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IPSICO survey on the psychological impact of COVID-19 on healthcare providers in obstetrics: a study design

L. Del Piccolo¹, R. Raffaelli², S. Garzon², M. Bosco², J. Casarin³, F. Ciccarone⁴, V. Donisi¹, M. Ginami⁵, A.S. Laganà³, G. Mazzoni⁵, C. Perlini¹, M. Rimondini¹, C. Simonetto², F. Ghezzi³, A. Lanzone⁴, E. Sartori⁵, G. Scambia⁴, M. Franchi²

¹Department of Neuroscience, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, University of Verona, Verona, Italy

²Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, AOUI Verona, University of Verona, Verona, Italy

³Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, "Filippo Del Ponte" Hospital, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy

⁴Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy

⁵Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy

ABSTRACT

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic is giving rise to a relevant impact on the wellbeing and mental health of several Health Care Providers (HCPs). Among HCPs, those who work in the field of obstetrics represent a particular group of HCPs who are susceptible to stressful events, given the stress derived from a physically, emotionally, and intellectually demanding work, the difficulty in rescheduling and postponing daily activities during a health emergency, and the special ability to develop personal resilience.

Based on this background, the aim of the present study is to assess the acute psychological and professional impact of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak on this group of HCPs at four University Hospitals in Italy (Verona, Roma Policlinico Gemelli, Varese, Brescia). For this purpose, a 104-items survey named Impatto PSicologico Covid in Ostetricia (IPSICO) has been developed and administered with a web-based platform. This survey, divided into four sections, will collect demographic data and information about past personal and mental health history, the impact of the epidemic on the personal and professional life, and the outcomes of this health care emergency. The results of this survey will help to plan effective strategies in order to face the psychological consequences of possible future new health care emergencies of this type.

SOMMARIO

La pandemia di SARS-CoV-2 sta causando un impatto rilevante sul benessere e la salute mentale della popolazione generale e degli operatori sanitari. Tra questi ultimi, coloro che lavorano nel campo dell'ostetricia rappresentano uno dei sottogruppi più sensibili a eventi stressanti, dato l'affaticamento derivante da un lavoro fisicamente, emotivamente e intellettualmente impegnativo, data la difficoltà di riprogrammare e posticipare le attività quotidiane durante l'emergenza e la specifica capacità di sviluppare personale resilienza.

Sulla base di queste caratteristiche, lo scopo del presente studio è di valutare l'impatto psicologico e professionale che l'epidemia di SARS-CoV-2 ha avuto sugli operatori nel campo dell'ostetricia in quattro ospedali universitari in Italia (Verona, Roma Policlinico Gemelli, Varese, Brescia). A tale scopo, è stato sviluppato e gestito con una piattaforma web un questionario denominato Impatto Psicologico COVID in Ostetricia (IPSICO) costituito da 104 voci. Questo sondaggio, diviso in quattro sezioni, raccoglierà dati demografici e informazioni sulla storia passata di salute personale e mentale, nonché dati sull'impatto di questa emergenza sanitaria sulla vita personale e professionale. I risultati di questo sondaggio aiuteranno a pianificare strategie efficaci per affrontare le conseguenze psicologiche di possibili future emergenze sanitarie di questo tipo.

Corresponding Author: Simone Garzon
E-mail: simone.garzon@yahoo.it

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INTRODUCTION

At the end of 2019, the first cases of Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) have been reported in the Hubei Province of China (1), and since then, more than thirteen million cases with more than 500,000 deaths have been confirmed globally (2). The new disease spread worldwide, and on March 11th, the WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic (3).

Unprecedented public health and infection control measures have been implemented, and the psychological impact of both the outbreak and the response to this emergency on the population became evident (4, 5). The psychological impact of COVID-19 on the general public and healthcare workers has been already described (6). Stress reactions and mental health outcomes among healthcare providers (HCPs) have been reported also for other past outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Influenza A H1N1 epidemics, respectively in 2003 and 2009 (7–9).

