

1 **Title: Olfactory, gustatory and trigeminal changes in non-hospitalized**
2 **COVID-19 patients: an exploratory prospective cohort study.**

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37

38 **Author contributions**

39 All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Questionnaire preparation, data
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43 authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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45

46 **Abstract**

47 *Objectives* This study aimed to longitudinally assess the prevalence and characteristics of
48 olfactory, gustatory, and trigeminal changes, and the impact of these changes on daily life and
49 quality of life (QoL) in non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

50 *Methods* Three weeks after confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, non-hospitalized adult
51 participants enrolled in the COVID HOME study consented to complete a questionnaire by
52 phone on the presence, characteristics, and impact on daily life and QoL of olfactory,
53 gustatory and/or trigeminal changes. Participants reporting taste and/or smell changes
54 completed the same questionnaire at three months and, when still present, at six months.

55 *Results* The questionnaire was completed by 94/117 participants included in this study three
56 weeks after COVID-19 diagnosis. The 43 participants with smell and/or taste changes
57 completed the questionnaire at three months, and 19 at six months. Of the 94 participants,
58 56% were female and the median age was 43 [IQR 29-55] years. At three weeks post-
59 infection, olfactory, gustatory, and trigeminal changes were reported by 40 (43%), 37 (39%),
60 and 8 (9%) participants, respectively. During follow-up, olfactory, gustatory, and trigeminal
61 changes were reported by 17 (40%), 14 (33%), and 3 (7%) at three months, and 12 (63%), 9
62 (47%), and 1 (5%) participants at six months, respectively. Most patients reported an impact
63 of sensory changes on daily life and QoL, mostly describing it as a bit' or 'quite a bit'.
64 However, impact did not differ between time points and most participants reported taking no
65 action to cope with these changes. Participants with reported sensory alterations were most
66 interested in professional help at six months.

67 *Conclusions* In non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients, the reported prevalence of olfactory,
68 gustatory and trigeminal changes is higher three weeks after infection. Most patients report
69 modest impact on daily life and QoL due to these sensory changes, and a subgroup reported a
70 profound effect.

71 **Keywords**

72 COVID-19, long COVID, quality of life, olfactory, gustatory, trigeminal

73 **Introduction**

74 Olfactory and gustatory changes are present in 30-75% and 20-69%, respectively, of patients
75 with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) during the acute phase of the disease[1–3].
76 Furthermore, COVID-19 patients can experience change of chemesthesis (i.e., cooling-,
77 burning-, or tingling-like sensations) and a dry mouth[4,5]. Flavor is the combination of
78 sensory inputs by the olfactory, gustatory and trigeminal system[6]. If one of these
79 components is damaged, the whole experience of flavor, and thereby food enjoyment, is
80 altered.

81 In patients with COVID-19, olfactory and gustatory changes have been reported four
82 to five days after symptom onset. In most patients, these changes return to normal in the first
83 two weeks[7]. However, olfactory and gustatory changes are part of the post-COVID
84 syndrome, together with fatigue, dyspnea, mental problems and chest pain, among others.
85 Olfactory and gustatory changes have been reported in 31% of COVID-19 patients one year
86 after infection [8,9]. It is yet unknown if all COVID-19 patients will eventually regain normal
87 olfactory and gustatory function. Furthermore, it is unknown which types of mouthfeel and
88 mouth temperature changes are present in COVID-19 patients and, if present, whether these
89 changes are remaining after a longer period of time.

90 Olfactory and gustatory dysfunction can have a severe impact on daily life and quality
91 of life (QoL)[10,11]. Disability results from cooking difficulties and the avoidance of certain
92 smells. In addition, the reported negative effects on QoL are due to worrying about problems
93 that arise from olfactory dysfunction, for example, the inability to detect rotten food, smoke,
94 gas leaks, or personal hygiene[12]. Strategies to deal with the negative effects mostly concern
95 asking relatives to help detecting rotten food and maintaining personal hygiene[13]. QoL may
96 also be diminished, for example due to the social compound that is part of eating and the joy
97 people experience when eating. Insight in the severity and type of olfactory, gustatory, and

108 trigeminal changes could help COVID-19 patients to anticipate on the mentioned negative
109 effects and give physicians and dietitians more knowledge to help COVID-19 patients with
110 these changes.

111 Previous studies have mostly focused on hospitalized patients. Importantly, most
112 patients with COVID-19 are non-hospitalized, and infections with the latest SARS-CoV-2
113 variant, Omicron, following regular vaccinations are associated with less severe symptoms
114 and a lower admission-to-hospital-rate than infections with previous SARS-CoV-2 variants
115 without vaccinations[14,15]. Therefore, it is important to study the course and burden of
116 symptoms in the non-hospitalized COVID-19 patient group.

117 In this study, we aimed to longitudinally assess the reported prevalence and
118 characteristics of olfactory, gustatory, and trigeminal changes, and the impact of these
119 changes on daily life and QoL in non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients. It was hypothesized
120 that these changes are present in a substantial subgroup of patients, and, when present, in the
121 majority of patients have an impact on daily life and QoL.

122

113 **Patients and methods**

114 *Study design and study population*

115 This study was conducted at the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) in
116 Groningen, the Netherlands, between October 2020 and November 2021. Participants were
117 recruited between November 2020 and May 2021. The study is a sub-study of the COVID
118 HOME study, which is a prospective cohort study focusing on non-hospitalized COVID-19
119 patients[16].

