

## **Somatic Cough Syndrome; Is COVID-19 Guilty: Case Reports and Literature Review**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Somatic cough syndrome (formerly known as Psychogenic Cough) is an uncommon and sometimes underestimated cause of persistent cough that is generally found after a series of rigorous testing and therapies. There is a peak incidence between 8 and 14 years; both sexes are affected similarly.

**Case presentation:** The current article describes three cases of somatic cough disorder observed at our institution during the COVID-19 pandemic. The patients were diagnosed after 2-3 months and were successfully managed with suggestive and behavioral therapy.

**Conclusions:** Lack of knowledge regarding somatic cough syndrome exists among frontline health care personnel. The relevance of reporting such cases emphasizes the need for health care professionals to be aware of the need to avoid unneeded medical management. Whether or not COVID-19 is linked to an increased incidence of somatic cough syndrome is yet to be established. Still, multidisciplinary collaboration, patient participation, and public education are essential, along with a clear case definition or working diagnosis.

**Keywords:** Somatic cough syndrome, Persistent cough, Suggestive therapy, Behavioral therapy, COVID-19

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