

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 64091

Title: Acute Mesenteric Ischemia and small bowel imaging findings in COVID-19: a comprehensive review of the literature

Reviewer's code: 03769068

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-08

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-09 12:43

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-15 13:57

Review time: 6 Days and 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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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Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
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<https://www.wjgnet.com>

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The article provisionally entitled “Male Infertility in COVID-19” presents an isolated case of a 29-year-old patient previously diagnosed with oligoasthenospermia, in which he contracted COVID-19 and the signs and symptoms presented were high fever and pain in the testicles. The authors present a work with an interesting theme, with results of laboratory tests that allow the evaluation of reproductive profile, spermogram and imaging tests. However, when it comes to one or the other case, the studies should be carried out in a deeper way and present a richer and more consistent theoretical basis. The main causes of primary infertility in males should be addressed in a way that the reader does not immediately associate infertility with the new SARS-CoV 2. It is important to note that infertility problems are due to genetic causes through changes in the number or structure of the sperm chromosome, habits and traumas such as smoking, exposure to toxic environments or strokes in the scrotal region can impair man's fertile functions, as well as other factors mentioned in the medical literature that could be widely explored by the authors, providing greater understanding to readers and emphasizing that primary infertility was already present in the studied individual. On the fourth page, topic “introduction”, 10th line there was a break in the information. The authors cite “patients infected with COVID-19, a negative impact would occur on spermatogenesis due to many factors ...”, however the authors do not explain what these “many factors” are, the negative impact that would occur on spermatogenesis, becoming a incognita for those who's reading. While structuring, the text does not require significant changes in terms of spacing, font and font size. However, paragraphs need to be identified (slightly further from the margin); paragraphs that are quotes from other works must also be paragraphed. In relation to the tables arranged in the work, it would be interesting if they are close to the texts which are necessary so that the reader does not



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need to search all the pages in search of these tables, facilitating and holding his attention to the information provided there.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Manuscript NO: 64091

Title: Acute Mesenteric Ischemia and small bowel imaging findings in COVID-19: a comprehensive review of the literature

Reviewer's code: 05458182

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Deputy Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-08

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-05 14:12

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-08 13:33

Review time: 2 Days and 23 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 title reflects the main subject of the manuscript. The abstract summarizes and reflects the work described in the manuscript. The key words reflect the focus of the manuscript. The manuscript adequately describes the background, present status and significance of the study. The manuscript describes methods, experiments and data analysis in adequate detail. The manuscript interprets the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically. The figures and table have a good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents. The manuscript meets the requirements of use of SI units. The manuscript cites appropriately the latest, important and authoritative references. The manuscript is well organized and presented. The style, language and grammar are accurate and appropriate. The author prepares the manuscript according to the appropriate research (PRISMA 2009 Checklist) methods and reporting. The manuscript met the requirements of ethics. The manuscript is a review of the literature which includes twenty-eight case reports, six case series, and five retrospective studies discussing small bowel radiological manifestations of SARS-CoV-2 infection in abdominal imaging studies. As we know, gastrointestinal symptoms are present in many patients with COVID-19 and may be a unique disease manifestation. However, only a few studies assessed the abdominal radiological findings in COVID-19 patients, and even fewer focused on small bowel alterations. Moreover, pathogenic mechanisms of the described findings remain unclear. It is difficult to establish whether these manifestations are the direct consequence of SARS-CoV-2 infection or collateral findings in infected patients. Given the important role that Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme 2 plays in the pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2, it is easy to assume that cells with high expression of Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme 2, including those located in the small intestine, will be susceptible to this infection. In the

review no specific aspect was identified, some radiological features have been reported in 21% of patients with GI symptoms. Among them, small bowel wall ischemia/necrosis was the most frequent. Bowel wall ischemia is an urgent condition with a high mortality rate in absence of an early treatment. Therefore, it is very important to diagnose this condition timely. This review has some limitations because it is based on case series and few retrospective studies, and real degree of small bowel disorder is still a matter of debate. Further research of abdominal imaging abnormalities in COVID-19 patients could help practitioners correctly interpret the clinical picture and avoid misdiagnosis.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 64091

Title: Acute Mesenteric Ischemia and small bowel imaging findings in COVID-19: a comprehensive review of the literature

Reviewer's code: 05077871

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DSc, MBBS, MRCP

Professional title: Senior Research Fellow, Staff Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-08

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-04 17:38

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-17 21:09

Review time: 13 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thanks to the authors for submitting the article summarizing interesting findings of a very topical issue. I am unable to recommend publication of this manuscript in its current form. The authors kindly need to make some revisions. My comments-

Title- My suggestion is that the title is revised. Given that mesenteric ischaemia is the most common finding as per this review, the title could be made more catchy by saying AMI is the most common finding on imaging of SB and so on OR something similar.

Major comments

- 1) The authors have done a detailed review of the literature and included a respectable number of reports.
- 2) The body of the article has been divided as per findings which makes it easy to read.
- 3) The information contained in the different sections covers the included studies but lacks depth of information. The authors could add more information about the cases wherever possible- such as time spent of ITU, platelets counts, cytokine levels (if available from the original study). This could be something that can be added to the table.
- 4) I would strongly suggest expanding further on the discussion section. Although Covid-19 and its effects are new, the findings on imaging (particularly AMI) is a significant one and has been well documented in literature in other conditions. This can be discussed in more detail, drawing from literature on AMI itself, regardless of etiology. Perhaps info on how this has been managed in general can be included. The table is very detailed but too lengthy and does not give any additional information of interest. The authors could perhaps break up the table to eg- vascular and luminal findings and make it more focused and manageable. Presenting symptoms do not add very much. Info such as ITU stay, need for ECMO, anti-coagulation, sepsis and so on.

Minor comments

- 1) In the introduction line 11, there is a word missing
- 2) In the methods section, it would be useful to suggest studies up to what period were included
- 3) In the AMI section, line 5, change



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to among causes of AMI 4) In the SB thickening section, line 7 and 8, grammar needs to be checked and sentence can be rephrased to make it succinct and effective. Thank you

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 64091

Title: Acute Mesenteric Ischemia and small bowel imaging findings in COVID-19: a comprehensive review of the literature

Reviewer's code: 05077871

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DSc, MBBS, MRCP

Professional title: Senior Research Fellow, Staff Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-08

Reviewer chosen by: Man Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-14 08:59

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-14 09:32

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 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
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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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Thank you for addressing all the comments. All the minor revisions and suggestions I had given have been addressed and implemented. The section on acute mesenteric ischaemia now carries more information and reads well. The tables have been separated and definitely more reader-friendly. Thank you for including the outcomes where available. This will be very useful for all clinicians who come across these findings. This will to some extent help clinicians with risk stratification and prognosis of Covid-19 patients who show the above findings on imaging. I would now recommend acceptance of this manuscript for publication pending final decisions by Editors. Please add one word to the title- Acute Mesenteric Ischaemia and other small bowel imaging findings....and so on This does not require to come back to reviewers if authors accept to make the change. Thank you and congratulations on the comprehensive work! Best Wishes

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Reviewer's code: 03769068

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-08

Reviewer chosen by: Man Liu

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Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-16 13:00

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
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I am satisfied with the response to the reviewers. The changes improved the quality of the article.