120 Potential participants were identified at the virology facility of the Department of
121 Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention and at the Municipal Public Health Services
122 (GGD). Individuals who were positively tested with a PCR-test for SARS-CoV-2, and their
123 positively tested household members, were considered eligible for this substudy. Potential
124 participants were contacted by the COVID HOME team, and were explained the study details.
125 Written informed consent was obtained before data collection. For this substudy, potential
126 participants who were 18 years or older, and comprehended Dutch were included. Participants
127 were excluded if they used medication that seriously affect olfactory and gustatory function.
128 Participants could withdraw or unconsent parts of the study. The COVID HOME study was
129 approved by the Medical Ethics Review Board of the UMCG (METc UMCG no. 2020/158,
130 2020-07-07), complied with the Declaration of Helsinki for Medical Research involving
131 Human Subjects, and was conducted according to the Dutch law (Wet medisch-
132 wetenschappelijk onderzoek met mensen, Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming, Wet
133 op geneeskundige behandelingsovereenkomst).

134

135 *Data collection*

136 Characteristics of the participants were collected for the main study through questionnaires
137 that included questions regarding gender, age, smoking status, medical history, current
138 medication, and COVID-19 related symptoms (including anosmia and ageusia).

139 Participants were called by the researcher three weeks after they had a positive RT-
140 PCR diagnosis for SARS-CoV-2, and if they consented to be called for this substudy. They
141 were asked to answer questions on the presence, characteristics, and impact of olfactory,
142 gustatory and trigeminal changes by phone. The answers were filled in by the researcher in
143 REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture, Version 10.0.23), a safe, web-based application
144 hosted by the UMCG that supports data-capture. Authors had access to information that
145 identified individual participants during data collection.

146 Completion of the questionnaire took approximately 15 minutes. Participants reporting
147 olfactory and/or gustatory changes were called again at three months and, when changes were
148 still present, for the third time at six months after diagnosis to fill in the same questionnaire.
149 At the end of each phone call, participants with olfactory and/or gustatory changes were asked
150 for consent to be called again. If participants still reported changes at six months, they were
151 offered dietary counselling by a dietitian with expertise in olfactory, gustatory and trigeminal
152 dysfunction. Participants who could not be reached at one of the time points after multiple
153 phone calls were not called again at the next time points.

154

155 *Questionnaire*

156 Apart from the above mentioned questionnaire in which patient characteristics were collected
157 at baseline, a questionnaire previously applied in patients with COVID-19 and patients with
158 cancer was also used in the present study to investigate olfactory, gustatory and trigeminal
159 changes (mouthfeel and mouth temperature) and their impact on daily life and QoL (SI
160 Questionnaire)[17–19].

161 In this four-part questionnaire, all participants had to answer questions in the first part
162 regarding alterations in smell, taste, mouthfeel (e.g. dry mouth, tingling sensation, texture)
163 and mouth temperature. If alterations were present, the impact of these alterations on daily life
164 and quality of life was asked on a 4-point Likert scale (not at all, a bit, quite a bit and very
165 much). Impact on daily life refers to how something affects a person's everyday activities and
166 routines, while impact on QoL encompasses a broader assessment of overall well-being and
167 satisfaction with one's life circumstances. The second and third part contained specific
168 questions on olfactory and gustatory changes, respectively, and were filled in by participants
169 who reported to experience these changes in the first part of the questionnaire. In both parts,
170 the level of severity of smell or taste perception was asked with the 4-point Likert scale
171 followed with a question on the course of the changes with a 5-point Likert scale (decreases,
172 decreases a bit, stable, increases a bit, increases). Both parts also consisted of open questions
173 concerning coping with smell or taste changes. In the second part specifically, questions on
174 nasal congestion and specific odors were asked. In the third part, changes in intensity in the
175 specific basic tastes salt, bitter, sweet, and sour were described with a 5-point Likert scale
176 (much weaker, slightly weaker, no change, slightly stronger, much stronger). If changes in a
177 specific basic taste were present, the impact of and coping with these changes was asked with
178 the previously mentioned 4-point Likert scale and an open question, respectively. At last,
179 questions regarding metallic taste and continuous taste were asked. The fourth part of the
180 questionnaire consisted of one question: if participants would like more guidance for their
181 changes in smell or taste, which was answered by participants with olfactory and/or gustatory
182 changes.

183

184 *Statistical analysis*

185 Statistics were descriptive and data are reported as number with percentage or median with
186 interquartile range. The data was analyzed with IBM SPSS Statistics 23 (IBM Corp., Armonk,
187 NY). Pairwise deletion was applied with missing data.

188

189 **Results**

190 *Study population*

191 A total of 193 SARS-CoV-2 positive individuals were included in the COVID HOME study.
192 Of the 193 participants, 27 were children, 31 withdrew from the study, 16 did not want to be
193 called for this substudy, and two did not speak Dutch. Therefore, in this substudy, 117
194 participants were enrolled between October 2020 and May 2021. Of these participants, 17 did
195 not respond and six participants could not be called timely. At three weeks, 94 participants
196 were interviewed and of these, 45 participants that reported olfactory or gustatory changes at
197 three weeks were called again at three months. Next, 19 participants with olfactory and/or
198 gustatory changes at three months were called a last time at six months. Two participants
199 could not be contacted at three months (Fig 1). No participants were excluded. Of the 94
200 participants, 53 (56%) were female and the median age was 43 years [IQR 29-55].
201 Characteristics of the study population are summarized in Table 1. All relevant data can be
202 found in S1 Data.

