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The data on COVID vaccines in chronic illness patients



Long
Haul
Wiki

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Highlights

- **6** studies suggest more harm while **2** suggest more benefit than harm from COVID vaccination.
- **Somewhere around a fifth of chronic illness patients** (Long COVID, ME/CFS, non-COVID vaccine injury) report significant long-term worsening following vaccination. This could be considered a ‘vaccine injury’. The ~1-in-5 rate is unusually high.
- **A few percent** of chronic illness patients report significant improvement following COVID vaccination.





Surveys suggesting more **harm** than **benefit**
2 prospective studies, 4 surveys



Tsuchida et al. study on Long COVID patients

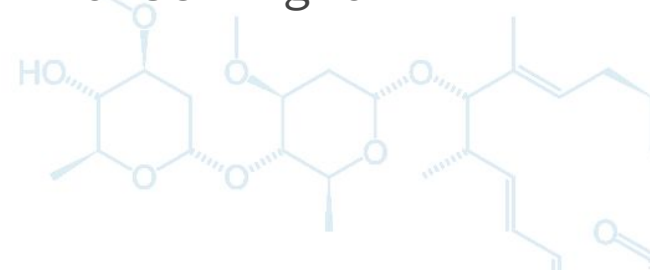


Changes in symptoms:

- **16.7%** (7/24) reported **relief** of symptoms.
- **61.9%** (26/42) reported **unchanged** symptoms.
- **21.4%** (9/42) reported **worsening** of symptoms.

The higher rate of antibodies in the worsened group than the non-worsened group suggests that an excessive immune response to vaccination is associated with worsening of symptoms.

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.27689>



Re-injury rate for those injured by non-COVID vaccines



A [2013–2015 prospective cohort study](#) examined the effect of re-immunization on people with adverse events following immunization with non-COVID vaccines. Of the **60** patients, **11** had their AEFI re-occur while **4** experienced a new AEFI. The injury rate was **25%**.

This rate seems comparable to the injury rate among ME/CFS and Long COVID patients.



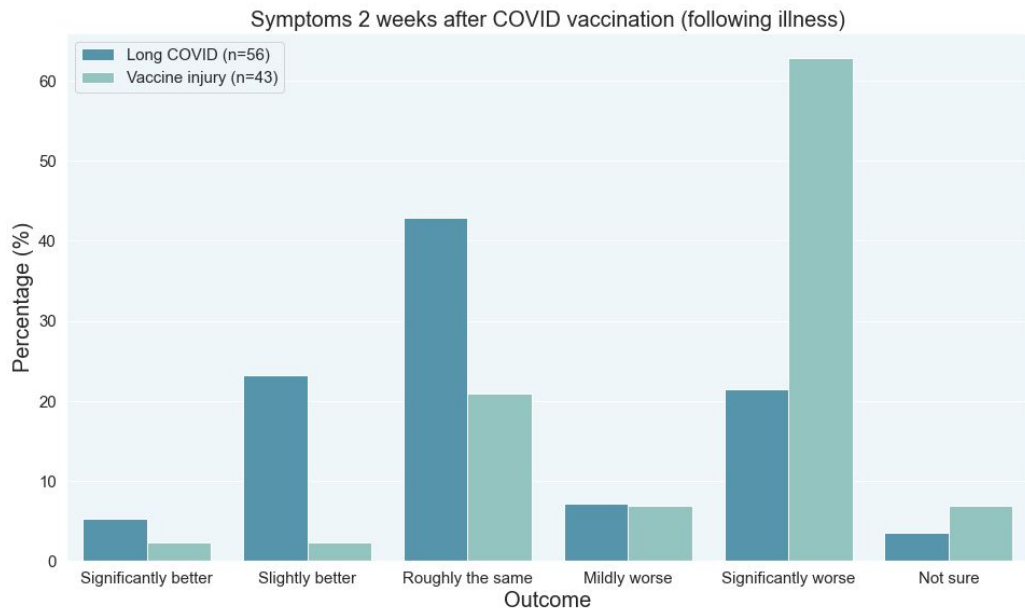
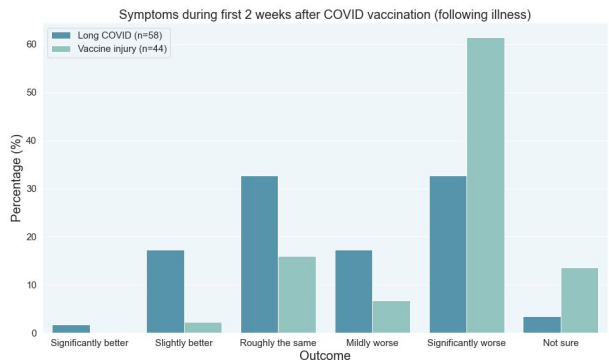
Risk Factors Survey



12/56 (21%) Long COVID sufferers reported significant worsening of symptoms >2 weeks after COVID vaccination.

