

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our Manuscript (NO: 56172) entitled "Prevalence and impact of diabetes on coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in China: A systematic review and meta-analysis". We have made the requested changes which we hope meets your approval. The revised portions are marked in red in the manuscript. The main modification in the paper and the responds to the reviewers' comments are as following:

**Responds to the reviewers' comments:**

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The topic of paper is very interesting and relevant; however I must raise some points that should be addressed by the authors: - although authors state that the prevalence and impact of diabetes on COVID-19 infection has not been systematically reviewed, this is not true at the moment, since some papers have been already published (e.g., Huang I, et al. Diabetes Metab Syndr 2020;14:395-403; Kumar A, et al. Diabetes Metab Syndr 2020;14:535-545); please, correct this claim and include those papers in the discussion –

**Response:** Thanks for the Reviewer's suggestion. When we doing this research, we did not find relevant meta-analysis focused on this topic. Currently, some papers have been already published (e.g., Huang I, et al. Diabetes Metab Syndr 2020;14:395-403; Kumar A, et al. Diabetes Metab Syndr 2020;14:535-545). This two studies focused on the impact of diabetes on coronavirus infection. We have added these studies in the discussion and also revised the description in the main text as "this meta-analysis firstly focused on the pooled prevalence of diabetes among COVID-19 patients and its impact on clinical outcomes (ICU admission, severity and death) in China".

-since 23 of 24 included studies are from China, I would suggest authors to expel the one from USA and make their systematic review and meta-analysis country specific;

**Response:** Thanks for the Reviewer's suggestion. We have expelled the one from USA and make our systematic review and meta-analysis country specific (focusing on China). And we have revised the title of this study as "Prevalence and impact of diabetes on coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in China: A systematic review and meta-analysis" and revised the whole manuscript.

- Please, also discuss the association between SARS-CoV-2 and DPP4

**Response:** Thanks for the Reviewer's suggestion. We have added the discussion of association between SARS-CoV-2 and DPP4 in the discussion. Please refer to the paragraph 3 in the discussion.

- The text requires minor language and technical polishing

**Response:** Thanks for the Reviewer's suggestion. Native-English speakers had edit the revised manuscript for language.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The proposed manuscript by Du et al. presents the results from a meta-analysis of observational cross-sectional and cohort studies on the prevalence and impact of diabetes mellitus in SARS-nCoV-2-infected patients. Meta-analysis comprises 24 studies including a total of 49,589 patients with COVID-19, 1,587 of which had diabetes. Results demonstrated that pooled prevalence of diabetes among the COVID-19 patients was an average of 11% and associated with higher risk of severe illness. However, presence of diabetes was not significantly associated with intensive care unit (ICU) admission or mortality. Almost all of the studies included in the analysis were performed in China (24,262 patients from China from 23 studies vs. 24 patients from other countries from only one study), so the obtained data cannot be automatically extrapolated to all ethnicities. It may be probably more correct if the authors aimed to analyze data from only Chinese population and exclude the 24 patients from other countries. Besides of this, I do not find any incorrectness with the study design or statistics. Manuscript is written in a good English and no significant language editing is needed.

**Response: Thanks for the Reviewer's suggestion. We have excluded the study of other countries and focused on studies in China and revised the title of this study as "Prevalence and impact of diabetes on coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in China: A systematic review and meta-analysis".**