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## Expert view

### Oral manifestations of long COVID and the views of healthcare professionals'

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As the world starts the slow journey of recovery from the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is emerging evidence showing the long-term effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection in certain individuals. The World Health Organisation defined long covid as the “continuation or development of new symptoms three months after the initial SARS-CoV-2 infection, with symptoms lasting for at least two months with no other explanation”.<sup>1</sup> The most common symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath and cognitive dysfunction however more than 200 different symptoms have been linked with this condition.<sup>1</sup>

This small study explores the reported prevalence of some oral manifestations of long covid and the awareness of various healthcare professionals on managing these patients.<sup>2</sup>

Although less frequent, oral manifestations have been linked with long covid. Still, an emerging area of research, some studies suggest that reinfection with covid may increase the likelihood of developing long covid.<sup>3,4</sup> As reinfections become increasingly common and may contribute to a growing burden of multimorbidities in the population, the question is what might be the role of dental teams in managing these patients.<sup>5</sup> There is scope for further research to improve our understanding of the long term effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection, especially in the more vulnerable groups. The findings of these will inform the planning of healthcare services including prevention, and the training of healthcare professionals for providing more integrated services for these patients.

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