



Colchicine for Long COVID

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The George Institute
for Global Health
India

Facts:

- Approximately 20% of all those infected and 80% of hospitalised COVID-19 patients experience symptoms for three to six months or more.
- Long COVID risk is not limited to those with acute severe disease, and can be seen in those with mild acute illness. Most are in their prime working years, with significant impacts on societal wealth.

Project Cycle:

2021–2023

Partners:

The George Institute India

Supporters:

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, India

Principal Investigators

Prof. Vivekanand Jha

Background:

- COVID-19 has affected hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Most have recovered, but many have reported lingering health issues or symptoms that appear months or years after the initial infection, called Long COVID.
- Long COVID symptoms are wide-ranging, multisystemic and predominantly fluctuating or relapsing. These symptoms cannot be explained by any other health conditions and commonly include fatigue, shortness of breath, functional disability and cognitive problems.
- There are no known therapeutics to prevent or treat Long COVID yet.
- Colchicine may reduce the impact of the inflammation related to Long COVID.

Aims:

- To assess the efficacy and safety of oral colchicine compared to placebo to prevent Long COVID in individuals with persistent symptoms more than three weeks post-acute infection with COVID-19.
- To assess the efficacy of colchicine on respiratory and psychiatric complications and assess its effects on post COVID-19 myopericarditis by cardiac MRI.

Methods:

- A phase-3, multi-centre parallel-arm, 1:1 individual randomised, placebo-controlled double-blinded study involving 350 post-COVID-19 adults.
- 100 participants will be selected for the Cardiac MRI sub-study.
- Participants will be followed up for 12 months post-randomisation.
- The primary outcome is net difference in distance walked (6-minute walk test).

Impact:

- This will be the first placebo-controlled randomised trial to examine a pharmacological intervention to improve long-term health outcomes in COVID-19 survivors in India.
- If colchicine is shown to provide health benefits, our research findings will inform clinical practice in management of long COVID.

Contact:

To find out more about this project and its principal investigators or The George Institute please contact contact Abhishek Shandilya +91 11 4158 8091-93 or AShandilya@georgeinstitute.org.in

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