

Apheresis and Long Covid Syndrom



Long-term health effects of COVID-19 include impaired physical and mental health and limitations in usual performance and quality of life. The symptoms reported vary widely. They can occur individually or in combination and last for different lengths of time. So far, there is no uniform definition of Long COVID.

The results of blood washing/filtering procedures, called "apheresis" or lipid apheresis for short, have been very promising. The processes that occur in arteries calcification processes have in decisive aspects the same mechanisms as in Covid-19 infections, namely inflammation of the inner vessel walls, increased blood clot formation as well as toxic components in the blood.

Various studies have shown that severe inflammation of the inner vessel walls is typical for corona infections. In particular, the coronary vessels as well as the tiny blood vessels that supply the heart nerves were found to be inflamed. The corona virus could be repeatedly detected in the vessel walls. It is also transported into the interior of the cells via proteins of the inner vessel wall.

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As studies at the University of Aachen have shown, herpes viruses that are permanently latent in the nervous system are reactivated in severe covid infections and intensify the course of the disease.

Apheresis removes triggering coagulation factors and inflammation mediators, which can be determined by laboratory chemistry before and after apheresis. Apheresis does not affect the immune system.

In Long Covid patients, apheresis treatments have shown significant improvements in oxygen saturation, regression of neurological symptoms as well as demonstrable improvements in lung function.

Targeted laboratory analyses in patients with post-Covid infections can be performed before and after Spherotox apheresis.

Before and after the apheresis, the parameters of TNF alpha, interleukin 10, interleukin 6, interleukin 8, interleukin 1 beta and neurotransmitter autoantibodies are measured.

Initially, two Spherotox apheresis treatments are performed within 72 hours.

After the 2nd Spherotox Apheresis, we can perform the laboratory analyses again to document the healing progress. Based on these laboratory values and the clinical picture, we determine at what point further Spherotox Apheresis treatments make sense.

In this context, it is also useful to determine the genetic degree of inflammation. Patients with a genetically high degree of inflammation usually need more apheresis treatments than patients with a genetically low degree of inflammation.

The most common long-term health effects of COVID-19 reported in patient forums or observed in studies to date include:

Fatigue, exhaustion and reduced exercise capacity,

Headaches

Breathing difficulties

Odour and taste disturbances

Muscle weakness and pain

Concentration and memory problems

Depressive moods as well as sleep and anxiety disorders.

Hair loss has also been reported.

Other symptoms include:

Chest pain as well as palpitations and heart palpitations, i.e. self-perceived increased or accelerated heartbeats or even extra beats.

Heart muscle inflammation has also been observed.

Furthermore, kidney and metabolic diseases such as diabetes mellitus (diabetes) as well as thromboembolisms (blockage of a vessel by a blood clot) have occurred after the actual disease phase.

