

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases*

Manuscript NO: 88643

Title: Analysis of clinical characteristic differences and risk factors between elderly patients with severe and non-severe Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant infection

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05431771

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Academic Editor, Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-10-03

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-10-10 15:58

Reviewer performed review: 2023-10-20 07:16

Review time: 9 Days and 15 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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
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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

You have performed an excellent study. Please revise the following remarks: 1- You should highlight an outstanding finding which is "There was no difference in the application of Paxlovid in severe and non-severe patients", this important finding is of utmost importance in the ongoing real-life evaluation of the benefit (or lack of benefit) of this drug in different clinical scenarios. 2- You should revise your statement: "diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, respiratory diseases, and other comorbidities were not risk factors for the development of severe COVID-19 in elderly patients" as it contradicts your references e.g. Ref 30 that states: "As in previous studies, we found a high prevalence of comorbidities within these patients admitted to hospital for COVID-19. Previous conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, chronic lung diseases, obesity, cancer and chronic kidney disease have been associated with severe illness and mortality". 3- You have at least twice implied that vaccines could have shared in the reduction of mortality. However, you should consider that other factors could be much more important e.g. early treatment using NSAIDs PMID: 34822026 or other broad spectrum antimicrobials PMID: 37326756 and



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

you should mention other studies that argued the role of vaccines in mortality reduction e.g. PMID: 36301541 "ICU and hospital mortality were not associated with vaccinated status" not to mention that the mortality might be also associated with the improper use of some drugs e.g. glucocorticoids PMID: 33644693 4- Minor remarks a- Page 4, please add a reference after "they must have obtained Ct values of 35 for both the N gene and ORF gene for two consecutive COVID-19 tests " b- Page 5, please add a reference after "clinical classification criteria of the novel coronavirus pneumonia diagnosis and treatment protocol (Trial version 9)" and add critically severe after "and iv)" c- Page 10, please remove "These findings suggested that severe COVID-19 is more complex and requires more clinical intervention" as this is too obvious to be highlighted d- Page 11, please amend In a previous study to become in previous studies e- Page 12, please clarify the paragraph starting with "both at" as it's not clear what "both" is referring to