

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Prevalence of anxiety and depressive symptoms and impact on self-management among adults with chronic conditions in Chicago, IL, USA during the COVID-19 pandemic: a cross-sectional survey
AUTHORS	Lovett, Rebecca; Opsasnick, Lauren; Russell, Andrea; Yoon, Esther; Weiner-Light, Sophia; Serper, Marina; Cooper Bailey, Stacy; Wolf, Michael

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Highton, Patrick University of Leicester, Cardiovascular Sciences
REVIEW RETURNED	16-Jul-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>The paper is very well written, and provides very interesting data concerning the potential impact of anxiety and depression on healthcare utilisation during COVID in patients with underlying medical conditions. On the whole, the manuscript is very well presented, the study seems to have been conducted thoroughly and the conclusions are appropriate and not over-stated.</p> <p>There is one area where I would request clarification, and this concerns the types/classifications of chronic conditions displayed by the study participants. The following questions should therefore be addressed:</p> <p>For the methods section:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How were underlying/chronic conditions classified/identified for the purposes of inclusion in either this study or the parent studies?2. Were any patients/conditions excluded on this basis? E.g. palliative care, active cancer treatment etc.3. Were mental health conditions included? <p>For the results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What was the prevalence of each condition or category of conditions (e.g. cardiovascular, respiratory, cancer etc) - if this data exists it should be included <p>For the discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the potential implications of varying conditions on the presented results? I.e. not all conditions are created equally, and some may be expected to impact anxiety/depression and healthcare utilisation etc to a greater degree than others. This is of particular importance if mental health conditions were included as a chronic condition in this cas
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REVIEWER	Ghashghaee, Ahmad Iran University of Medical Sciences
REVIEW RETURNED	11-Aug-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Dear authors</p> <p>Thank for your great manuscript. It is perfectly done, however, you need to add and change some details.</p> <p>1- Please add number for you headings and subheadings.</p> <p>2- It is too short and it needs more general information about your project</p> <p>3- Although your discussion is well organized, it need subheadings for make the text easier for readers.</p> <p>4- In your limitation section, it would be better if you this section.</p> <p>5- It needs more example for supporting your statements.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer #1 Comments:

For the methods section:

1. How were underlying/chronic conditions classified/identified for the purposes of inclusion in either this study or the parent studies?

Please see response to Editor's Comment #4.

2. Were any patients/conditions excluded on this basis? E.g. palliative care, active cancer treatment etc.

We did not explicitly exclude any participants from the study by chronic condition. However, by circumstance any conditions characterized by severe and uncorrectable visual, hearing, or cognitive impairments interfering with study participation would have been excluded. This would include conditions such as dementia, for example. We have added language to the Sample section within the Methods to better clarify this point, as detailed below:

“Participants were not explicitly excluded from any parent study on the basis of having a certain chronic condition, except if that condition were to be characterized by an uncorrectable visual, hearing, or cognitive impairment interfering with study participation (e.g., dementia).”

3. Were mental health conditions included?

Mental health conditions were not included as a chronic condition; the focus was on chronic medical conditions.

For the results:

4. What was the prevalence of each condition or category of conditions (e.g. cardiovascular, respiratory, cancer etc) - if this data exists it should be included

Information specific to type or categories of chronic medical conditions is not yet available for the full sample, as self-report of chronic conditions was not asked as part of parent study participation for TAKE-IT and medical chart abstraction has not yet been completed. With our available data we are only able to provide the number of chronic conditions for all participants, which we are still able to accurately infer as 3+ for all TAKE-IT participants as that was a study eligibility requirement.

For the discussion:

5. What are the potential implications of varying conditions on the presented results? I.e. not all conditions are created equally, and some may be expected to impact anxiety/depression and healthcare utilisation etc to a greater degree than others. This is of particular importance if mental health conditions were included as a chronic condition in this case.

We appreciate the reviewer's comment regarding the heterogeneity of chronic conditions and variable impact on both mental health and the outcomes assessed in this study, and recognize this possibility. Given we do not have this information readily available, it is difficult to comment on how different types of chronic conditions may have impacted the results of this study. We recognize this as a limitation, and have added language to the Discussion reflecting this:

"Furthermore, while all participants in our sample had at least one underlying chronic medical condition, comprehensive data regarding condition type was not available for analysis. Different medical conditions may have had differing effects on both the presence of mental health symptoms, as well as health self-management and utilization."

See also response to #3 regarding inclusion of mental health conditions as a preexisting condition. We also have existing language in the Discussion noting the lack of this information as a limitation of this study:

"As information on mental health functioning prior to the pandemic was not currently available for the full sample, it is difficult to determine whether any psychological distress and its associated impact are a result of the pandemic, or merely a continuation or exacerbation of a previous condition."

Reviewer # 3:

1. Please add number for you headings and subheadings.

We defer to the Editor as we were following common manuscript formatting instructions.

2. It is too short and it needs more general information about your project

Please see our response to Editor's Comments #4 & #5.

3. Although your discussion is well organized, it need subheadings for make the text easier for readers.

We defer to the Editor as we were following common manuscript formatting instructions.

4. In your limitation section, it would be better if you this section.

We are unclear of the concern.

5. It needs more example for supporting your statements.
We are unclear of the concern.

