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Mental health: Patients

In patients who have had COVID-19, there may be an increased risk of mental illness.

Patients who recover from COVID-19 have an increased risk anxiety, depression, or psychosis, even if they did not have a history of these before, for 6 months after their illness.

We don't know whether this is because of an effect of the virus on the brain, or because of the stress, guilt, or other psychological implications of being sick with COVID-19

It is important for patients to have access to mental health resources to help them through anxiety, depression, or psychosis if they occur.

It is also important for their families to be aware of their increased risk.

Patients expressing suicidal or homicidal thoughts or thoughts of self-harm should immediately be referred to:

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Reference:

Taquet, Maxime & Luciano, Sierra & Geddes, John & Harrison, Paul. (2020). Bidirectional associations between COVID-19 and psychiatric disorder: retrospective cohort studies of 62 354 COVID-19 cases in the USA. *The Lancet Psychiatry*. 8. 10.1016/S2215-0366(20)30462-4.