

Diabetes and Covid-19

Overview

As the novel 2019 coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread, those over the age of 65 or with serious chronic medical conditions have higher chances of developing severe illness after contracting it.¹

Individuals with conditions like diabetes are at much higher risk of experiencing complications from COVID-19 than the general population. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) explained that those who live with diabetes are challenged every day. That challenge makes an infection with COVID-19 even more dangerous to their health and well-being.² When people with diabetes develop a viral infection, it can be harder to treat due to fluctuations in blood glucose levels and, possibly, the presence of diabetes complications.³

Procedure

Prisma’s Social Energy Circumplex highlights the causal link between diabetes and covid-19 using descriptive linguistic analysis and a qualitative observation of language in news articles from our databases.



Social Energy Circumplex, query terms: COVID-19, coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, chronic illnesses, diabetes, insulin; time span March 29, 2020 – April 1, 2020

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

² <https://www.diabetes.org/coronavirus-covid-19>

³ <https://diabetesvoice.org/en/news/covid-19-and-diabetes/>

Analysis

Segment Breakdown		
Conflict	29	8.92%
Action	1	0.31%
Escalation	19	5.85%
Fear	31	9.54%
Frustration	95	29.23%
Motivation	5	1.54%
Inaction	7	2.15%
Power	17	5.23%
Agreement	3	0.92%
Debate	39	12%
Negative Expectations	99	21.23%
Ideals	3	0.92%
Hope	2	0.62%
Anxiety	5	1.54%
Cumulative Base Energy	325	100%
Weighted Behavioural Energies		
Hot Action	257	47.86%
Cool Action	280	52.14%

The most active social energies on the circumplex are Frustration (29.3%), Negative Expectations (21.23%), and Debate (12%).

Since people with diabetes are at an increased risk of developing severe complications if they get infected with the coronavirus, Frustration and Negative Expectations are understandably high. Furthermore, diabetes patients are being advised to purchase a 90-day supply of insulin.⁴

The congressional relief package also includes provisions that have near-term impact for people with T1D as they navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes renewed funding for community health centers, where people can access affordable insulin and other prescriptions. And it requires that Medicare Part D plans provide up to a 90-day supply of prescription medications, including insulin, if requested by a beneficiary during the COVID-19 emergency period.

Debate's presence of 12% reflects the discussion among researchers about why people with diabetes may have a higher risk for complications and death from COVID-19.

Fear and Anxiety are present because recent studies have shown that of those hospitalized for severe disease, 22.2% to 26.9% reported living with diabetes. Diabetes and high glucose levels are associated with increased complications, respiratory failure, and mortality in hospitalized patients with COVID-19.⁵

Furthermore, it seems that especially patients with type 1 diabetes who experience a viral infection have a greater likelihood of having diabetic ketoacidosis, which inhibits the body's ability to mitigate sepsis, a major contributor to death among persons with COVID-19.

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Social Energy Circumplex, query terms: COVID-19, coronavirus, SAR-CoV-2, ketoacidosis, diabetes, sepsis; time span: March 28, 2020 – April 1, 2020

⁴ <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/people-with-diabetes-risk-healthcare-covid19>

⁵ Ibidem