203

204 *Olfactory changes*

205 Olfactory changes were reported by 40/94 (43%) participants at three weeks, of whom 34
206 (36%) had a diminished smell, seven (7%) had changes in familiar scents, four (4%) had no
207 smell, and none experienced new unpleasant scents. Of those participants with reported
208 olfactory changes, two had nasal congestion. At three months, reported olfactory changes
209 were present in 17/43 (40%) participants and in 12/19 (63%) participants at six months (Fig
210 2A).

211 No participants reported an increase in olfactory changes at three weeks, three months
212 and six months since being positively tested for SARS-CoV-2. The course of olfactory
213 changes are mostly reported to be decreasing (i.e. normalization of smell) at three weeks, and

214 stable or fluctuating at three months and six months (Fig 3A). The degree of olfactory
215 changes is reported to be mostly ‘a bit’ at three weeks and three months and ‘quite a bit’ at six
216 months. Odors that were smelled more intensely were mostly smoke and feces (S2 Table).

217

218 *Gustatory changes*

219 Gustatory changes were reported by 37 of the 94 (39%) participants at three weeks; 24 (26%)
220 tasted less than before the SARS-CoV-2 infection, 14 (15%) experienced changes in taste,
221 two (2%) had no taste and one (1%) reported new unpleasant tastes in the mouth. At three
222 months and six months, gustatory changes were described by 14/43 (33%) and 9/19 (47%)
223 participants, respectively (Fig 2B).

224 One participant reported an increase in gustatory dysfunction at three months since
225 being positively tested for SARS-CoV-2. Other participants reported the course of gustatory
226 dysfunction mostly to be decreasing and stable at three weeks and six months, and stable and
227 fluctuating at three months (Fig 3B). The degree of gustatory changes is reported to be mostly
228 ‘a bit’ at three weeks and six months and ‘quite a bit’ at three months.

229 Most participants report no change or a weaker taste in the different basic tastes salt,
230 bitter, sweet, and sour at three weeks and three months. At six months, participants mostly
231 report no change in salt, bitter, and sour taste. However, in bitter, sweet and sour taste,
232 participants report nearly as much a stronger and weaker intensity of these basic tastes (Fig
233 4A-D). A metallic and continuous taste were reported at three weeks in 5 and 9 participants,
234 at three months in 4 and 5 participants, and at six months in 4 and 3 participants, respectively
235 (Fig 4E-F). Participants with a continuous taste described this taste mostly as a metallic taste
236 (4 participants at three weeks, 2 at three months, and 3 at six months). Other described tastes
237 were something chemical, something odd, an infectious taste, bitter taste, sour taste or
238 indescribable taste (S3 Table).

239

240 *Trigeminal changes*

241 Trigeminal changes were reported infrequently: 5/94 (5%) participants reported a dry mouth,
242 2/94 (2%) had a different mouthfeel, and 2/94 (2%) could not feel a tingling sensation when
243 drinking carbonated beverages at three weeks. At three and six months, respectively 3/43
244 (7%) and 1/19 (5%) of the participants reported trigeminal changes (Fig 2C).

245 At three weeks, 2/94 (2%) and 3/94 (3%) of the participants liked the temperature of
246 their food and drinks to be at chamber temperature and a bit warmer than normal,
247 respectively. Changes in food temperature preference were reported by 3/43 (7%) and 2/19
248 (11%) participants at three months and six months, respectively (Fig 2D).

249

250 *Overview olfactory, gustatory, trigeminal changes*

251 Most participants who report olfactory changes also report changes in taste. This overlap
252 between the presence of smell and taste changes is observed at three weeks, three months and
253 six months. Moreover, nearly all participants with trigeminal changes have olfactory and/or
254 gustatory changes too. At three months and six months, trigeminal changes do not occur in
255 isolation. Only at three months, two participants report changes in all sensory aspects (Fig 5).

256

257 *Impact on daily life and QoL of olfactory, gustatory and trigeminal changes*

258 At three weeks, three months and six months, impact of reported olfactory changes on daily
259 life - ranging from 'a bit' to 'very much' - is reported by 27/40 (68%), 14/18 (78%), and
260 10/12 (83%) participants, respectively. Most participants describe the impact on daily life as
261 'a bit' at three weeks and three months, and as 'quite a bit' at six months. Impact on QoL -
262 ranging from 'a bit' to 'very much' - has been described by 14/40 (35%), 8/18 (44%) and 9/12
263 (75%) participants at three weeks, three months and six months, respectively. At three weeks,

264 most participants report ‘a bit’ impact on QoL, and ‘quite a bit’ at three months and six
265 months. (Fig 6). At three weeks 7/7 (100%) participants, at three months 4/5 (80%)
266 participants, and at six months 6/10 (60%) participants did nothing to cope with unpleasant or
267 changing scents. At three and at six months respectively, one and four participants avoided
268 bad smells. Diminished smell was mostly handled by smelling things to check if they smelled
269 anything, asking other people to smell food (for example burned food or shelf life), and
270 paying more attention to personal hygiene. Participants also tried smell training (three at three
271 weeks, five at three months, and two at six months) (S3 Table A-B).

