

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 59174

Title: Effect of methylprednisolone in severe and critical COVID-19: Analysis of 102 cases

Reviewer's code: 03522829

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-08-28

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-08-29 22:31

Reviewer performed review: 2020-09-11 18:04

Review time: 12 Days and 19 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The topic for the current study is interesting because the healthcare systems in all countries around the world faced incredible challenges with COVID-19 since its discovery. Besides, there are a lot of controversial data in that area. Therefore, I recommend the publication for the current study after minor revision as the following:

Introduction: 1- Please add references for the following: Some patients get worse in 7-10 days due to the rapid progression of the disease. It gradually develops into acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and septic shock, and can even death via multi-organ failure. At present, there is no effective SARS-CoV-2-specific antiviral therapy, resulting in great difficulty in clinical treatment. Glucocorticoids are used to control severe diseases caused by the cytokine storm, owing to their rapid, powerful, and nonspecific anti-inflammatory effects. They are often used as adjunct treatment for viral pneumonia. Domestic guidelines, literature, and the first-line treatment guide for critical COVID-19 patients all recommend short courses, medium courses, and small doses of glucocorticoids for inhibiting excessive immune injury, which are the applied measures for critical COVID-19 patients. It was previously thought that proper and reasonable corticosteroid use could reduce the excessive inflammatory reaction of severe pneumonia and help severe patients survive respiratory failure and inflammatory exudation. However, glucocorticoids are a double-edged sword, as the use of large doses has the potential risk of secondary infection and long-term serious complications, and may prolong virus clearance time. Nonetheless, the risks and benefits of glucocorticoid adjuvant therapy for COVID-19 are inconclusive. 2- Please highlight the gap of knowledge and the rationale for conducting the current study in the introduction part as the authors mention in the discussion section as the following: At present, glucocorticoid therapy for COVID-19 is still controversial, and high-quality clinical evidence is lacking.



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Material and Methods: 1- Please add in the study design and patient population the inclusions and exclusions criteria for participation in the study. 2- Please add a reference for the dose, route and regimen of administration for methylprednisolone. 3- Please add a section as study limitations. Discussion: 1- Obesity is one of the most critical risk factors which aggravates the mortality of COVID-19 Reference: El-Arabey AA, Abdalla M. Metformin and COVID-19: A novel deal of an old drug. J Med Virol. 2020;10.1002/jmv.25958. doi:10.1002/jmv.25958 Please discuss why the authors did not measure the bodyweight as baseline characteristics. In addition, it is well known that weight gain is a common side effect of prednisone. References: 1- Please check the missing citation of reference 5 in the main text manuscript.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-08-28

Reviewer chosen by: Pan Huang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-10-09 12:40

Reviewer performed review: 2020-10-09 13:32

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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The authors have successfully addressed all the comments