



# Effect of COVID-19 on diabetes patients in Serbia. A cross-sectional survey.



Milana M. Vuković<sup>1</sup>, Jelena N. Jovičić Bata<sup>1</sup>, Mladena N. Lalić Popović<sup>1,2</sup>, Nemanja B. Todorović<sup>1</sup>, Dunja M. Vesković<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia

<sup>2</sup>Center for Medical and Pharmaceutical Investigations and Quality Control (CEMPHC), Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia

<sup>3</sup>Clinic for Dermatovenereology Diseases, Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia

<sup>4</sup>Department of Dermatovenereology Diseases, Faculty of Medicine Novi Sad, University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia

## Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a significant public health challenge in Serbia and worldwide, with the potentially increased vulnerability of DM patients during the coronavirus pandemic being often discussed.

## Methods

- online, observational, cross-sectional survey
- February 2022.
- 422 adult diabetes type 1 and type 2 patients
- residing in Serbia

## Results

Around half of the respondents had COVID-19 (54.0%). In total, 37.2% felt anxious about COVID-19 (answering either with “yes, somewhat” or “yes, very” on the 5-point Likert Scale). Women felt more anxious than men ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no statistically significant difference in self-perceived anxiety between different age groups.

## Conclusion

This study underscores the need to prioritise education on acne vulgaris during the preclinical years of medical studies at the Faculty of Medicine in Novi Sad. Addressing student misconceptions and misinformation dissemination is crucial, as it can significantly impact patient care within the general population.