272 Impact of reported gustatory changes on daily life were described by 22/37 (59%),
273 13/14 (93%) and 7/9 (78%) participants at three weeks, three months and six months,
274 respectively. Most participants described the impact on daily life as ‘a bit’ at three weeks and
275 three months, and as ‘quite a bit’ at six months. Impact of reported gustatory changes on QoL
276 is reported by 12/37 (32%), 7/14 (50%), and 6/9 (67%) participants, respectively. At three
277 weeks, most participants reported ‘very much’ impact on QoL, ‘a bit’ impact at three months,
278 and ‘quite a bit’ impact at six months. (Figure 6). To cope with reported gustatory changes, at
279 three weeks 22/37 (59%) of the participants, at three months 6/14 (43%) participants, and at
280 six months 4/9 (44%) of the participants with these changes reported to do nothing. Some
281 participants experimented with stronger flavors, asked for help with cooking or avoided
282 products they did not like (S3 Table C).

283 Most participants reported to take no action to handle an alteration in a basic taste,
284 although some participants avoided or added extra of a basic taste.

285 A metallic taste mostly had ‘a bit’ impact at three weeks (3/5, 60%) and ‘quite a bit’ at
286 three months (2/4, 50%) and six months (2/4, 50%). To cope with a metallic taste, none of the
287 participants reported any specific action, except for one, who avoided nutritional products

288 with a high amount of iron. Most participants with a continuous taste reported no impact on
289 daily life.

290 For reported trigeminal changes, impact of mouthfeel changes on daily life is
291 described by 5/8, 2/3, and 0/1 participants at three weeks, three months and six months,
292 respectively. Most participants reported ‘a bit’ impact on daily life. Impact of temperature
293 changes is described by 1/5, 2/3, and 0/2 participants as ‘a bit’ or ‘quite a bit’ at three weeks,
294 three months and six months, respectively. Impact on QoL has been reported by 3/8, 1/3 and
295 0/1 participants with mouthfeel changes as ‘a bit’ or ‘very much’, and 0/5, 1/3 and 0/2 with
296 temperature changes as ‘quite a bit’ at three weeks, three months and six months, respectively.

297 At three weeks, 8/45 (18%) participants would like to receive medical guidance for
298 their changes. However, at six months, 7/12 (58%) participants with sensory alterations would
299 like to receive help, more specifically (experimental) medical treatment and dietary advice.

300

301

302 **Discussion**

303 This study demonstrates that the prevalence of reported olfactory, gustatory and trigeminal
304 changes is higher at three weeks after SARS-CoV-2 infection than at three and six months
305 after SARS-CoV-2 infection in non-hospitalized patients. Furthermore, reported olfactory and
306 gustatory changes are more present than trigeminal changes, the last playing a role only in a
307 minority of patients. At three weeks, most patients with reported olfactory and gustatory
308 changes characterize these changes as ‘less or no smell and taste’, respectively. Reported
309 olfactory, gustatory and trigeminal changes have modest impact on daily life and QoL in a
310 majority of the patients, but have a profound effect in some patients. Patients with reported
311 sensory alterations are more interested in professional help at six months than at three weeks
312 and three months.

313 Trigeminal changes were described by a minority of the patients. This is in line with
314 other studies reporting trigeminal changes in COVID-19 patients[4,20–22]. However, previous
315 studies did not combine longitudinal questionnaires with measurements of impact on daily life
316 and QoL, and mostly used provocative substances which participants could sniff to study
317 nasal trigeminal dysfunction[4,20–22]. QoL has been studied in COVID-19 patients with
318 olfactory and gustatory changes, but not longitudinally[11,13,23]. In these previous studies
319 and in our present study, QoL is substantially impacted by the olfactory and gustatory
320 changes. We hypothesize that through time, patients may perceive the changes as more
321 bothersome due to the duration, or patients can adapt to changes and perceive them as less
322 bothersome. Therefore, the longitudinal approach in our study contributes to existing
323 knowledge. Our study showed no difference in impact on daily life and QoL between the time
324 points. However, the limited number of participants precludes drawing firm conclusions.

325 A change in familiar smells and new, unpleasant smells were, compared to less and no
326 smells, relatively more reported at six months than at three weeks, which corresponds with a

327 normal, physiological recovery as found in other studies[24]. Distorted smell can follow after
328 reduced smell when new sensory pathways of an odor stimulate the wrong part of the
329 olfactory bulb during neurogenesis[25].

330 This study is first to study changes in trigeminal function longitudinally in
331 combination with impact on daily life and QoL. A strength of this study is the combination of
332 longitudinal data on reported prevalence, characteristics and impact of olfactory, gustatory
333 and trigeminal changes in COVID-19 patients. Both a strength and limitation of this study is
334 the lack of objective measurement tools, such as Sniffin' Sticks and taste strips. Subjective
335 measurements are considered important, as it takes the patients' experience and thereby
336 personal bothering into account[26]. However, it should be noted that specific changes in
337 olfactory and gustatory function are often difficult to describe and this could be underreported
338 due to possible habituation of olfactory and gustatory changes. In general, the correlation
339 between objective and subjective measurements is weak[26]. In this study, biases were
340 avoided by actively calling the participants multiple times if the phone call was not answered
341 (nonresponse bias), by maintaining broad inclusion and exclusion criteria (selection bias), and
342 by asking the questions in a standardized and neutral format (researcher bias). The
343 questionnaire used in this study is based on a questionnaire previously applied in patients with
344 gastro-intestinal stromal tumors (GIST) treated with tyrosine-kinase inhibitors (TKIs)[19]. In
345 these patients, the impact of trigeminal changes was modest too, and olfactory and gustatory
346 changes are reported to have more impact on daily life and QoL. As the number of
347 participants reporting sensory changes at six months is limited, the characteristics of this
348 group could not be studied optimally. Future studies should include a larger study population
349 to increase generalizability. Moreover, we also recommend to examine the impact of
350 vaccination and the different variants of SARS-CoV-2 on olfactory, gustatory, and trigeminal
351 changes, as these influence the severity and pattern of the symptoms[14,15].

