

Prevalence of, and factors associated with, long-term COVID-19 sick leave in working-age patients followed in general practices in Germany

Author: Jacob L, Koyanagi A, Smith L, Tanislav C, Konrad M, van der Beck S, Kostev K

Respiratory diseases

Aims

To investigate the prevalence of, and the factors associated with, long-term sick leave in working-age patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in general practices in Germany.

Methods

Patients aged 18-65 years diagnosed with COVID-19 in any of 1255 general practices in Germany between March 2020 and February 2021 were included in the study. Long-term sick leave was defined as sick leave of at least 4 weeks. The association between predefined independent variables and long-term sick leave was studied using an adjusted logistic regression model.

Results

This study included 30 950 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 (51.7% women, mean (standard deviation) age 41.5 (\pm 13.0) years). The prevalence of long-term sick leave was 5.8%. Female sex, older age, and several conditions (noninfective enteritis and colitis; reaction to severe stress, and adjustment disorders; atopic dermatitis; mononeuropathies; reflux diseases; diabetes mellitus; and hypertension) were positively and significantly associated with long-term sick leave.

Conclusion

Long-term sick leave was relatively rare in COVID-19 patients followed in general practices in Germany. These results should be confirmed or invalidated in other settings and countries.

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If you would like to read any of the studies in its entirety, please, contact us to obtain the full version of a publication. Also, our research director is at your disposal if you have any further questions. Thank you for your interest!

CONTACT

IQVIA Commercial GmbH & Co. OHG
Unterschweinstiege 2 - 14 | 60549 Frankfurt am Main
Tel. +49 69 6604-0
[iqvia.de](https://www.iqvia.de)