

**To, The Editor**  
**World Journal of Critical Care Medicine**

Re: 64665  
Title: Role of Proning and PEEP in COVID-19

Dear Sir/Madam

Attached, please find the revised manuscript based on the reviewer's comments. We hope that your readership will benefit and enjoy reading the revised manuscript. We also like to take this opportunity to thank the reviewer, editors and the editorial staff for their time, trust and patience. Please let us know with any questions

Warm regards

Salim Surani, MD, MPH, FACP, FCCP

#### Reviewer's comments & Response

1) Abstract: The abstract has a general focus, and if read as a standalone section, its content is not the exact representation of the manuscript. Within the limited word count, the authors could reduce on the general information and include important details such as the exact focus of the article, findings, and the authors' conclusions. In other words, they should ensure that from the abstract the readers are in position to get a clear picture of the content of the manuscript, including a take-home message about the role of proning and PEEP in COVID-19.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer comments and have modified the abstract to reflect the key message and paint the clear picture

2) COVID-19 pathophysiology subsection: Immediately after the description of the three phases of diffuse alveolar damage, the authors suddenly present the definition of acute fibrinous and organizing pneumonia (AFOP), which is somewhat confusing to a reader, before getting to the sentence that follows and links it to DAD. I suggest that a transition sentence linking AFOP to DAD is added before the description of AFOP.

Response: We agree with the reviewer comment and have modified the manuscript to reflect the suggested changes and have created the transition sentence.

3) The authors could also make a clear distinction between the lung injuries (i.e. DAD, AFOP, and OP) since they may occur in isolation or concurrently. They could indicate whether or not these lung injuries are all a consequence of COVID-19, how comorbid AFOP and/or OP might be linked to the described phases of DAD, the associated prognostic implications, and so on.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer's suggestion/comment. We have added the suggested changes in the manuscript and study showing histopathological features of COVID-19 ARDS based on its severity has also been cited.

4) The authors should proofread and correct some typos such as starting a sentence with a small letter, and writing et al. as et. al.

Response: We thanks the reviewer for the vigilance. Typo and grammatical errors have been rectified.

5) The authors should also indicate some of the major limitations of the review, especially the still scanty literature on the role of PEEP and proning in COVID-19 patients, and limited number of cases.

Response: We agree with the reviewer comment. The limitation section has been added.

Overall Comment Overall, the manuscript is well written and has a potential for contributing to science, and care of COVID-19 patients, if revised and accepted for publication.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the positive feedback.