352 In conclusion, non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients report a higher prevalence of
353 olfactory and gustatory changes than trigeminal changes at three weeks, three months and six
354 months. A modest impact on daily life and QoL has been reported by the participants with
355 these changes at all time points. Health professionals should offer information, and help
356 patients to cope with the changes.
357

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360

361 **Declaration of Conflicting Interests**

362 The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare that are relevant to the content of this
363 article.

364

365 **Data Availability Statement**

366 The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are included in this published
367 article and its supplementary material files. Additional supporting data and materials related
368 to this study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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499

500

501 **Table 1** Baseline characteristics

Characteristics	Total (n=94)
Gender, n (%)	
→ <i>Female</i>	53 (56.4%)
Age (years), median [IQR]	43 [29-55]
Nationality*, n (%)	
→ <i>Dutch</i>	85 (95.5%)
→ <i>Other</i>	4 (4.5%)
Smoking*, n (%)	
→ <i>No</i>	54 (63.5%)
→ <i>Yes</i>	7 (8.2%)
→ <i>Former smoker</i>	25 (29.4%)
COVID-19 treatment, n (%)	
→ <i>None</i>	75 (79.8%)
→ <i>Paracetamol</i>	16 (17.0%)
→ <i>Antibiotics</i>	2 (2.1%)
→ <i>Inhalation corticosteroids</i>	1 (1.1%)
Anosmia day 1*, n (%)	
→ <i>No</i>	58 (67.4%)
→ <i>Yes</i>	25 (29.0%)
→ <i>Unknown</i>	3 (3.5%)
Ageusia day 1*, n (%)	
→ <i>No</i>	63 (73.3%)
→ <i>Yes</i>	21 (24.4%)
→ <i>Unknown</i>	2 (2.3%)

502 n: number, IQR: interquartile range, COVID-19: coronavirus disease 2019

503 *not filled in by all participants

504

505 **Figure captions**

506

507 **Fig1.** Inclusion of COVID-HOME participants (n) with COVID-19 infection.

508

509 **Fig2.** The reported type of a) smell, b) taste, c) mouthfeel, and d) temperature changes by
510 participants at three weeks (n=94), three months (n=43), and six months (n=19). Every circle
511 and place represents one participant. The participants above the black line (lighter green
512 circles) reported no changes in taste or smell.

513

514 **Fig3.** Recalled course of a) olfactory and b) gustatory changes at three weeks (n=94), three
515 months (n=43), and six months (n=19) in percentages.

516

517 **Fig4.** Changes in a) salt, b) bitter, c) sweet, d) sour, e) metallic, and f) continuous taste in
518 participants with gustatory dysfunction at three weeks (n=33), three months (n=14), and six
519 months (n=9).

520

521 **Fig5.** Overlap of changes in smell, taste, mouthfeel and temperature in patients with COVID-
522 19 after a) 3 weeks, b) three months and c) 6 months. S = smell, T = taste, M = mouthfeel, °C
523 = temperature.

