

## World Congress on INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

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**Risk of Pulmonary Fibrosis and Persistent Symptoms Post-COVID-19 in a Cohort of Outpatient Health Workers****Javier Romo-Garcia**

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**Background:** Infection by SARS-CoV-2 has been associated with multiple symptoms; however, still, little is known about persistent symptoms and their probable association with the risk of developing pulmonary fibrosis in patients post-COVID-19. **Methods:** A longitudinal prospective study on health workers infected by SARS-CoV-2 was conducted. In this work, signs and symptoms were recorded of 149 health workers with a positive PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 at the beginning of the diagnosis, during the active infection, and during post-COVID-19 follow-up. The McNemar chisquare test was used to compare the proportions and percentages of symptoms between the baseline and each follow-up period. **Results:** The signs and symptoms after follow-up were cardiorespiratory, neurological, and inflammatory. Gastrointestinal symptoms were unusual at the disease onset, but unexpectedly, their frequency was higher in the post-infection stage. The multivariate analysis showed that pneumonia (HR 2.4, IC95%: 1.5–3.8,  $p < 0.001$ ) and positive PCR tests still after four weeks (HR 5.3, IC95%: 2.3–12.3,  $p < 0.001$ ) were factors associated with the diagnosis of post-COVID19 pulmonary fibrosis in this study group. **Conclusions:** Our results showed that pneumonia and virus infection persistence were risk factors for developing pulmonary fibrosis post-COVID-19, after months of initial infection.

**Biography**

Dr Romo finished Internal Medicine and infectious disease specialist since 1989. He has completed her Master of Science at Emory University in Atlanta Georgia USA in 2003.