

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 65126

Title: COVID-19 and its effects on the digestive system

Reviewer's code: 05848707

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MS

Professional title: Deputy Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-28

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-05 10:06

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-22 18:46

Review time: 17 Days and 8 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

First, what are the original findings of this manuscript? Not applicable. What are the new hypotheses that this study proposed? Not applicable. However, new hypotheses for future studies can be framed around the points highlighted in the review, such as the higher rate of disease severity amongst COVID-19 patients with gastrointestinal symptoms and the possibility of fecal-oral route of transmission. What are the new phenomena that were found through experiments in this study? Not applicable. What are the hypotheses that were confirmed through experiments in this study? Not applicable. Second, what are the quality and importance of this manuscript? The manuscript is generally well-written. The review of gastrointestinal problems in relation to COVID-19 seems important for two reasons. Firstly, the identification and management of gastrointestinal symptoms emphasized in the review may help in timely identification and prevention of potential deterioration amongst COVID-19 patients. Secondly, highlighting the possibility of fecal-oral transmission can prompt healthcare workers for improved compliance of infection control measures. What are the new findings of this study? Not applicable. What are the new concepts that this study proposes? Not applicable. What are the new methods that this study proposed? Not applicable. Do the conclusions appropriately summarize the data that this study provided? Data of reported studies has been appropriately summarised in the review. What are the unique insights that this study presented? Not applicable. What are the key problems in this field that this study has solved? Not applicable. Third, what are the limitations of the study and its findings? (1) Most of the studies cited for prevalence of gastrointestinal symptoms seem to be amongst Asian populations. (2) The review emphasizes the possibility of fecal-oral transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection, but no cases of such transmission have been reported yet. It might be because it is difficult to distinguish such transmission from regular transmission through respiratory droplets. If



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so, the authors may highlight this difficulty and propose in vitro studies to check transmission through fecal samples of COVID-19 patients. What are the future directions of the topic described in this manuscript? It would be important to see how the gastrointestinal symptoms vary between patients infected with different variants of the SARS-CoV-2. Moreover, such reviews can help in revision of home quarantine guidelines for COVID-19 patients to better emphasize safer toilet use and more careful handling of diapers and undergarments of patients to prevent transmission of infection to people living in the same house. What are the questions/issues that remain to be solved? Cases of fecal-oral transmission of SARS-CoV-2 are yet to identified and reported. What are the questions that this study prompts for the authors to do next? Future studies should explore the difference in prevalence of gastrointestinal symptoms between the patients infected with different variants of SARS-CoV-2. How might this publication impact basic science and/or clinical practice? It can prompt clinicians to look out for gastrointestinal symptoms amongst COVID-19 patients leading to timely management and potential prevention of further deterioration.