Short-term worsening (first 2 weeks) shown in the top right was more dramatic, with **19/58 (33%)** reporting worsening.

Source: see [slide 59](#).

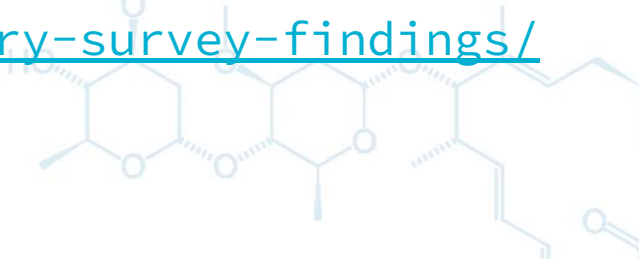


ANZMES



19.8% were [reported](#) as “worsened and not returned to baseline – relapsed”. **3.1%** “worsened beyond anything experienced in illness to date – severe relapse”.

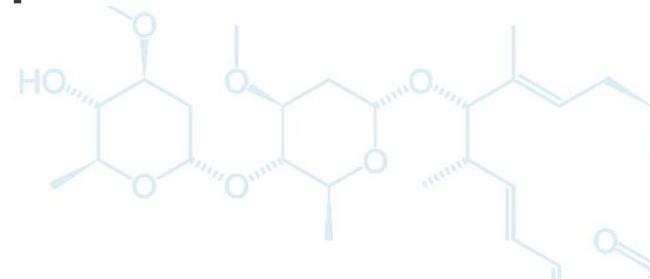
- Mostly ME/CFS patients with some Long COVID. **359** vaccinated New Zealanders.
- Preliminary results were released Nov 15, 2021. Final survey results do not seem to have been released.
- <https://anzmes.org.nz/anzmes-preliminary-survey-findings/>



ANZMES (detailed data)



- 22 (6.1%) **improved**
- 137 (38.1%) experienced no change/stay the same
- 118 (32.9%) temporarily worsened but have returned to baseline
- **71 (19.8%) worsened and not returned to baseline - relapsed**
- **11 (3.1%) worsened beyond anything experienced in illness to date - severe relapse**



SolveME ME/CFS survey

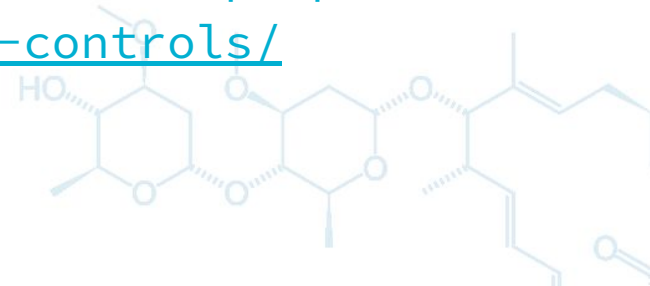


19% of survey participants said that their health worsened after vaccination compared to the **4%** reported by controls.

9% of the ME/CFS cohort reported that their health improved following vaccination.

Data available via SolveME's press release:

<https://solvecfs.org/after-vaccination-health-of-people-with-me-cfs-more-likely-to-worsen-compared-to-controls/>
([archive.ph](#))



ME Association UK



A survey started Dec 2021 asked about experiences with the COVID-19 booster. A minority of participants reported a 'severe reaction' to their booster.

If you have had a Covid-19 booster how did it affect you....



*Note that not all of the survey (available through archive.org) was shown.

ME Association UK



15.19% of ME/CFS surveyees believe that “Vaccination (e.g., Hepatitis B)” is primarily responsible for triggering their ME/CFS.

[https://meassociation.org.uk/2022/03/website-survey-do-you-know-what-might-have-triggered-your-me-cfs/\(archive.ph\)](https://meassociation.org.uk/2022/03/website-survey-do-you-know-what-might-have-triggered-your-me-cfs/(archive.ph))

What do you believe is primarily responsible for triggering your ME/CFS?

