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DIABETES DOES NOT INCREASE THE RISK OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTION BUT WORSENS THE OUTCOME OF INFECTED PEOPLE

Spread of the new coronavirus causing severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) has become pandemic and is rapidly growing.



Gian Paolo Fadini

It has been initially suggested that diabetes mellitus is one of the most common comorbidities in infected people, but its exact prevalence is unclear.

This issue has been addressed in a study published as a letter in the Journal of Endocrinological Investigation by Gian Paolo Fadini (associate professor of Endocrinology at the University of Padova and principal investigator at the Veneto Institute of Molecular Medicine, Padova) and co-workers.

The analysis included 12 studies reporting data from 2108 Chinese patients and preliminary data from Italian patients with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. Results show that diabetes does not increase the risk of new coronavirus infection. However, diabetes could worsen the outcome of this new coronavirus disease, increasing the risk of intensive care unit admission and death.

This finding is consistent with the well-known association between diabetes and excess mortality from any acute and chronic condition, including infections.

The situation is rapidly evolving, and close monitoring of these data are important for a correct communication to patients and healthcare providers.

Link to the publication: <https://rdcu.be/b3ifm>

Link to the University of Padova: <https://www.unipd.it/en/>

Link to the Veneto Institute of Molecular Medicine: <https://www.vimm.it/>