Investigating different aspects of the impact of an outbreak on HCPs has helped to understand which elements are considered more helpful in coping with the stressors and in dealing with everyday work and private life. Adequate information, available protective personal equipment (PPE), shortened work hours, clear communication of directives, enhanced psychological support, and training (especially for quarantined individuals) have all been outlined as possible strategies to reduce the psychosocial impact (10–13).

Among HCPs, those who work in the field of obstetrics represent a particular group belonging to those groups of HCPs that are more susceptible to stressful events. Compared to gynaecology and other medical specialties (14), the rescheduling of obstetric care could be challenging, and the workload during health care emergencies remains mostly unchanged (15). Secondly, the possible vertical transmission of any new emerging infectious agent and the possible related implication play an im-

Key words:

COVID-19; obstetrics; psychology; mental health; survey; health-care providers.

portant role as a stressor for both the women and the caregiver (16–18). Thirdly, emergencies are a daily routine for HCPs in the field of obstetrics, and implementing infection control measures could be particularly challenging in these situations. Regarding this point, clear protocols are paramount in order to help the obstetric staff in managing these aspects (19). Lastly, HCPs in the field of obstetrics are recognized to be a specific population suffering high rates of burnout due to the physical, emotional, and intellectual work demands (20, 21). Their coping strategies have been investigated and a conceptual model for physician resilience has been outlined (22). An example of such a difficult role is provided by past experiences with previous spreads of deadly infectious diseases, such as Ebola during the 2014/2015 epidemic in West Africa (23). Based on this background, the purpose of this study is to present the survey created with the aim to investigate the psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HCPs working in the field of obstetrics at four Institutions in Italy such as residents, trainees, and midwives. Specifically, the purpose is to investigate to what extent this pandemic has impacted on the professional and personal life of HCPs, the coping strategies they developed, and which measures have been reported to be helpful in facing this situation.

Understanding these aspects will have a key role in strategic planning in order to prevent the psychological consequences of possible future outbreaks of infectious diseases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Impatto PSICologico COVID-19 in Ostetricia (IPSICO) survey

A 104-items based survey, named IPSICO survey, has been created with the aim to investigate the psychological impact of COVID-19 on the work and private life of HCPs working in the field of ob-

stetrics, the type of response and coping strategies put on place by participants, and the effect of such adaptation at the emotional and professional level. The survey was designed by two experts in teaching medical doctors in obstetrics and gynaecology (MF and RR), three specialty tutors (MB, SG, CS), and four clinical Psychologists (LDP, MR, CP, VD) of the University of Verona. The IPSICO was developed based on qualitative and quantitative data collection, which were selected to investigate specific psychological aspects, such as coping strategies and emotional impact along with some items tailored to obstetrics practice and dynamics. The survey was revised by three trainees, three specialty tutors, one medical educationalist, and two clinical psychologists who checked the items for validity and suggested potential amendments or rewording. Duplicate or unclear items were changed or removed. Unclear items were appropriately changed. The survey was finally revised, reviewed, and written in a web-based platform, and electronic survey logic was added. The full IPSICO survey is available as **table I**.

In detail, questions included in the IPSICO survey have been organized into four blocks as showed in **figure 1**. The first block included questions regarding demographics data, years of clinical practice, and gender. Recent stressful events associated or not to the COVID-19 pandemic were inquired. The second block included questions investigating personal psychological aspects, such as baseline perceived psychological wellbeing, risk appraisal regarding SARS-CoV-2 infection, and perceived support from friends and colleagues during the pandemic. Emotional impact and coping strategies adopted were evaluated through two validated questionnaires, the Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS) questionnaire and the brief version of the Coping Orientation to Problems Experienced (Brief-COPE) questionnaire, respectively. The PANAS is a validated two 10-item mood scale developed to assess positive and negative affect. Items are rated from 1 ("very slightly" or "not at all") to 5 ("extremely"). It has been validated in different languages, including Italian (24, 25). Brief-