- Bacterial infection 4.95%
- Genetic susceptibility 4.37%
- Hormonal imbalance 1.66%
- Mental health 2.61%
- Parasitic infection 0.43%
- Pregnancy 0.62%
- Stress 11.56%
- Surgery 2.28%
- Toxin exposure (pesticides etc.) 1.54%
- Trauma (childhood trauma etc.) 4.74%
- Vaccination (e.g., Hepatitis B) 15.19%
- Viral infection 20.48%
- It was something else entirely 1.69%
- I don't know what might have been the trigger 4.06%
- Coronaviruses (e.g., Covid-19, SARS or MERS) 1.17%
- Dengue Fever 0.06%
- Ebola virus 0%
- Enterovirus (e.g., coxsackie B) 0.83%
- Epstein Barr Virus (e.g., mono, or glandular fever) 11.62%
- Giardia (parasite) 0.09%
- Hepatitis A or B virus 0.09%
- Human herpes virus (cytomegalovirus or herpes zoster) 1.08%
- Human herpes 6 Virus (HHV6) 0.34%
- Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV1) 0.62%
- Human Parvovirus B19 0.22%
- Influenza virus A or B (The 'Flu') 2.95%
- Meningitis (viral or bacterial) 0.77%
- Pneumonia (streptococcus pneumoniae) (bacterial) 0.49%
- Q Fever (Coxiella burnetii) (bacterial) 0.03%
- Rhinoviruses (the 'common cold' viruses) 0.46%
- Ross River Virus 0%
- The infection is not listed above 3.01%



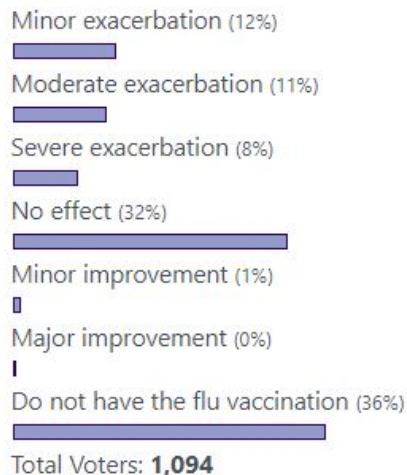
ME Association UK



A minority of surveyees reported 'severe exacerbation' of their ME symptoms following flu vaccination.

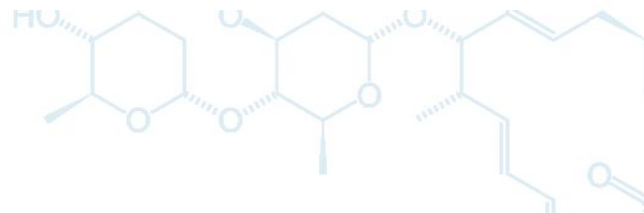
Source: [survey started Oct 2020 available via archive.org](#).

Have you had a flu vaccination either this year, or within the past five years? If so, what effect did this have on your ME symptoms?



Start Date: October 7, 2020 @ 7:05 am

End Date: No Expiry





Surveys suggesting more benefit than harm
2 surveys



Survivor Corps Facebook poll



~**35%** reported improvement, ~**13%** reported that they got worse. I do not know if [the Facebook poll](#) started with an additional 5th option. Assuming 4 original poll options, it is possible that the asymmetry of the poll design affected the results.

My Long-Term Covid symptoms have completely gone away since I got the vaccine	1.82%
My Long-Term Covid symptoms have improved slightly since I got the vaccine	33.36%
My Long-Term Covid symptoms have been the same since I got the vaccine	51.32%
My Long-Term Covid symptoms have been worse since I got the vaccine	13.49%

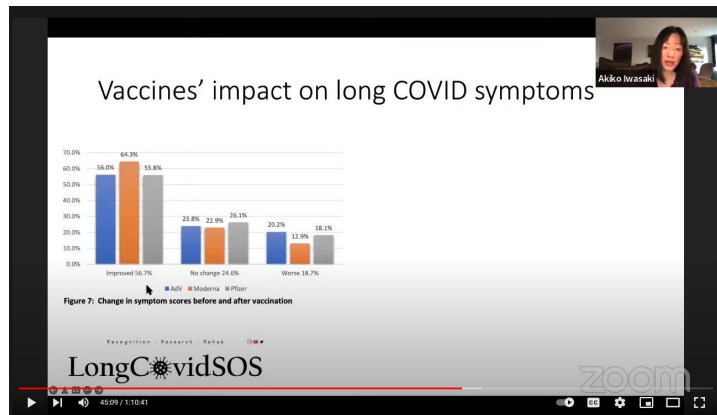
Long COVID SOS



More than half improved after COVID vaccination, with less than a fifth reporting worsening.

