

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 75367

Title: “Predictors of Long-term Anxiety and Depression in Discharged Covid-19 Patients: A Follow-up Study”

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00989192

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: Turkey

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-25 16:29

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-26 16:05

Review time: 23 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The major drawback of this paper is the statistical analysis of data. This study is based on two windows of data collection: the first during the spring 2020 and the second during January 2022. The aim should be to compare the scores at baseline (hospitalization) of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 on a rating scale measuring anxiety and depression with their scores at the follow-up. Such comparison should be conducted by using statistical tests for paired measures (for example ANOVA for repeated measures) but there is no mention of these statistical procedures in the text. In addition, to define the predictors of long-term anxiety and/or depression, the dependent variable in the multiple regression analysis should be the delta score (HADS scores at T1 minus HADS scores at T0). Again, the authors did not seem to adopt such a statistical procedure. Scores reported in Table 2 are those obtained at the follow-up but the authors do not give the reader the option to inspect what were the scores at baseline. Some statements are difficult to understand. For example, the authors say that their study is “a retrospective cohort study”. Yet, this is in fact a prospective longitudinal study. In the Introduction, the authors mention “psychotic attack”. Do they mean psychotic episode? In the Discussion, the authors mention “habilitation with repeated exposure”. Do they mean habituation? In general, the quality of English writing is poor.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05198640

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DSc, MD, PhD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Bulgaria

Author's Country/Territory: Turkey

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-27 12:50

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-27 13:05

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
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a comprehensive advanced study of the manifestations of depression and anxiety in discharged from active hospital treatment post-COVID-19 patients. It delivers clear evidence that scores of anxiety and depression remain increased during follow up. The study is conducted by means of telepsychiatry assessment. The methods selected are appropriate given the purpose of the study. Conclusions are supported with data and most limitations are outlined accordingly. This study can aid public health decisions under the conditions of pandemic. Authors may consider to also discuss briefly the impact of national identity on the COVID-19 response as potential confound (see: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-27668-9?utm_campaign=related_content&utm_source=SOCIAL&utm_medium=communities)

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06149620

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Additional Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Israel

Author's Country/Territory: Turkey

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

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Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-31 12:04

Review time: 2 Days and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" 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
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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
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a fine longitudinal study. As there are reports about many other highly correlated symptoms in the covid literature, the focus on anxiety and depression in this era should be further justified. I miss the full name of the statistical analysis used. I miss cutoff points in the abstract and intro. I find that the issue of early identification and early diagnosis as the message to take home should be further elaborated. I fail to check references as its not clearly numerical or APA. I think a literature review should need to include studies on the symptoms investigated in this study in many other parts of the world , including a figure or a table. There are parts in the discussion which belong to the intro. It need reediting. Citations on gender differences in anxiety and depression prior to the covid are missing. The result on vaccinated people needs to be interpreted according to a recent publication in Plos One on improvement in mood quality following vaccination. Quotations appear without referencing them. I miss a comparison of prevalence on the symptoms in subject before and during the covid using chi-square. The longitudinal design is a true strength of this study and should be mentioned as such in length in the conclusions section.