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Residual symptoms and lower lung function in patients recovering from SARS-CoV-2 infection

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About half of the patients recovering from SARS-CoV-2 have persistent symptoms and lower lung function as long as 2 months after infection. This is common even in younger SARS-CoV-2 convalescents with few comorbidities. <https://bit.ly/38dyCYB>

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To the Editor:

Initial reports of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection indicate only mild disease in 81% of symptomatic cases [1]. Nearly half of the infected individuals do not seem to develop clinical symptoms at all, depending on the cohort investigated [2]. Comorbidities and older age were identified early during the pandemic as predictors for severe or critical disease [3], which is found in about 19% [1]. Independently from disease severity, little is known about longer-term outcomes as well as resolution of symptoms. We therefore set out to systematically evaluate residual symptoms and lung function impairment in patients after SARS-CoV-2 infection.