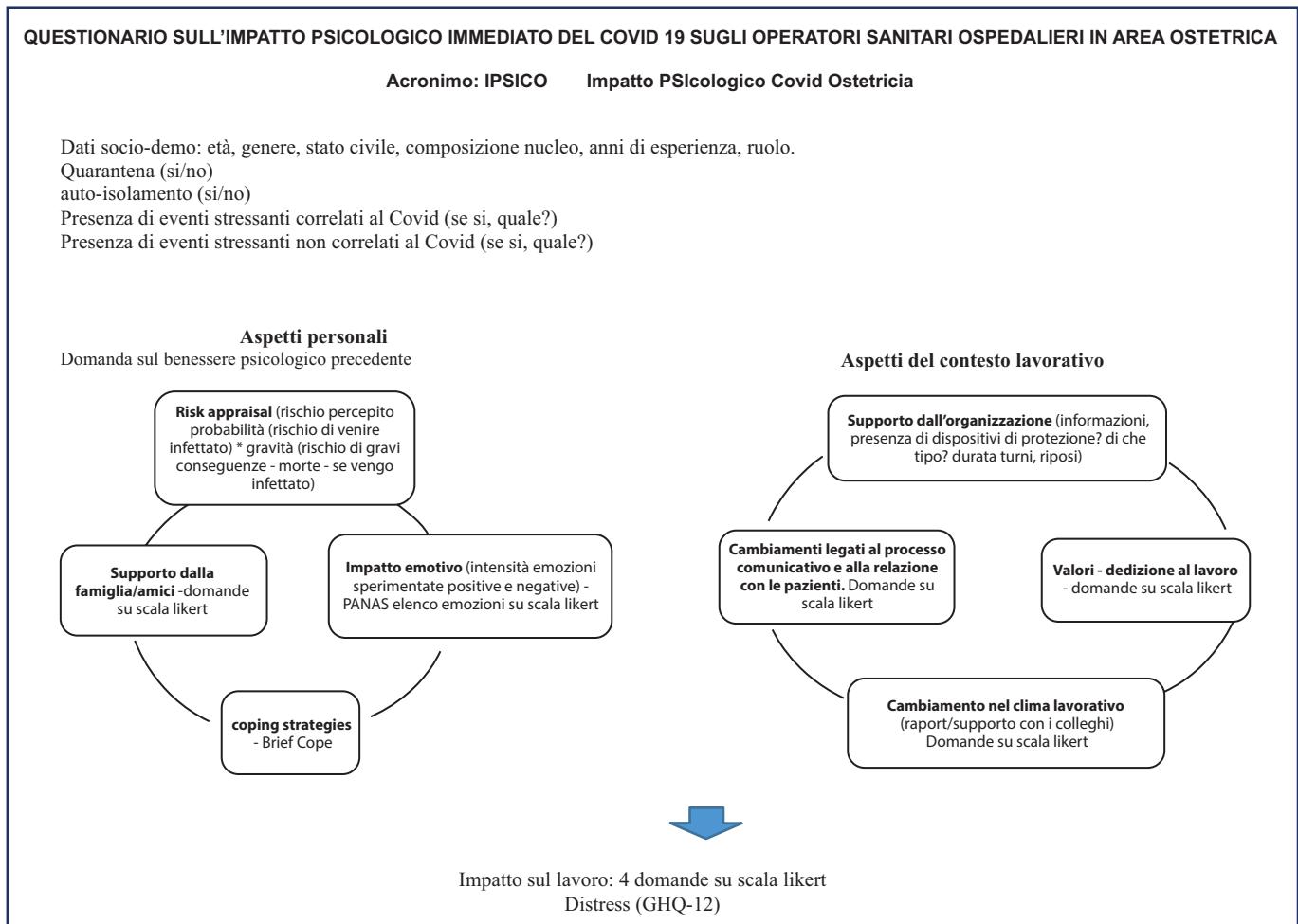


Figure 1. Survey Diagram.

Table I. Impatto PSICologico Covid -19 in Ostetricia (IPSICO) survey.**QUESTIONARIO SULL'IMPATTO PSICOLOGICO IMMEDIATO DEL COVID 19 SUGLI OPERATORI SANITARI OSPEDALIERI IN AREA OSTETRICA****Acronimo: IPSICO Impatto PSICologico Covid -19 in Ostetricia**

Di seguito saranno riportate una serie di domande alle quali ti chiediamo di rispondere sinceramente e facendo riferimento al periodo in cui si è sviluppata l'emergenza Covid-19, indicativamente gli ultimi due mesi. Lo scopo di queste domande è capire l'impatto psicologico e lavorativo che ha avuto questa emergenza sugli operatori sanitari ospedalieri in area ostetrica per formulare indicazioni e interventi appropriati qualora si sviluppassero fenomeni simili in futuro.

Il questionario richiede circa 15 minuti per la sua compilazione.

Tutti i dati personali che fornirai verranno trattati ai sensi del Reg (UE) 2016/679 e raccolti esclusivamente per le finalità sopra indicate, su una piattaforma che garantisce l'anonimato ed esclude la possibilità di risalire all'identità di chi ha compilato le domande. I dati raccolti verranno analizzati in forma aggregata, mantenendo il totale anonimato dei partecipanti.

Ti ringraziamo sin d'ora per la partecipazione e per il tempo dedicato.

Domande Socio-Demografiche

Età ____ Genere M ____ F ____

Stato civile

- Coniugato/a - Convivente
- Separato/a
- Vedovo/a
- Celibe/Nubile

Composizione nucleo familiare (possibili più risposte)

- Single
- Coppia
- Due o più persone adulte conviventi
- Presenza di figli minorenni
- Presenza di figli maggiorenni
- Presenza di genitori anziani

Ruolo:

- Medico strutturato
- Medico Specializzando
- Ostetrico/a strutturato/a
- Tirocinante Ostetrico/a
- Altro _____

Città dove lavori _____

Anni di esperienza nel ruolo attuale _____

Ha dovuto sottoporsi a un periodo di quarantena? si ___ no ___

Ha deciso un periodo di auto-isolamento
per evitare contagi? si ___ no ___

In questo periodo ci sono stati eventi stressanti
correlati al Covid? si ___ no ___

Se si, quali? _____

In questo periodo ci sono stati eventi stressanti
nella sua vita non correlati al Covid? si ___ no ___

Se si, quali? _____

Domande relative al benessere psicologico e al modo di gestire gli eventi stressanti**Benessere psicologico pre-Covid-19:**

1. Prima dell'emergenza Covid-19 ritengo che il mio benessere psicologico fosse:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| pessimo | | | | | | | | | |
| eccellente | | | | | | | | | |

Risk appraisal:

1. Ritengo che in questo periodo il rischio per me di essere infettato/a sia:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| nullo | | | | | | | | | |
| altissimo | | | | | | | | | |

2. Se fossi infettato ritengo che il rischio di morire per me sarebbe:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| nullo | | | | | | | | | |
| altissimo | | | | | | | | | |

Supporto percepito

1. In questo periodo ho potuto contare sul supporto della mia famiglia

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Molto poco o per nulla | | | | | | | | | |
| molto | | | | | | | | | |

2. In questo periodo ho potuto contare sul supporto di amici/persone fidate

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Molto poco o per nulla | | | | | | | | | |
| molto | | | | | | | | | |

Impatto emotivo PANAS (Positive/negative affect scale di Watson, Clark, Tellegen, 1988); validazione italiana da parte di Terracciano, McCrae, Costa, 2003) Di seguito sono elencate 20 parole che descrivono diversi stati d'animo ed emozioni. Leggi ciascuna parola e indica accanto ad essa in che misura essa rappresenta come ti sei sentito/a durante il periodo dell'epidemia da Covid-19. Usa la seguente scala per la valutazione.

