hospital del Mar. Patients referred by their primary care center for persistent post-COVID symptoms were also treated.

During a telephone interview, they received the PHQ-4 questionnaire to identify psychiatric symptoms. If the score was ≥ 3 , the patient was referred to the Post-COVID Psychiatry Unit.

Initial contact was established by a mental health nurse, who collected a clinical history and administered three scales: PHQ-9, GAD-7 and PCL-5. A descriptive sociodemographic and clinical data analysis of patients treated by the Post-COVID Psychiatry Unit is carried out.

Results: The sample consists of 149 patients who have been treated for positive PHQ-4 from July 2020 to April 2021. The majority were women (71%) and averaged 50.2 years old ($SD = 12.3$). In terms of the severity of COVID-19 infection, 45.6% needed hospitalization. The mean score of the psychiatric symptom scales was 11.12 points on the PHQ-9 ($SD=5.4$) (1-4: minimal depression, 5-9: mild, 10-14: moderate, 15-19: moderately severe, 20-27: severe), 9.43 ($SD=5.1$) points in the GAD7 (cutoff point ≥ 10) and 2.99 ($SD=4$) in the PCL5 (cutoff point > 6).

39.5% patients of the sample were visited by psychiatry/psychology, of these 33.6% met psychiatric diagnostic criteria, the most frequent being an Adjustment disorder (15.40%), followed by Major Depressive Disorder (8.7%), Anxiety Disorder (4.7%) and other diagnoses (4.7%).

Conclusions: Patients treated in the Post-COVID Unit were mainly middle-aged women, the most common symptomatology being mild depressive symptoms.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared