

Astik vs. Nastik

Traditionally, people believe that Nastik do not believe in God.

To differentiate between Astik and Nastik, we need to first understand the concept of Sanatan Dharma and Arya Samaj Dharma. People who believe in Sanatan Dharma consider God as separate from the self and worship him in the form of an idol. They believe in Dualism theory.

Arya Samaj followers do not do idol worship and believe in nondualism and treat God and self as one.

Arya Samajis, therefore, will not go to a temple where the idols of Gods are placed. Being an Arya Samaji does not mean that the person is Nastik.

The word Nastik means someone who does not believe in God at all, therefore, he or she also does not believe in self as God is nothing but self. In medical science, these are the people who have no insight and will usually be suffering from depression and loss of self-esteem.

■ ■ ■ ■

COVID-19 Risk Factors in Multiple Sclerosis

Younger age, presence of comorbidities, and being female have been identified as the factors tied to an increased risk for COVID-19 in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS), in a new case-control study published in *Neurology: Neuroimmunology & Neuroinflammation*.

The study included 2,337 patients with MS and noted that the OR for risk for COVID-19 infection among patients with comorbidities was 1.69 compared to those without comorbidities. There were 779 patients with MS and COVID-19 and 1,558 MS patients without COVID-19 who were linked to the former group through propensity score matching.

In the three primary logistic regression models, comorbidities and female sex were found to have a significant association with an increased risk for COVID-19 infection. The OR for risk for COVID-19 infection was 1.25 for women vs. men. Age was tied to a lower risk for infection, and each additional year of age was linked with a reduction in risk, ranging from 10% to 11%. Additionally, natalizumab was associated with a significantly higher risk of COVID-19 infection, compared to other disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) (OR 2.38)... (*Medscape, February 3, 2022*)

Remdesivir Found to Reduce Need for Mechanical Ventilation in COVID Patients: Study

A new research, published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, suggests that remdesivir, compared with the standard of care for COVID-19, decreased the need for mechanical ventilation in hospitalized patients.

This was a substudy of the global WHO Solidarity trial that evaluated the effects of various treatments for COVID-19. The Canadian Treatments for COVID-19 (CATCO) trial involved 52 Canadian hospitals and assessed the effect of remdesivir in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 from August 14, 2020, through April 1, 2021. A total of 1,282 patients were included in the trial and around half of them were randomized to receive treatment with remdesivir and the rest received standard care (control group). The trial noted that among patients not receiving mechanical ventilation at study initiation, the need for mechanical ventilation arose for 8% of patients receiving remdesivir compared to 15% of those who received standard care. Patients given remdesivir were also able to come off oxygen and ventilator support sooner than those given standard care... (*ET Healthworld – ANI, January 25, 2022*)