		1 molto poco o per nulla.	2 un poco.	3 moderatamente.	4 molto.	5 moltissimo.
1	Interessato/a	1	2	3	4	5
2	Angosciato/a	1	2	3	4	5
3	Eccitato/a	1	2	3	4	5
4	Turbato/a	1	2	3	4	5
5	Forte	1	2	3	4	5
6	Colpevole	1	2	3	4	5
7	Spaventato/a	1	2	3	4	5
8	Ostile	1	2	3	4	5
9	Entusiasta	1	2	3	4	5
10	Orgoglioso/a	1	2	3	4	5
11	Irritabile	1	2	3	4	5
12	Concentrato/a	1	2	3	4	5
13	Vergogna	1	2	3	4	5
14	Ispirato/a	1	2	3	4	5
15	Nervoso/a	1	2	3	4	5
16	Determinato/a	1	2	3	4	5
17	Attento/a	1	2	3	4	5
18	Agitato/a	1	2	3	4	5
19	Attivo/a	1	2	3	4	5
20	Paura	1	2	3	4	5

Strategie di coping Brief-COPE (Coping Orientation to Problems Experienced - Brief version; Carver, 1997)

Alle persone, capita che nel corso della loro vita, debbano confrontarsi con difficoltà e con eventi stressanti. Numerosi sono i modi con cui si cerca di far fronte allo stress: il presente questionario ti chiede di indicare come hai affrontato quest'ultimo periodo legato all'epidemia da Covid-19.

Rispondi a ciascuna domanda indicando il numero che, in base alla tabella sottostante, indica la sua risposta.

	1 = Non ho fatto assolutamente questo	2 = Ho fatto questo poche volte	3 = Ho fatto questo frequentemente	4 = Ho fatto questo molto spesso/sempre
1.	Mi applico al lavoro o ad altre attività sostitutive per distogliere la mia mente dagli eventi	1	2	3
2.	Concentro i miei sforzi nel fare qualcosa per la situazione in cui mi trovo	1	2	3
3.	Mi dico "questo non è reale"	1	2	3
4.	Faccio uso di alcool o di stupefacenti per sentirmi meglio	1	2	3
5.	Cerco di ottenere un supporto emotivo dagli altri	1	2	3
6.	Rinuncio a cercare di occuparmene	1	2	3
7.	Metto in atto azioni per cercare di migliorare la situazione	1	2	3
8.	Rifiuto di credere che sia accaduto	1	2	3
9.	Dico cose che lasciano venir fuori i miei sentimenti spiacevoli	1	2	3
10.	Cerco aiuto e consigli da parte degli altri	1	2	3
11.	Faccio uso di alcol e droghe per aiutarmi a superare questo	1	2	3
12.	Cerco di vedere la cosa in una luce diversa per farla apparire più positiva	1	2	3
13.	Sono autocritico	1	2	3
14.	Cerco di trovare una strategia per ciò che si deve fare	1	2	3
15.	Cerco conforto e comprensione dagli altri	1	2	3
16.	Rinuncio a tentare di affrontare la situazione	1	2	3
17.	Cerco di trovare qualcosa di buono in ciò che è accaduto	1	2	3
18.	Ci scherzo sopra	1	2	3
19.	Faccio qualcosa per pensare di meno a questo, come andare al cinema, guardare la televisione, leggere, sognare ad occhi aperti, dormire, fare spese	1	2	3
20.	Accetto la realtà del fatto che ciò è accaduto	1	2	3
21.	Esprimo le mie sensazioni negative	1	2	3
22.	Cerco di trovare conforto nella mia religione o nelle mie convinzioni spirituali	1	2	3

