

# Cystic Fibrosis Research News

**Title:**

SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence in a Belgian cohort of patients with cystic fibrosis

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**What was your research question?**

The aim of the study was to report the presence of antibodies against the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence), among a group of people with cystic fibrosis (CF) after the peak of the pandemic in Belgium.

**Why is this important?**

Cystic fibrosis is a disorder that affects many organs and is responsible for a chronic lung disease, described as a risk factor associated with a worse outcome in the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Information is lacking on the presence of antibodies against the virus and on the impact of COVID-19 on people with CF.

**What did you do?**

Blood samples from 149 people with CF were analyzed to measure specific antibodies. The presence and timing of COVID-19 symptoms were collected.

**What did you find?**

The presence of antibodies was detected in only 3 people without any symptoms (2%). Risk factors were found among all of them (contacts with possible cases). In 36 people with CF and



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compatible symptoms of COVID-19 and in one CF patient hospitalized for COVID-19, we did not detect any antibodies against the coronavirus.

## **What does this mean and reasons for caution?**

The presence of antibodies against the coronavirus in people with CF is rare and not always correlated to the symptoms during the infection. The absence of antibodies detection in one COVID-19 positive CF patient raises the question of the potential for vaccine development. We only performed one test per participant in this study.

## **What's next?**

The measurement of specific antibodies in a larger group of people with CF would be of interest, notably at another stage of the pandemic. The protective role of these antibodies needs to be further studied.

## **Original manuscript citation in PubMed**

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