**Key points**

1. What is already known about this subject?
* There is a relationship between demographic and pre-existing medical conditions and the disease severity in patients with COVID-19.
* People with chemical war injury suffer from serious consequences, especially respiratory diseases.
1. What are the new findings?
* A past history of a chemical war injury does not add to the risk of COVID-19 and does not significantly modify its clinical picture either.
* There was one difference: Chest pain was significantly more frequent among people with COVID-19 and a past history of chemical war injury compared with that in others.
1. How might this impact on policy or clinical practice in the foreseeable future?
* Our observations that a past history of a chemical war injury does not add to the risk of COVID-19 and does not modify its clinical picture are intriguing and should be replicated in other studies.