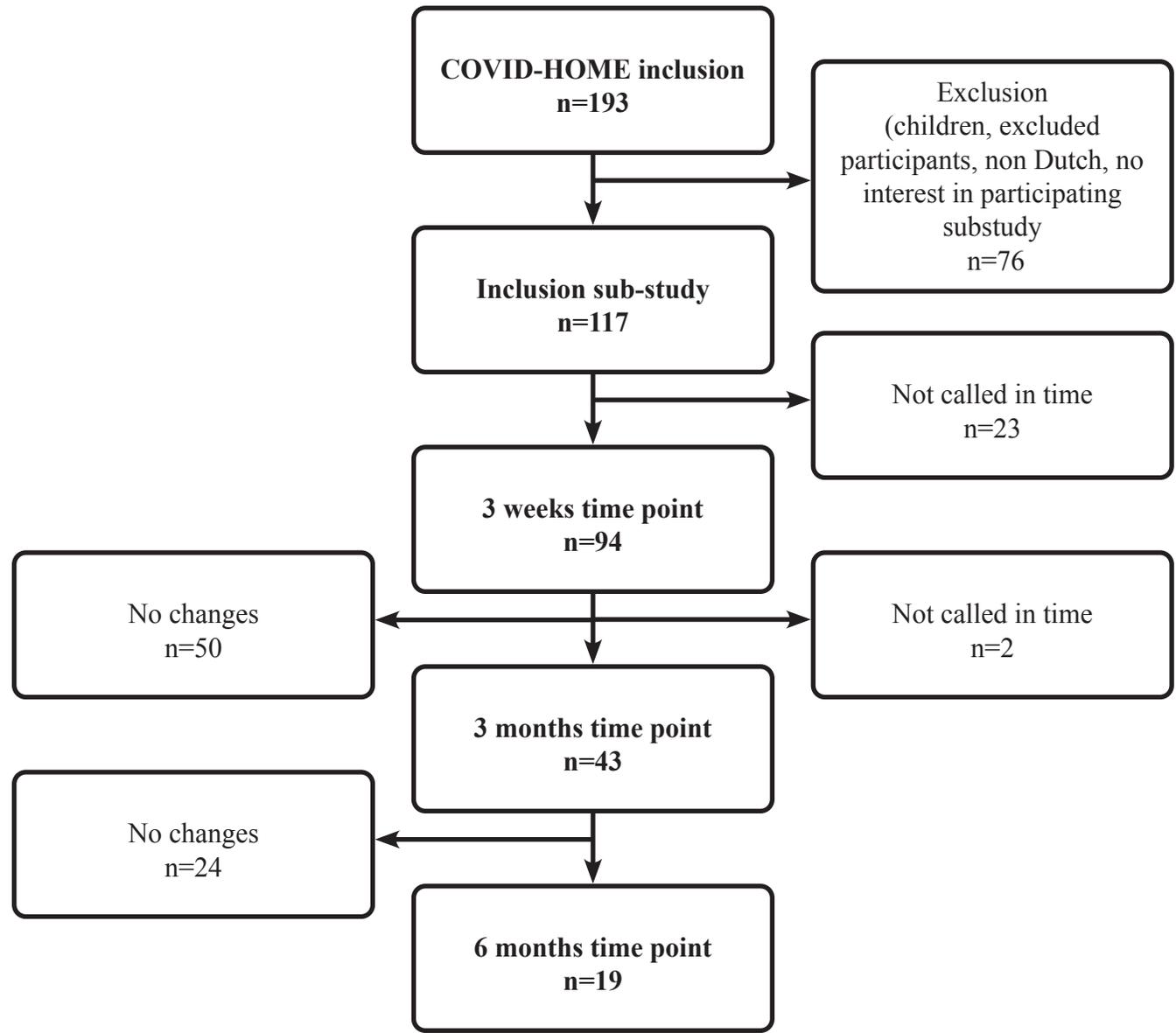
524

525 **Fig6.** Impact on a) daily life and b) QoL of olfactory, gustatory, mouthfeel, and temperature
526 changes.

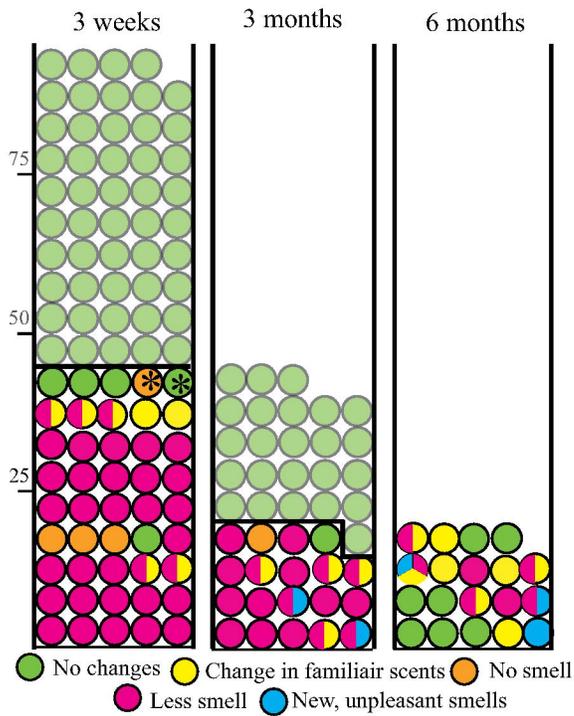
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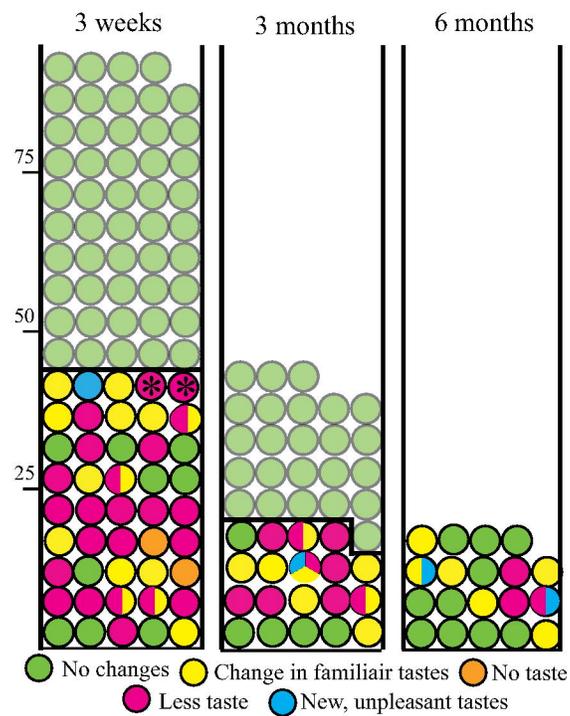
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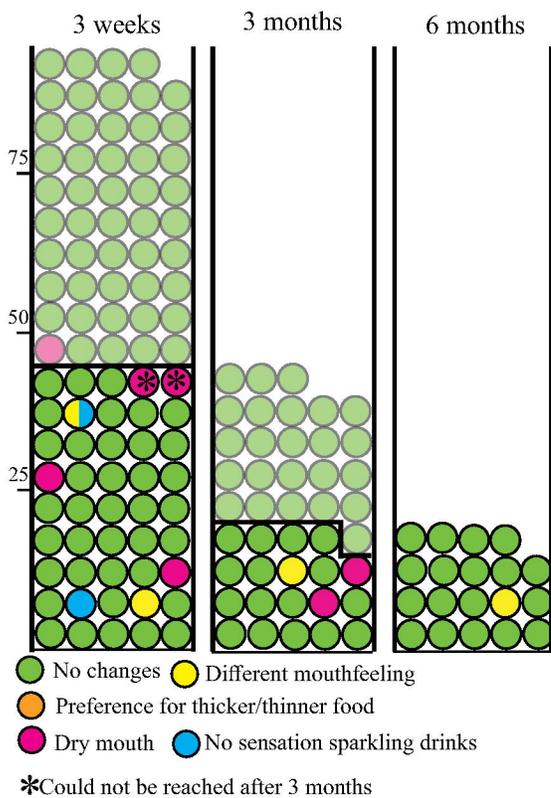
a. Smell



