

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63729

Title: High fecal calprotectin levels are associated with SARS-CoV-2 intestinal shedding in COVID-19 patients: a Proof-of-Concept Study

Reviewer's code: 03030788

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BCPS, BM BCh

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

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Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-09 12:11

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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 Grade E: Do not publish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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The reviewer would like to thank the authors for their well-designed protocol on such a hot topic. However, some findings need further explanation. In more detail, the association between diarrhea and fecal Sars-CoV-2 RNA detection on one hand and calprotectin levels on the other hand has to be further elucidated, since all patients with diarrhea were positive for fecal SARS-CoV-2 RNA and despite this fact, their fecal calprotectin levels were lower, compared to their non-diarrhea counterparts. Additionally, contrary to the statement in the "Introduction" section that peripheral blood neutropenia reflects neutrophil migration to the tissues, no significant difference was observed as for peripheral blood neutrophil levels between patients with and without diarrhea, but a significant difference in neutrophil levels was observed between the presence and the absence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in feces. It would be interesting to know authors' explanation regarding these findings.