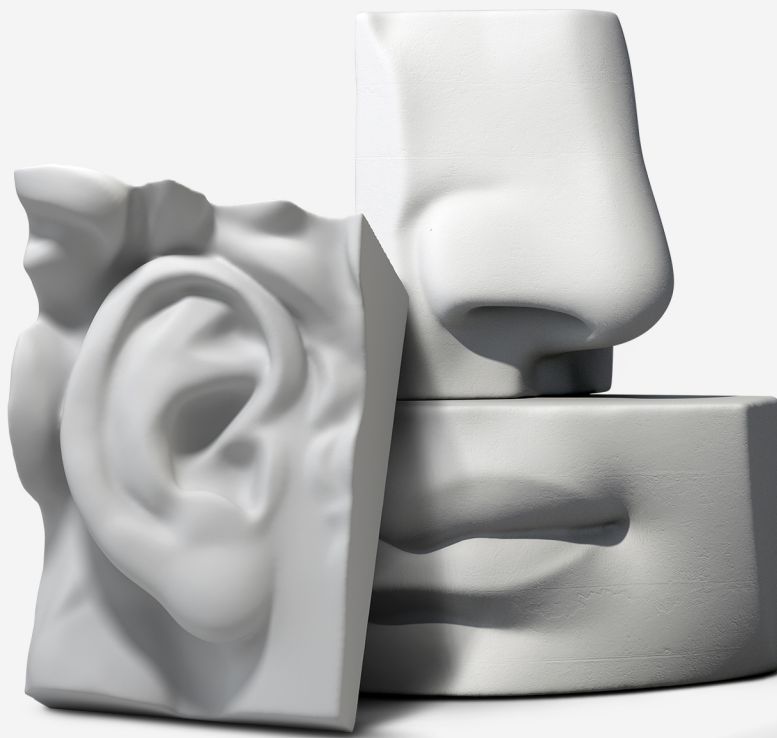




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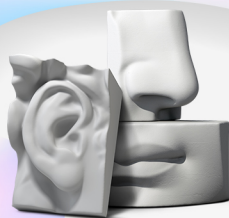


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ORAL PRESENTATION 8-3

Rare ENT Symptoms and Physiopathologies Observed in the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Istanbul Yeni Yüzyıl University, Medical Faculty, ENT Department, Istanbul

Objective: To reveal that SARS-CoV-2 causes different symptoms and complications aside from the usual upper respiratory tract infection and to explain the possible physiopathologies.

Materials and Method: Literature and study review on symptoms and complications of the COVID-19 pandemic in the past year.

Results: The new type of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), which causes acute respiratory tract disease, triggered the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 and resulted in more than 100 million people infected and more than 2 million dead in the world. Although the common symptoms of a COVID-19 infection include fever, cough, weakness, muscle-joint pain, and headache—as in upper respiratory viral infections—the high number of cases have revealed that COVID-19 not only affects the respiratory tract and lungs but also causes pathology in other organs and systems. The respiratory, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and neural systems are the most heavily impacted. In addition to this, recent studies have revealed serious complications related to the ear, nose, and throat, especially during the recovery period of a COVID-19 infection. Among the most important are hearing loss, facial neuropathies, olfactory and gustatory dysfunctions, and subacute thyroiditis. There are many hypotheses regarding the pathophysiology of these complications. One hypothesis states that SARS-CoV-2 is a neurotrophic virus and causes cranial neuropathies, especially in the auditory and facial nerves. Another hypothesis suggests that the virus activates the autoimmune mechanism in the inflammatory process, causing vasa nervorum ischemia and demyelination. In addition, the SARS-CoV-2 virus targets the ACE2 receptor; the presence of these receptors in the thyroid tissue causes thyroiditis-like pulmonary infection.

Conclusion: As a result of the study, it can be observed that SARS-CoV-2 causes hearing loss, loss of taste and smell, and subacute thyroiditis related to the ear-nose-throat branch apart from the respiratory system infection.

Key Words: SARS-CoV-2, hearing loss, loss of taste, loss of smell, thyroiditis



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