Table 1

Description of the studies on the Fear of COVID-19 Scale included in the meta-analysis (n =21)

Author(s)	Location	Number of participants and age	Screening tools (independents variable)	Findings
Ahorsu et al. (2020)	Iran	717 participants (medicine students) M = 31,25 years (SD = 12,68)	The Persian version of Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS – Montazeri et al. 2003)	There were significant positive correlations between fear of COVID-19 and depression (r = 0.425, p < 0.001), anxiety (r = 0.511, p < 0.001).
Alyami et al. (2020a)	Arabia	639 participants M= 34,75 years (SD= 11,8)	The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS – Zigmond, & Snaith, 1983)	Fear of COVID-19 was significantly correlated with HADS-D (r = .56, p < .001), HADS-A (r = .66, p < .001).
Bitan et al. (2020)	Israel	639 participants	The Depression and Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS-21 – Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995).	The Fear of COVID-19 scale correlated with the three subscales of the DASS, with the highest correlation being with the anxiety subscale (r=0.43, p<.001), followed by stress (r=0.33, p<.001), and the lowest for depression (r=0.24, p<.001).
Labrague et al. (2020)	Philippines	250 participants M= 30,95 years	The Job Stress Scale (JSS – House & Rizzo, 1972).	Fear of COVID–19 had significant positive correlations with psychological distress (r = 0.468, p < 0.01).
Tsipropoulou et al. (2020)	Greek	2970 participants	Generalized Anxiety Disorder Assessment (GAD-7 – Spitzer et al., 2006); Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9 – Spitzer et al., 1999)	High statistically significant correlation was found between FCV-19S and GAD-7 (r=0.71, p < .001) and moderate correlation was found between FCV-19S and PHQ-9 (r=0.47, p < .001) demonstrating a good concurrent validity.

Bakioglu et al. (2020)	Turkey	960 participants M= 29,74 years (SD= 9,64)	Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale (DAS-21 – Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995)	The correlation between the variables were as follows: a negative and significant correlation between the fear of COVID-19 and positivity (r = −. 23, p < .01), and a positive and significant correlation between prospective anxiety (r = .31, p < .01), inhibitory anxiety (r = .32, p < .01), depression (r = .45, p < .01), anxiety (r = .62, p < .01), and stress (r = .59, p < .01).
Harper et al. (2020)	UK	324 participants M= 34,32 years (SD= 11,71)	PROMIS Emotional Distress Short Forms (PROMIS-SFs – Cella et al. 2007)	Statistically significant correlation was found between the FCV-19S and depression (r = .49) and anxiety (r = .69).
Satici et al. (2020a)	Turkey	1304 participants M= 29,47 years (SD= 10,54)	Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale (DAS-21 – Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995)	Data analysis revealed significant positive correlations between the Fear of COVID-19 Scale and depression (r = .38, p < .001), anxiety (r = .55, p < .001), and stress (r = .47, p < .001).
Perz et al. (2020)	USA	237 participants M= 30,3 years (SD= 10,2)	Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7 – Spitzer, Kroenke, Williams, & Löwe, 2006; Toussaint et al. 2020)	The FCV-19S was significantly correlated with anxiety (r = 0.68, p < 0.001).
Pang et al. (2020)	Malaysia	228 participants M= 26 years	Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale (DAS-21 – Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995; Musa Fadzil & Zaini, 2007)	The FCV-19S was significantly correlated with anxiety (r = 0.481, p < 0.001) and stress (r = 0.389, p < 0.001) subscales of DASS-21.
Gasparro et al. (2020)	Italy	735 participants (dentist) M= 44,8 years (SD= 12,44)	The short version of the DSM-5 Severity Measure for Depression–Adult (SMDA –	The FCV-19S was significantly positively correlated with the depressive symptoms (r= 0.41, p < .001).

			Spitzer et al., 2001; Fossati et al., 2015).	
Mahmood et al. (2020)	Pakistan	501 participants	Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7 – Spitzer et al., 2006)	The FCV-19S was also positively correlated with the general anxiety disorder (r = .458, p < .01).
Siddique et al. (2021)	Bangladesh	521 participants M=24,78; SD=7,00	Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-10) (Cohen and Williamson, 1988; Islam, 2020 [Bangla version])	The FCV-19S was also positively correlated with the stress (r = .51, p < .01).
Midorikawa et al. (2021)	Japanese	6750 participants	The extent of the stress associated with COVID-19	The FCV-19S was also positively correlated with the stress (r = .511, p < .01).
Stanculescu, (2021)	Romania	809 participants M=32,61; SD=11,25	The Perceived Stress Scale-10 (PSS; Cohen & Williamson 1988); The Short Depression-Happiness Scale (SDHS; Joseph et al. 2004)	The fear of COVID-19 score correlated with depression (r = .25, p < .01), stress (r = .45, p < .01).
Morales-Rodriguez, (2021)	Spain	180 participants (university students) M= 20,76; SD=4,59	Perceived Stress Scale related to COVID-19 (EPP 10-C) (Cohen et al., 2020)	The FCV-19S was also positively correlated with the stress (r = .42, p < .01).
Kassim et al. (2021)	Malaysia	255 participants	DASS-21 Scale (Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995)	The results show that there were significant relationships between fear of COVID-19-depression (Spearman's rho = 0.323, p < 0.05), fear of COVID-19-anxiety (Spearman's rho = 0.428, p < 0.05), fear of COVID-19-stress (Spearman's rho=0.423, p < 0.05)

Servidio et al., (2021)	Italy	454 participants M= 21,09; SD=1,92	Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scales-21 (DASS-21) (Bottesi et al., 2015)	The FCV-19S-M was significantly correlated with anxiety (r = 0.277, p < 0.01) and depression (r = 0.167, p < 0.01) subscales of DASS-21.
Lathabhavan & Vispute, (2021)	India	625 participants	The short version (4-items) of Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen et al., 1983)	The FCV-19S-M was significantly correlated with stress (r = 0.27, p < 0.01).
Guelmami et al. (2021)	Tunusia	874 participants M=28,39; SD=9,32	10-Item Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen et al., 1983)	The FCV-19S-M was significantly correlated with stress (r = 0.33, p < 0.01).
Ahammed et al. (2021)	Bangladesh	1317 participants	Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) (Spitzer et al., 2006); WHO-Five Well-being Index (WHO-5) (Mental Health Centre North Zealand, 2020)	The FCV-19S was significantly correlated with anxiety (r = 0.536, p < 0.01) and depression (r = -0.180, p < 0.01)