



Press release

Covid 19: The "third wave" in the form of neurodegenerative secondary diseases could become particularly dangerous

Intensification of research in the field of neurodegenerative diseases, especially Parkinson's, urgently needed

The YUVEDO Foundation, the patient organizations German Parkinson Association (DPV) and Bundesverband Parkinson Youngster e.V., together with experienced neurologists, warn of the special risks of Covid 19 disease for those affected by neurodegenerative diseases and a particularly dangerous "third wave" that could occur in the next few years as a secondary disease of Covid 19. The patient organizations, together with the YUVEDO Foundation, are therefore calling for part of the funds from the German and European economic stimulus and research packages to be used for the intensified research and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

In the scientific literature there is an increasing discussion about possible individual long-term health effects of COVID-19. For a long time, the focus was on the long-term effects of internal medicine such as lung or heart disease. In the meantime, more and more patients are reporting persistent neurological symptoms - such as headaches, persistent concentration disorders and fatigue.

One of the most common neurological symptoms of COVID-19 in the acute phase is an olfactory disorder. This has been demonstrated in larger case series in more than two thirds of COVID-19 patients. It is alarming that the olfactory disorder persists in 10-20% of those affected even 2 months after the onset of the disease. Various studies on neurological secondary diseases of Covid 19 are already in progress.

"Smell disorders are typical for Parkinson's disease and are often already present in the earliest stages of the disease (prodromal/premotor stage). They can therefore be a warning sign that someone may develop motor symptoms in the next few years," explains Prof. Dr. Susanne Schneider from the LMU in Munich. Prof. Dr. Thomas Müller, head of neurology at the Alexianer Hospital in Berlin-Weissensee, explains: "It is unclear whether an infection with Covid 19 affects the risk of developing Parkinson's disease or another neurodegenerative disease (such as dementia) in the course of the disease. It would be conceivable. For example, after the pandemic of the 1920s ("Spanish flu"), the incidence of Parkinson-like disease patterns in society increased by a factor of 2-3 - as a late consequence of the Spanish flu. The number of deaths in connection with post-encephalitic Parkinsonism between 1925 and 1938 is estimated at just under 15,000 for the USA alone".

"We need massive international efforts and new incentive structures in order not to become victims of the "third wave" of neurodegenerative secondary diseases in the near future, if the fears of scientists, and in particular the fears that we must finally decipher the various, presumably heterogeneous, causal causes of neurodegenerative diseases, are to be realised. If the fears are not confirmed, the massive investment in causal therapy of these diseases is nevertheless absolutely necessary", says Dr. Jörg Karenfort, sole director of the YUVEDO Foundation.

"It is important that the research starts at the root, i.e. aims at a cure and not only symptomatic treatment" says Dr. Friedrich-Wilhelm Mehrhoff, CEO of the DPV.

Nadine Mattes from the Federal Association of Parkinson's Youngsters adds:
"Neurodegenerative diseases are a massive burden for those affected, their families and the whole of society. Nevertheless, progress in treatment is too slow and simply not really noticeable for us sufferers. This must change - all the more so if we are caught in a third wave as a result of Covid 19".

About YUVEDO Foundation

The non-profit YUVEDO Foundation was founded in June 2019 by Dr. Jörg Karenfort and Jens Greve. Through own projects and events as well as partnerships and project funding, the foundation would like to improve the living conditions for people with Parkinson's disease and their families and contribute to the healing of the disease. The foundation is also committed to bringing together leading figures from patient associations, industry, politics, ethics and law with recognized physicians and scientists to accelerate Parkinson's research. Project partners of the YUVEDO Foundation are national and international research institutions and patient associations such as the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), the Movement Disorder Society (MDS), the German Parkinson Association (DPV), Parkinson Youngsters, Cure4Parkinson, the Parkinson Terminator Project or the European Parkinson Disease Association (EPDA). Most recently, the YUVEDO Foundation organized the Very Little Great Charity Ride from Cologne to Baden- Baden by bicycle (see [yuvedo_live](#) on Instagram or www.yuvedofoundation.de) and organized an online conference with representatives from politics and science, where, among other things, the Brainstorm Project and an economic expert opinion on possible market failure in the development of causal treatments for Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases (NDE) were presented (<https://www.brainstormfund.org/event>).

Contact us:

YUVEDO Foundation: Anna Schroeder, anna.schroeder@yuvedofoundation.de