



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Stem Cells

Manuscript NO: 56572

Title: Off-the-shelf mesenchymal stem cells from human umbilical cord tissue can significantly improve symptoms in COVID-19 patients: An analysis of evidential relations

Reviewer's code: 03478635

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Senior Research Fellow

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: Viet Nam

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-06

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-06 23:44

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-08 04:46

Review time: 1 Day 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 Grade E: Do not publish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
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is very important to overcome COVID-19 in the world. The immuno-suppression effect of MSCs on COVID-19 inflammation would be one of the candidate treatments, although risk-benefit should be considered carefully. Please check and proofread your manuscript carefully, such as the description for granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF).



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Reviewer’s code: 01368755

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Taiwan

Author’s Country/Territory: Viet Nam

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-06

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-06 10:10

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-09 02:02

Review time: 2 Days and 15 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 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
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Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

General comments: The authors commented on a clinical trial using mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) to treat COVID-19 patients and discussed the mechanisms of MSCs in this treatment. Minor concerns: 1. The clinical characteristic COVID-19 is variable and the study numbers is small that don't have the power to reveal the efficacy and safety in report from Leng et al. (2020). Please discuss the possible side effects of MSCs treatment in COVID-19. 2. The references 65 and 66 were not completely listed. 65 Van Pham P, Vu NB, Phan NK. Umbilical cord-derived stem cells (modulatisttm) show strong immunomodulation capacity compared to adipose tissue-derived or bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells. *Biomed Res Ther* 2016; 3: 687-696 [PMID, 66 Kim J-H, Jo CH, Kim H-R, Hwang Y-i. Comparison of immunological characteristics of mesenchymal stem cells from the periodontal ligament, umbilical cord, and adipose tissue. *Stem cells international* 2018; 2018: [PMID,



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Stem Cells

Manuscript NO: 56572

Title: Off-the-shelf mesenchymal stem cells from human umbilical cord tissue can significantly improve symptoms in COVID-19 patients: An analysis of evidential relations

Reviewer's code: 03671529

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Senior Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Viet Nam

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-06

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-06 14:11

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-10 17:53

Review time: 4 Days and 3 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
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
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Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In general, the review is well and logically written, there are a lot of fresh articles written in 2020. There is sufficient evidence of the safety and effectiveness of the use of umbilical cord MSCs in the treatment of COVID-19. This article, as well as the small preclinical study cited in it, can serve as the basis for larger studies. There are a couple of small notes: 1) It may be better to decipher the abbreviation ICU. 2) In the beginning, in one paragraph, the authors focus on chloroquine-as a promising drug, without specifying other substances. But the supporting article is only one and 2003. To draw such a conclusion, it would be more correct to survey contemporary studies. Although at the moment, more research is required.



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Stem Cells

Manuscript NO: 56572

Title: Off-the-shelf mesenchymal stem cells from human umbilical cord tissue can significantly improve symptoms in COVID-19 patients: An analysis of evidential relations

Reviewer's code: 02540650

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: Viet Nam

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-06

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-12 11:12

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-12 11:42

Review time: 1 Hour

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 type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Interesting and innovative idea, some points are needed to be clear: -Why we use umbilical cord, other sources are more convenient?, please mention different sources suitable for this potential line of treatment with focusing on advantages and disadvantages of each source. -There is no any studies results are mentioned only suggested opinion for role of mesenchymal stem cells as an immunomodulatory choice of treatment - Inclusion criteria are cornerstone for possible use of this option of treatment please clarify. -Proper design and language editing is of intense priority



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Reviewer's code: 01368755

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Taiwan

Author's Country/Territory: Viet Nam

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-06

Reviewer chosen by: Han Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-07-16 09:16

Reviewer performed review: 2020-07-16 09:32

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
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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

The authors have addressed the concerns.



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Author's Country/Territory: Viet Nam

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Reviewer chosen by: Han Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-07-16 09:09

Reviewer performed review: 2020-07-16 09:49

Review time: 1 Hour

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript has been improved.



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Author's Country/Territory: Viet Nam

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-06

Reviewer chosen by: Han Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-07-19 07:11

Reviewer performed review: 2020-07-19 07:32

Review time: 1 Hour

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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

In this review major corrections are needed: 1. First of all many manuscripts tried mesenchymal stem cells for sever cases of covid-19 infection please correct your pioneer priority in this issue 2. Few data were mentioned about characteristics, method of action, optimum dose, best line of injection of MSC especially in covid-19 infected patients 3. Inclusion criteria of selected patients are not clear enough. 4. Recent clinical trials of use of MSCs in covid-19 treatment were not cited properly. 5. Great dealing of language is mandatory