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Long Covid Study Links Lingering Virus With Bowel-to-Brain Havoc

- Prozac identified as a potential drug therapy for future study
- Findings point to possible cause of neurocognitive symptoms



A researcher holds test tubes with Covid-19 cell cultures during a long covid sample processing in Magdeburg, Germany. *Photographer: Ronny Hartmann/AFP/Getty Images*

By Jason Gale

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Covid may trigger complex biological reactions from the bowel to the brain, leading to persistent neurological symptoms in some people, according to a study that points the way toward a treatment.

Viral vestiges in the gastrointestinal tracts of a subset of long-Covid patients may drive chronic inflammation that interferes with a key chemical messenger involved in nerve activity, brain function and memory, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania reported Monday in the journal *Cell*.

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