

- Diabetes / Virus

DIABETICS WITH COVID HAVE IT WORSE

Their fever is higher and their stay in hospital is longer, says Filipino doctor

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DIABETICS tend to have it worse if they get infected with Covid-19, said the Philippine Society of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

Society president Michael Villa said when diabetics got infected with Covid-19, they were more likely to have the severe form of the illness, Philstar.com portal reported

“Patients who have diabetes, once they are infected with Covid-19, they have worse symptoms, their fever is higher, their stay in hospital is longer and they develop complications.”

He added that in some hospitals, 20 to 40 per cent of Covid-19 patients were diabetics.

“So we see them as a risk factor for worsening signs and symptoms and critical illness.”

Villa said over the last two decades, there had been an increase in diabetes cases in the country, from two million or three million to eight million.

After two years, the Covid-19 pandemic might contribute to the increase in diabetes cases due to people’s sedentary lifestyle and poor eating habits, he said.

“We encourage the public and private sector to focus on preventing the increase of this deadly disease.”

He cautioned diabetes patients against taking herbal medicines or plants that were supposedly for diabetes without consulting their doctor.

“As doctors, we have our responsibility to give them medicines that have been studied.

“We know the effect of the number of doses, the milligrams and the side effect of those medications.”