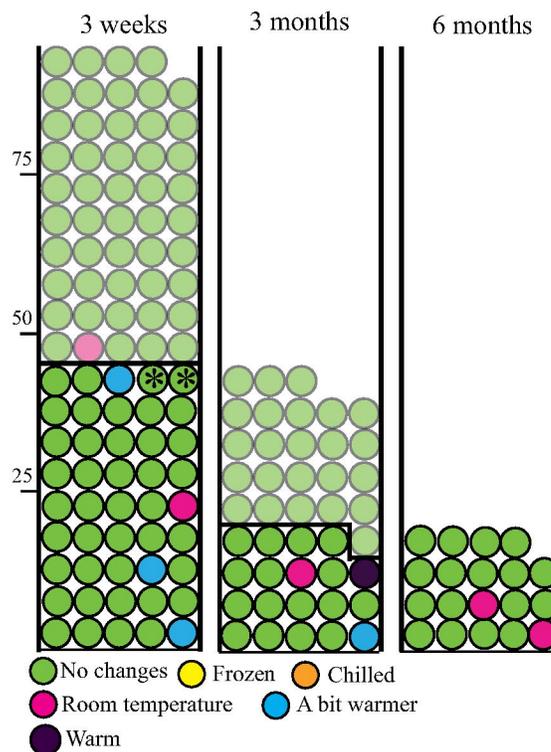
b. Taste

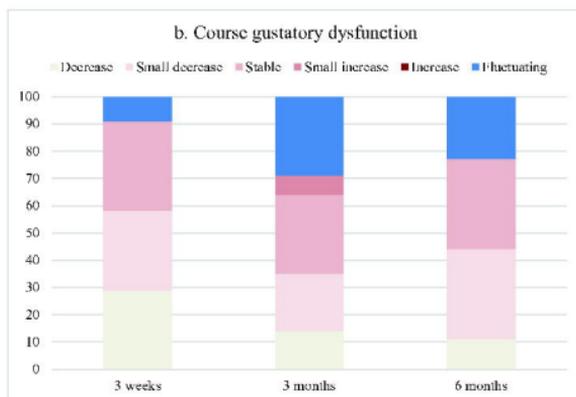
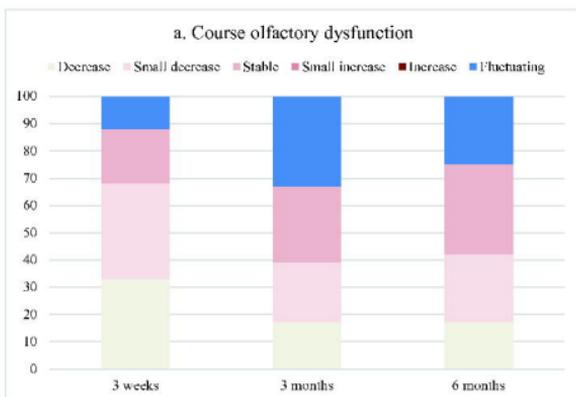


