

Smell dysfunction in the center of Rhinology care during the covid-19 pandemic

During the covid pandemic in 2020, the burden of smell dysfunction as experienced by our patients with chronic rhinologic conditions become more obvious for the society thanks to all media attention to emotional testimonials of anosmic patients and efforts of the scientific community to understand the pathophysiology ⁽¹⁾. Despite the high prevalence, smell loss in relation to viral and other etiologies remains a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge for most practitioners, in view of the incomplete understanding of mechanisms of smell loss in most conditions, the multi-factorial nature of smell impairment ⁽²⁾, the lack of routine quantification of smell dysfunction in most ENT practices ^(3,4) and the lack of predictability of smell restoration by surgical or medical therapy including olfactory training. However, smell loss is associated with major functional as well as emotional consequences, which are amongst the most bothersome symptoms in patients with e-CRS as shown by real-life digital data ⁽⁵⁾.

In the February 2021 issue of *Rhinology*, several aspects of covid-19 related smell loss are being dealt with, highlighting the lack of full smell recovery after covid-19, and with corticosteroids as therapeutic option as demonstrated by the research of Professor Claire Hopkins and coworkers ^(6,7). In e-CRS patients with nasal polyps, the efficacy of different biological molecules on smell loss is under full exploration with very promising outcomes for anosmic patients to be expected in real life ^(8,9).

The editorial board of *Rhinology* hopes to meet all members of the European Rhinologic society and ENT colleagues worldwide at the forthcoming European Rhinologic Society meeting in Thessaloniki, September 26-30, 2021, with ERS president Jannis Constantinidis as chair. The prospectus of a vibrant and physical exchange of the latest science and clinical experiences in the wonderful Rhinology field during the ERS bi-annual congress represents a very appealing professional note at the beginning of 2021!

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References

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