Most surveyees are likely comparing symptoms pre-vax to months after vaccination.

Source: [survey results PDF](#).



We compared the scores before and after the first vaccine dose for each of the individual symptoms reported. When we combined differences in scores across all symptoms, we found 56.7% of people saw an overall improvement and 18.7% a deterioration in their symptoms, with 24.6% remaining unchanged. Once broken down by vaccine, we can see that those who had Moderna were more likely to report improvements and less likely to report deterioration, see figure 7 below:

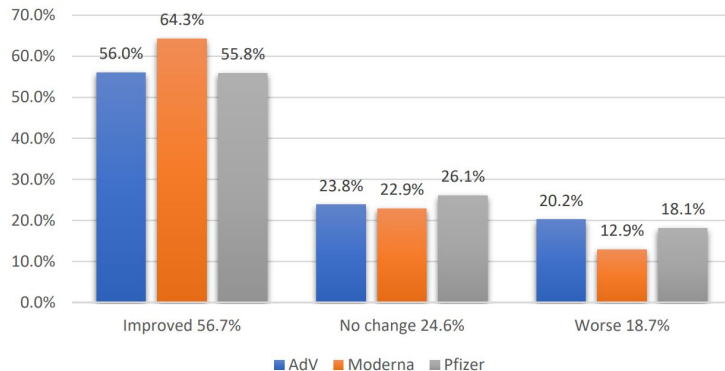


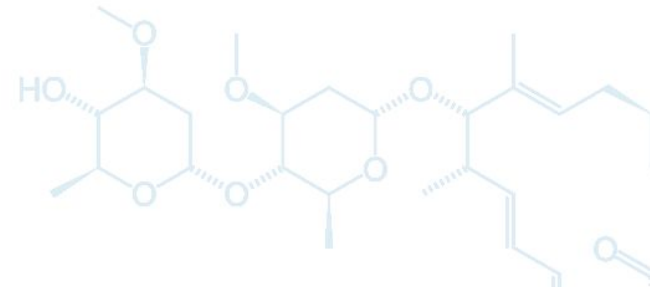
Figure 7: Change in symptom scores before and after vaccination

Promising anecdotes led to a Yale study



Patient reports of improvement following vaccination led to a Yale study looking at the effects of COVID vaccination in people with Long COVID ([NCT04895189](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04895189)). Recruitment was stopped sometime around May–July 2022.

If/when results are released, this prospective study may provide valuable data on the risk/benefit of COVID vaccines in Long COVID sufferers.





Severity of vaccine injury



Heidi Ferrer's eulogy



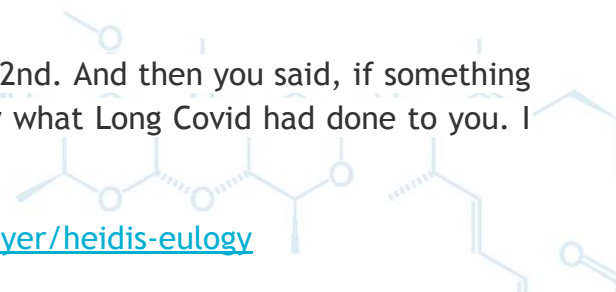
For Heidi Ferrer, who suffered from Long COVID, COVID vaccination started a chain of events that ultimately resulted in her death. While the vaccine may not have killed her, it caused a dramatic reduction in her quality of life.

Then in March we were able to get the vaccine with the hope it would help you get all the way back. Within weeks it was clear something was very wrong. The tremors started in your hands. Small at first. You told me other people in your groups were getting them too.

[...]

And yet, through all your daily pain, you somehow finished your book on May 2nd. And then you said, if something happened to you, if you had a heart attack or a stroke to let the world know what Long Covid had done to you. I promised you I would, not knowing what would happen 20 days later.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230101011538/https://girltomom.com/a-prayer/heidis-eulogy>





Closing thoughts





Put patients first



Randomized controlled trials would yield more reliable data. But until such data is published, we need to make decisions based on less reliable data.

The COVID vaccines simply do not have a good risk/benefit profile (in people with chronic illness), especially given other alternatives available.

More people need to have the courage to speak the truth about what's happening chronic illness sufferers. There's been enough suffering as it is.