

IMPACT OF COVID ON NATURAL HISTORY OF KELOID DISORDER

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Running Title

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BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the delivery of healthcare services and medical treatments to many patients, including those with benign skin conditions such as keloids. However, direct impact of the COVID-19 illness on the biology of the keloid disorder has not been previously reported in the literature.

OBJECTIVE

To assess the impact of COVID-19 on biology of keloid disorder.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Following report of a patient who noticed worsening of his chest keloid, a survey was sent to 4,492 keloid patients in February 2022 to collect anonymous information about the impact of COVID-19 on the biology and behaviour of keloid lesions. 45% of recipients opened the e mail and 6% clicked on the link to the survey. 85 subjects (1.9%) completed the survey.

RESULTS

Among eighty five respondents who completed the survey, 43(51%) reported having tested positive for COVID. Fifteen respondents reported that their keloids became more swollen, became more symptomatic, or experienced rapid rate of growth on stable keloids.

DISCUSSION

To the author's knowledge, direct impact of COVID-19 disease on the biology of keloid disorder has not been previously described. Dysregulated inflammatory immune response associated with significant cytokine release from COVID-19 infection is most likely the underlying triggering factor that causes change in behavior and biology of keloid disorder. Further investigation into the impact of COVID-19 and keloid biology is warranted.
