



## 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

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](https://www.wjgnet.com)

#### **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

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**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

## **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.