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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Critical Care Medicine

Manuscript NO: 57157

Title: Low dose corticosteroids in COVID-19 with refractory shock. We are not sure?

Reviewer's code: 02539873

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Poland

Author's Country/Territory: Qatar

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-27

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-31 15:04

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-31 15:11

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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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 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 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

Validation of current treatment options for COVID-19 is vital for everyday medical practice and will help to choose the right cure for this difficult to treat disorder.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Critical Care Medicine

Manuscript NO: 57157

Title: Low dose corticosteroids in COVID-19 with refractory shock. We are not sure?

Reviewer's code: 03201903

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Qatar

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-27

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-06-20 03:24

Reviewer performed review: 2020-06-22 02:12

Review time: 1 Day and 22 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 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 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 Surviving Sepsis Campaign COVID-19 panel issued 54 statements, of which 4 are best practice statements, 9 are strong recommendations, and 35 are weak recommendations. No recommendation was provided for 6 questions. The topics were: (1) infection control, (2) laboratory diagnosis and specimens, (3) hemodynamic support, (4) ventilatory support, and (5) COVID-19 therapy. In statement 22 For adults with COVID-19 and refractory shock suggested using low dose corticosteroid therapy ("shock reversal"), over no corticosteroid and statement 42 in mechanically ventilated adults with COVID-19 and ARDS suggested using systemic corticosteroids, over not using corticosteroids. Both were weak recommendation. It is widely known that cytokine storm (CS) exacerbates lung damage as well as leads to other fatal complications in severe COVID-19. Corticosteroids are potent cytokine inhibitors working through several mechanisms. Systemic glucocorticoids administration was empirically used for severe complications in order to suppress CS manifestations in patients with severe COVID-19, such as ARDS, acute heart injuries, acute kidney complication, and patients with higher D-dimer levels, Shoch et al and some clinical effects have been achieved in severe patients with COVID-19. Corticosteroids was an adjuvant therapy recommended by China's National Health Commission. However, there is no evidence from randomized clinical trials indeed. Due to the lack of evidence, the interim guideline of WHO does not support the use of systemic corticosteroids for the treatment of COVID-19 and ARDS. Therefore, efficacy and associated adverse effects of glucocorticoids in COVID-19 need further elucidated. So far, the author thought "that the indirect evidence used for suggesting steroids for COVID-19 may not be adequate in the current time and future data analysis should be directed to find possible evidence in a matched population" is reasonable.