

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 00049727

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-07-24 02:45

Reviewer performed review: 2020-08-02 03:44

Review time: 9 Days

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 Grade E: Do not publish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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an important report which deserves publication. However, the definition of hepatic dysfunction should be clarified. Also, the authors should discuss the link between diabetes, hepatic dysfunction, and COVID-19 severity. Is hepatic dysfunction a cause or consequence of diabetes and COVID-19 infection?

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 03646555

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BMed, FRACP, MBBS, MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Australia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-08-21 09:16

Reviewer performed review: 2020-08-23 04:18

Review time: 1 Day and 19 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Unfortunately this is not worthy of publication. 1) This study has a very small sample size which does not add any significant new findings to the literature when compared to larger national and international datasets. 2) Furthermore, markers of disease severity are used as a endpoint, but there is no endpoint data about mortality, length of hospital stay, costs of hospital admission etc. 3) The implications (in the title, abstract, and conclusions) that poor glycaemic control is associated with worse COVID-19 severity are overly ambitious and not borne out by the study data. The authors of this study did not statistically analyse for COVID-19 severity according to markers of glycaemic control such as HbA1c% or pre and post-prandial blood sugar levels. 4) There are far too many terms that are not defined. - in the abstract, the "severe status" of COVID-19 should be defined (according to what criteria?) - throughout the manuscript, "invasive treatments" are never defined. - throughout the manuscript, "venous treatments" are never defined. - "Lung involvement recovery trend" in table 1 is never mentioned in the manuscript and is never defined. - "Large lung involvement" is never defined. - "hepatic dysfunction" is never defined. Furthermore, if the authors consider abnormal albumin to be a marker of hepatic dysfunction, as suggested in table 2, this is incorrect as albumin is a non-specific serum marker of inflammatory response and an acute phase reactant. Low albumin alone in patients with COVID-19 does not reflect hepatic dysfunction. 5) The authors incorrectly analyse numerous continuous variables as categorical variables. ESR, CRP, haemoglobin, neutrophils, lymphocytes, platelets, ALT, bilirubin, albumin, age and pre-prandial/ post-prandial BSL levels are continuous variables and are analysed as such in most scientific literature and severity scoring systems. It is clinically meaningless to analyse them as binary categorical variables: by doing so, a patient with a CRP of 20 may be placed in the same category as a patient with a CRP of 200, when it is clear that they have different level of inflammation. Similarly, a patient with a



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pre-prandial BSL of 9 mmol/L may be placed in the same category as a patient with a pre-prandial BSL of 25 mmol/L, when it is clear that they have different level of glycaemic control. These variables should be statistically summarised with mean +/- standard deviation, or median + interquartile range depending on the normality of distribution; compared between diabetic and non-diabetic groups with Student's t-testing or Mann-Whitney testing; and entered into logistic regression as such. 5) Variables such as Complement, IgE, K⁺ and High-sensitive cardiac troponin I are included in Table 2 but are never explained or mentioned in the manuscript. With extremely meaningless low numbers (n=1 for most variables), these variables should be deleted from the table.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 00233953

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-08-23 12:48

Reviewer performed review: 2020-08-23 12:50

Review time: 1 Hour

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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comment #1: please provide evidence of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 01219902

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-08-21 09:33

Reviewer performed review: 2020-08-24 04:10

Review time: 2 Days and 18 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
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 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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper deals with COVID-19 in diabetic patients. The theme must be an important issue for all the people all over the world. This is particularly because this report deals with patients in China, which is just the starting point of this pandemic, and it spans from February 13th to March 1st, which is the very period when this pandemic has just started to spread all over the world. In this sense, this paper is worthy of attention from all over the world. I have a few comments about this MS. <Major> #I admit that diabetes (DM) is an important determinant of the prognosis of patients with COVID-19, and is associated with the severity of COVID-19 (Tables 1, 2). This is ok. But according to this study (particularly Table 3) not only DM but also HT or hepatic dysfunction are closely associated with patients' severity. I think it ok to deal with DM with the biggest focus on it in this paper; but since I believe that to tackle this formidable disease, those factors addressed here (HT etc) should also count, which are worthy of attention as well in this study. Those factors may be independent risk factors for COVID-19. It is better to refine the MS (particularly the title, CONCLUSION of the abstract, or DISCUSSION) accordingly. # POPULATION AND METHODS>Study population: For the unit of BG, 'mmol/L' is used. This is ok. But there are a considerable number of counties, including that of this reviewer, where 'mg/dl' is more commonly used. Please indicate 'mg/dl' along with 'mmol/L'. #Please clarify the definitions of DM, HT, or hepatic dysfunction, etc, the authors used. They are just based on the history??? Simple ones are ok, but to show them clearly is very important. #Table 2 (also in the text): The normal values of Hb, CRP, or ESR, etc, used in this project, along with their units, need to be clearly shown. <Minor> #Statistical analysis, line 1, 'Fisher's...in R 3.6.0': What does this 'Fisher's...in R 3.6.0' mean? #Generally, this MS is written well with a good command of English. And yet, there are a number of grammatical points that are questionable or mistaken. The following lists some of them. Please proofread it again carefully.



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-Abstract>RESULTS, line 3 & CONCLUSION, line 1, OR ELSEWHERE in the MS:
'invasive' >>> (Probably) 'intensive'. (I guess what is meant here is 'an intensive care
using, for example, a ventilator', right?) -Abstract>RESULTS, last 6th to 8th line: 'the
history of...were risk factors' >>> 'the history of...was a risk factor' -Abstract>RESULTS,
last line: 'inpatients' >>> 'patients' -Abstract, CONCLUSION, last line: 'lead to patients
exacerbation' >>> 'lead to the exacerbation of patients' -INTRODUCTION, line 16:
'according to' >>> 'just as it is in'? -POPULATION AND METHODS>Study population,
line 10: 'invasive treasures' >>> 'intensive treatments' -RESULTS, line 5-7: '43 cases
(70.5%)... mostly demonstrating hepatic' >>> '43 cases (70.5%) showing abnormal
laboratory findings including hepatic' -etc, etc, etc...

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 02623966

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Attending Doctor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-08-28 15:15

Reviewer performed review: 2020-08-28 15:16

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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input 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

It is an interesting manuscript. Authors succeed to present their data in a clear way adding information to the existing literature. Therefore, I have no corrections to do and the manuscript can be published unaltered.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 00049727

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Pan Huang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-11-02 12:39

Reviewer performed review: 2020-11-02 12:41

Review time: 1 Hour

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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors properly responded the queries.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 00233953

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Pan Huang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-11-03 13:44

Reviewer performed review: 2020-11-03 14:43

Review time: 1 Hour

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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

there are no specific comments

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 55954

Title: Diabetic patients with COVID-19 need more attention and better glycemic control

Reviewer's code: 02623966

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Attending Doctor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Pan Huang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-11-03 18:07

Reviewer performed review: 2020-11-03 18:07

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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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

According to my knowledge, it is a novel paper in its field opening new horizons for

further evidence. In addition, the object as well as the results are appropriately discussed in the context of previous literature explaining the importance of the manuscript in its field. Authors succeed to present their data in a clear way adding information to the existing literature. Therefore, I have no corrections or further work to propose for the improvement of the manuscript and therefore it can be published unaltered.