

Covid Psychosis “Everyone owes nature a death”

- Sigmund Freud

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During the 1918 pandemic, it was acknowledged for the first time that may viral illness affect more than just the respiratory system. A connotation was observed between the Spanish influenza infection and a spectrum of psychotic symptoms. It was observed that the Influenza patients testified a variety of psychosis spectrum disorders (PSDs) such as hysteria, melancholy, and insanity. Parallel reportings of PSDs termed as “psychoses of influenza” transpired during the other influenza pandemics that followed the 1918 pandemic [1].

led to an upsurged reporting of various psychosis spectrum disorders (PSDs) cases which is an alarming concern during the pandemic [3].

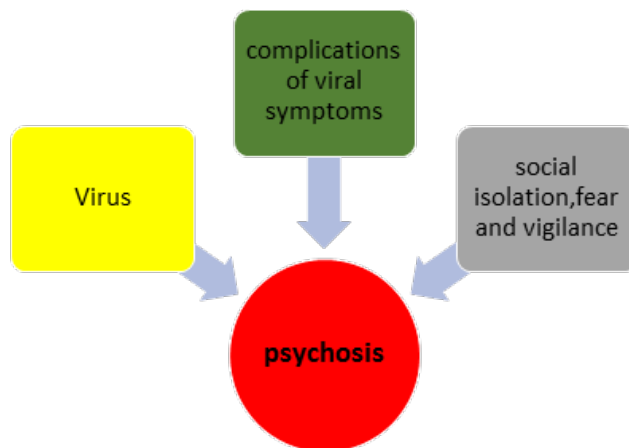
SARS-CoV-2 virus penetrates the brain cells and invades them ensuing in assorted neurological symptoms. As the angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptors are expressed by glial cells and neurons, it brands them a prospective of COVID-19 target, resulting in development of psychotic symptoms [4].



The COVID-19 pandemic proves to be no different than the past pandemic history. Latest research statistics establishes 0.9% to 4% incidence rate of psychosis in confirmed COVID-19 positive cases [2].

It is postulated that the pandemic may have a greater negative impact on the mental health of the world’s population due the strong involvement of various Psychosocial stressors. This might have

The tripartite relationship between COVID-19 and PSDs [2]



The pandemic exercises negative psychological effect on those with no past mental illness. In vulnerable groups, i.e, those with prodromal symptoms and schizophrenic patients, it heightens PSD-related triggers. Various triggering factors associated with the pandemic such as such as social isolation, unemployment, relationship breakdown, social inequities, must be closely monitored in risk groups [3].

Before instigating novel intercessions, further research is mandatory to detect and launch therapeutic strategies to reduce the psychological detriment during and after infection with SARS-CoV-2 [5].

References

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