

Revision:

Dear Editors and Reviewer:

On behalf of both authors, I am pleased to resubmit for publication the revised version of “Complexities of Diagnosis and Management of COVID-19 in Autoimmune Diseases: Potential Benefits and Detriments of Immunosuppression”. We appreciate the constructive criticism of the scientific editor and the reviewer and have addressed their concerns as outlined below. We revised the manuscript in line with reviewer’s advice and references and the figure in line with editors’ recommendations.

The most substantial revision concerns:

- 1) References are now formatted in line with instructions. PMIDs and DOIs are now added where applicable.
- 2) The figure is now submitted as a PowerPoint file with editable text.
- 3) Some information on biologics and vasculitis is now added in line with reviewer’s advice.

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Well written paper, timely and concise. I would only suggest to include some sentences and analysis to asthma and vasculitis and patients treated with relevant biologics. See for instance: EAACI Biologics Guidelines – Recommendations for severe asthma DOI:10.1111/all.14425 Figures are fine

Answer: Thank you for your evaluation and valuable comments. Following your advice, we have included more information on biologics in the section “Pharmaceutical management”:

“Biological therapy continuation in patients should be evaluated on specific case bases, as currently there is not enough evidence for making a specific recommendation [74]. Nonetheless, data from COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance physician registry suggest that treatment with biologics were not associated with a higher risk of hospitalisation for COVID-19 [75].”

Furthermore, we have addressed on “vasculitis-like” lesions as a possible COVID-19 manifestation that resembles an AD flare.

Nevertheless, because of the diversity of the asthma endotypes and the still persistent controversy if asthma is in fact an autoimmune disease, we have not commented on asthma since it is not within the scope of this minireview focusing on autoimmune diseases.

Step 6: Editorial Office's comments

The author must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which listed below:

Issues raised:

(1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor; and

(2) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout 6 Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

Answer:

In line with science editor's comments, the following issues were addressed:

- (1) We provided the original figure in pptx format (PowerPoint) with editable text within the slide.
- (2) PMID and DOIs, where possible, were included in the end of each reference and all authors were listed.

Sincerely,

The corresponding author