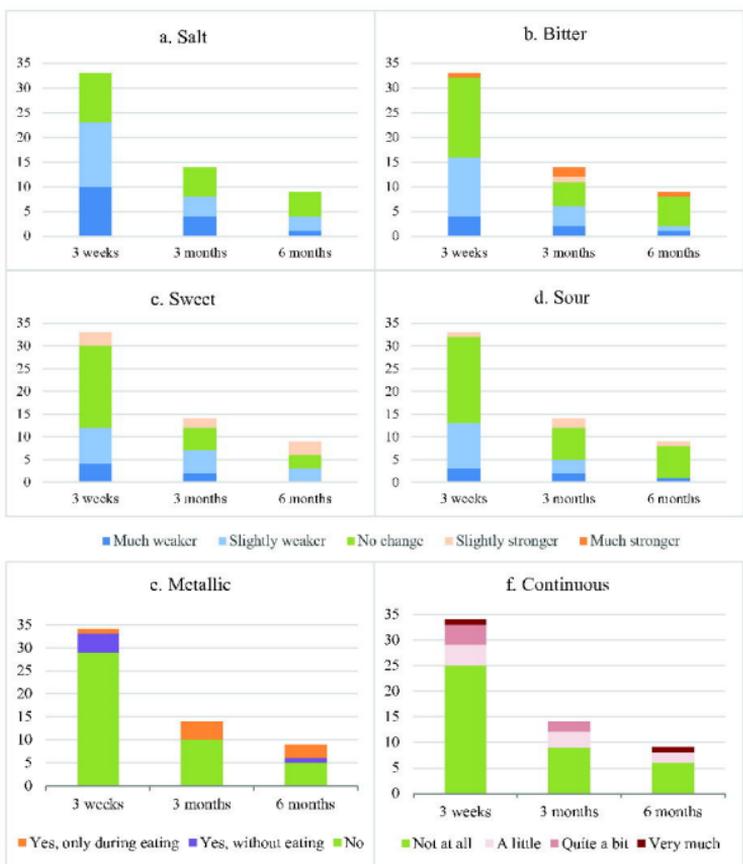
c. Mouthfeel

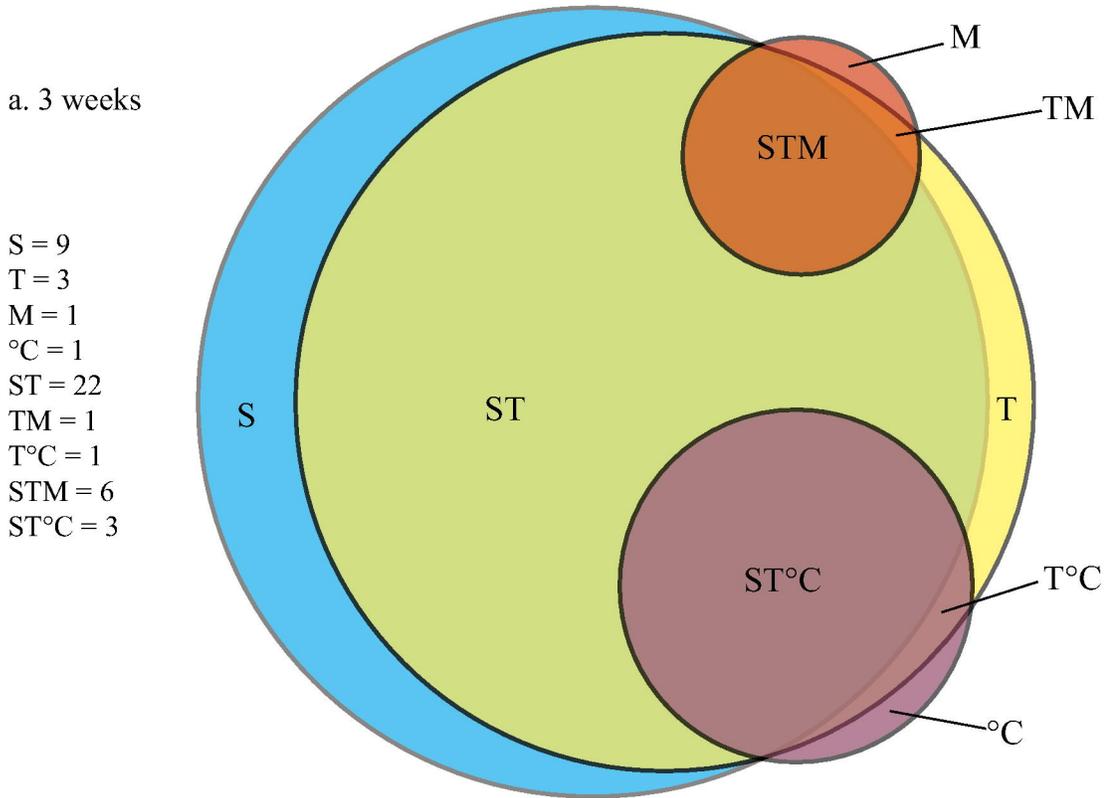


d. Temperature

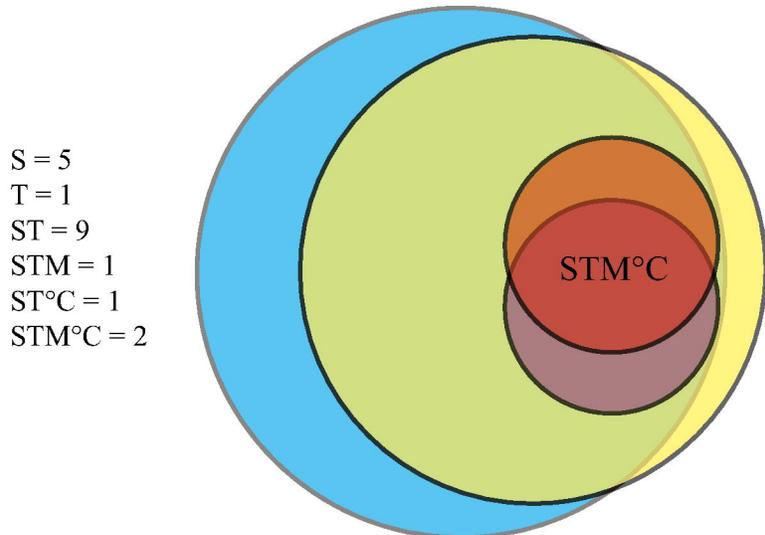








b. 3 months



c. 6 months

