

Chiari and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light several concerns, especially its long-lasting impacts upon one's health. Recent reports of patients receiving a diagnosis of a Chiari Malformation after a COVID infection has been a topic of interest. Current propositions for its pathophysiology has revolved around valsalva based stressors, such as significant coughing during COVID 19 infection, can result in cerebellar tonsil impaction and thus a symptomatic Chiari Malformation.¹ Increased cerebellar tonsil impaction places patients at risk of brainstem compression, affecting respiratory drive and chances of coma.¹ As we continue to fully understand COVID-19's effect on the human body, the intersection between infectious diseases and the brain remains an evolving area of research.

References:

1. Piscopo AJ, Teferi N, Marincovich A, Challa M, Dlouhy BJ. Coronavirus disease 2019-associated persistent cough and Chiari malformation type 1 resulting in acute respiratory failure: illustrative case. *Journal of Neurosurgery*. 2023. doi: 10.3171/CASE23555.
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