15. Quale aspetto è stato per te fonte di maggiore stress nell'ultimo periodo?

 - prestare cure ad un paziente Covid positivo
 - affrontare l'attività ambulatoriale di routine, senza poterla limitare
 - l'aggiornamento continuo circa le raccomandazioni da seguire e le misure da mettere in atto
 - l'utilizzo costante e corretto dei DPI
 - temere di poter contagiare i miei familiari
 - conciliare la vita privata/familiare con il lavoro
 - altro

Cambiamento nel clima lavorativo

16. Quanto ti sei sentito supportato dai colleghi che ricoprono un tuo stesso ruolo durante l'epidemia?

17. Quanto ti sei sentito supportato dall'equipe durante l'epidemia?

18. Quale sensazione prevalente è emersa nei confronti dei colleghi?

18. Quale sensazione prevalente è emersa nei confronti dei contagi?

 - empatia
 - timore di contagio
 - senso di colpa per la mia scarsa possibilità di collaborazione
 - risentimento nei confronti di chi evita di esporsi al rischio
 - sensazione di coesione di gruppo
 - sensazione di solidarietà umana nel gruppo
 - altro

DOMANDE DI OUTCOME

Impatto del contesto lavorativo

Mi sono sentito/a esaurito/a dal mio lavoro durante questa epidemia

1□ 2□ 3□ 4□ 5□ 6□ 7□ 8□ 9□ 10□
per niente moltissimo

Quanto ti è pesato ricoprire il tuo ruolo professionale durante questa epidemia?

Quanto ti pesano le responsabilità professionali durante la tua giornata di lavoro?

1□ 2□ 3□ 4□ 5□ 6□ 7□ 8□ 9□ 10□

per niente moltissimo

Hai mai preso in considerazione l'ipotesi di abbandonare il tuo ruolo professionale durante questa epidemia?

Nel tuo paese in considerazione l'ipotesi di abbandonare il tuo lavoro:
1□ 2□ 3□ 4□ 5□ 6□ 7□ 8□ 9□ 10□
per piacere multissimo

Impatto emotivo GHO-12

Di seguito ci sono alcune domande relative a come ti sei sentito nelle ultime due settimane:

1. Ho perso molto sonno per delle preoccupazioni	No	Non più del solito	Un po' più del solito.	Molto più del solito
2. Mi sono sentito/a costantemente sotto stress (tensione)	No	Non più del solito	Un po' più del solito.	Molto più del solito
3. Sono stato/a in grado di concentrarmi sulle cose che facevo	Meglio del solito	Come al solito	Meno del solito.	Molto meno del solito
4. Mi sono sentito/a utile	Più del solito	Come al solito	Meno del solito.	Molto meno del solito
5. Sono stato/a in grado di affrontare i miei problemi	Più del solito	Come al solito	Meno del solito.	Molto meno del solito
6. Mi sono sentito/a capace di prendere decisioni	Più del solito	Come al solito	Meno del solito.	Molto meno del solito
7. Ho avuto l'impressione di non essere in grado di superare le difficoltà	No	Non più del solito	Un po' più del solito.	Molto più del solito
8. Mi sono sentito/a, tutto sommato, abbastanza contento/a	Più del solito	Circa come al solito	Meno del solito.	Molto meno del solito
9. Sono stato/a in grado di svolgere volentieri le mie attività quotidiane	Più del solito	Come al solito	Meno del solito.	Molto meno del solito
10. Mi sono sentito/a infelice o depresso/a	No	Non più del solito	Un po' più del solito.	Molto più del solito
11. Ho perso fiducia in me stesso/a	No	Non più del solito	Un po' più del solito.	Molto più del solito
12. Ho pensato di essere una persona senza valore	No	Non più del solito	Un po' più del solito.	Molto più del solito

COPE (26) is a 28-items questionnaire to assess the different ways, effective and ineffective, in which people cope with stressful events. The respondents are asked to tell how much they have been using each one of the investigated coping strategies. Brief-COPe is the brief form of the original 60-item COPE inventory (27).

