

# Review of: "Stellate ganglion block for anosmia and taste disturbance due to Long-COVID"

Sahar Jaffal

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## Review of Stellate ganglion block for anosmia and taste disturbance due to Long-COVID

There are several concerns in this article:

1) The title and generalizing the results in the article are misleading. The article is related to a single case study. Thus, the author has to be careful in generalizing the results. The author should describe the results as results of a single case study and provide suggestion to collect more information from other patients, conduct more surveys and studies about this topic with larger sample size. Other misleading issue in the title is that the author mentioned anosmia and taste disturbance in the title while the author started in the abstract by giving definition and information about anosmia and parosmia. Since the patient reported loss of smell and taste disturbances, the author should talk about anomia and dysgeusia.

2) The author used the term long COVID-19 in the title and in explaining the results. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines long Covid as "usually 3 months from the onset of Covid-19 with symptoms that last for at least 2 months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis."

In this article, the author mentioned that the woman suffered from anosmia and taste disturbance one month after COVID-19. Accordingly, the definition of long COVID-19 is not applicable in this case.

3) In choosing the terms, it is confusing to write the words anosmia and taste disturbance as if there is no scientific term for taste disturbance. Consistency is better, either write smell and taste disturbances or anomia and dysgeusia.

Suggestion for the title of this article: **A case study of using stellate ganglion block to resolve smell loss and taste disturbance after COVID in a female patient.**

4) The abstract should include more than a sentence about the results in this article as they are the core of the study.

5) I didn't check the plagiarism in this article. However, I searched for the following sentence as it seems to me exaggerated "up to 7% of the patients remain anosmic more than 12 months after onset leaving millions worldwide with severe olfactory dysfunction".

The sentence was taken without re-phrasing from the following reference:

Karamali, K., Elliott, M., & Hopkins, C. (2022). COVID-19 related olfactory dysfunction. *Current opinion in otolaryngology &*

*head and neck surgery*, 30(1), 19–25.

Thus, plagiarism needs to be checked by the author.

6) In the following sentence "The patient reported that her COVID-19 symptoms were like any other viral infection she had in the past",

the author should explain in detail the type and frequency of viral infections that the woman suffered from. The author should mention whether the woman suffered anosmia and dysgeusia from previous viral infections and for how long.

7) The author used the term stellate ganglion block in the abstract and several paragraphs in the article (even after writing the abbreviation SGB) and used the abbreviation SGB in other paragraphs. Similar issue applies for using the abbreviation CBF in the discussion. In fact, the full name of the abbreviations should be written on first use in the abstract and article then the abbreviation can be used in other sentences.

8) The full name for the following abbreviations must be written on the first use in the article

COVID-19 (page 1, abstract and introduction)

PASC (page 1)

Mas (page 3)

SARS-CoV-2 (page 3)

ATII (page 3)

CBF (page 3)

9) The author should be careful in using the word depressed "the patient was depressed". Was the patient diagnosed with depression? Did she take any medication for depression? If not, using the word annoyed or un-comfortable would be more accurate.

10) In the discussion, the author focused on theories related to anosmia as well as other therapies that restored the ability of smell in patients (e.g. the use of cerebral blood flow) and didn't discuss the issue of taste disturbance and the effect of therapies on this symptom although the article is related to both.

11) There are mistakes that need to be corrected or sentences that need to be changed.

Sentence	Correction	Reason (if there is)
Anosmia or parosmia associated with COVID-19 has generated a lot of interesting etiological hypotheses.	A lot of interesting etiological hypotheses were generated about Anosmia or parosmia associated with COVID-19	Anosmia or parosmia cannot generate hypotheses
dysautonomia could be induced by the autonomic nervous system's (ANS) response or maladaptation to pro-inflammatory cytokines	dysautonomia could be induced by the autonomic nervous system's (ANS) irregular response or maladaptation to pro-inflammatory cytokines	
The authors report	The author reports	There is one author
She was placed on antiviral therapy for five days, followed by a complete resolution of symptoms	She was placed on antiviral therapy for five days, followed by a complete resolution of these symptoms	To clarify that the symptoms that were completely resolved are the one that are mentioned in the previous sentence in which taste and smell disturbances are not included.
No conductive loss of sense of smell	No conductive loss of smell	
auto-antibodies, such as anti-interferon, anti-nuclear, and anti-phospholipids,	auto-antibodies, such as anti-interferon, anti-nuclear antibodies, and anti-phospholipids,	
In patients	A patient	There is one patient
Parkinson's.	Parkinson's disease	-
(Hepatitis C, HIV, Epstein-Barr virus)	(e.g. Hepatitis C, HIV, Epstein-Barr virus)	The cases that are mentioned are not necessarily all the viral cases. They are examples
Dysautonomia is also reported with other viral illnesses (Hepatitis C, HIV, Epstein-Barr virus) and other pathologies such Qeios, CC-BY 4.0 · Article, June 11, 2022 Qeios ID: 0SSOBL · <a href="https://doi.org/10.32388/0SSOBL">https://doi.org/10.32388/0SSOBL</a> 2/5 as alcoholism, diabetes, and Parkinson's. Dysautonomia is associated with fatigue, anosmia, heart rate variability, bowel and bladder dysfunction, and orthostatic hypotension	Dysautonomia is reported with other viral illnesses (e.g. Hepatitis C, HIV, Epstein-Barr virus). Also, it is reported in other cases such as alcoholism, diabetes, and Parkinson's disease, fatigue, anosmia, heart rate variability, orthostatic hypotension, bowel and bladder dysfunction.	