

In an article done by Laura Spinney, Covid-19 virus does not infect human brain cells, varying sources were put together to come up with the idea that COVID-19 is not as scary as scientists initially thought. The article introduces this topic by talking about the understood infection pathway of COVID-19. The article would discuss a topic and then it would define any uncommon scientific terms. It discussed the initial fears of COVID-19 and the long term effects of the virus on the human body; then the article compiled the information that discusses how the initial findings were not completely accurate; thus, the conclusion was made that COVID-19 is not all that daunting when dealing with long-term effects of the virus.

This article relates to genetics because it discusses sustentacular cells, olfactory mucosa, olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs), sustentacular cells, the olfactory bulb, and how olfactory dysfunction causes the loss or change of smell is long-term, perhaps permanent.¹ The article discusses how a virus is able to affect the genetics of humans.

I believe that this information compiled together in Spinney's article to be accurate due to the article done by Khan, M. et al., visualizing in deceased COVID-19 patients how SARS-COV-2 attacks the respiratory and olfactory mucosae but spares the olfactory bulb. This peer reviewed article found the specific cells COVID-19 targets. These scientists found that the sustentacular cells are the major target cell type in the olfactory mucosa. Moreover, they failed to find evidence that COVID-19 infects olfactory sensory neurons while the parenchyma of the olfactory bulb is spared. These scientists concluded that COVID-19 does not appear to be a neurotropic virus.²

1. Spinney, L. Covid-19 virus does not infect human brain cells, study suggests. *The Guardian*;
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/03/covid-19-virus-does-not-infect-human-brain-cells-new-study-suggests> (2021).

2. Khan, M. *et al.* Visualizing in deceased COVID-19 patients how SARS-COV-2 attacks the respiratory and olfactory mucosae but spares the olfactory bulb. *Cell*;
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.10.027> (2021).