The third block was focused on the impact of COVID-19 on professional life. Specific items were developed to investigate the adopted infection prevention and control measures and the perceived usefulness of interventions like the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), the reduction in working hours, and the implementation of the internal protocols. Some questions explored how HCPs in the field of obstetrics perceived their role during the epidemic; moreover, how the relationship between caregiver and patient was affected and if the respondents received any support from their colleagues during the COVID-19 crisis were assessed. The fourth and last block was focused to evaluate whether COVID-19 has determined significant changes in general health and professional wellbeing. The General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12) was administered to assess the emotional impact of COVID-19. The GHQ-12 is a 12-item questionnaire to measure general psychological health in different settings and each item is evaluated through 4 indexes (28).

Study population and data collection

The IPSICO survey will be administered in the Italian language. The target population will be all the HCPs working in the field of obstetrics at four Institutions in Italy (the University of Verona, the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Rome, the University of Insubria, and the University of Brescia) including trainees, doctors and midwives for a total of 570 expected responders. All of them will receive an invitation to complete the IPSICO survey by e-mail with up to 3 reminders. Participants will be asked to complete the survey in a short time of two weeks given the importance of collecting data during a homogeneous period of time in terms of COVID-19 incidence among HCPs of the same centre.

Data analysis

Responses to the IPSICO survey will be summarized with standard descriptive statistics. Variables with normal distribution will be reported with

mean and standard deviation (SD) after the normal distribution is tested with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test; non-normal distribution variables and ordinal variables will be described with median and interquartile range (IQR); nominal variables will be summarized with number and percentages. For the analysis of the IPSICO survey, no exclusion criteria will be used. Wilcoxon test and Mann-Whitney test will be used to compare non-parametric and ordinal variables. Friedman test and Kruskal-Wallis test will be used to compare non-parametric and ordinal variables in the case of three or more groups. T-test and ANOVA will be used to compare normally distributed variables. Categorical data will be analysed with the Chi-square test or Fisher exact test as appropriate. Univariate and multivariate regression models will be performed to assess the relationship between investigated variables. All reported p values will be two-sided and significant will be considered at $p < 0.05$. Data analysis will be performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 23.0, Armonk, NY.

Ethics and methodological standards

Before the initiation, this study received approval (2020-UNVRCLE-0143469) from the human research ethics committee of the University of Verona (CARU, Comitato di Approvazione della Ricerca sull'Uomo). Consent will be asked to each participant at the beginning of the survey using the web-based platform, and it will be necessary in order to complete the survey. At any time, participants will be allowed to terminate the survey if they desire. Participation will be anonymous and voluntary for all the invited obstetric HCPs, and confidentiality will be assured; no demographic or personal information able to identify the responder will be collected.

DISCUSSION

COVID-19 pandemic, as other past health emergencies (10–12), is having a great impact on the general population (29), with particular concerns regarding specific vulnerable subgroups, such as HCPs (6, 30). Among them, those who work in the field of obstetrics may represent an even more susceptible group. Of notice, they are well known to be particularly exposed to stressful situations during their daily activities, and they are more exposed to the risk of work-related burnout (21). Providing constant and adequate maternal care during health emergencies

could represent a real challenge for this subgroup of HCPs, and we consider it important to investigate the burden of the present crisis in this high-risk specialty. This study analysis will represent a starting point for each Operative Units of Obstetrics and Gynaecology included in the study to deal with what has been put in place to manage the crisis and whether adequate support has been given to their HCPs. The awareness of the impact of this epidemic and of the adopted coping strategies could allow us to outline possible strategies to help HCPs during the present and future crises. Additionally, under-

standing which aspects during daily activities were more difficult to cope with and which measures were effectively adopted to support HCPs could be useful to outline possible strategies to be more aware of our strengths and weaknesses in the event of another health care emergency.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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