

26-December-2020

**Re:** The revised manuscript submission ID Ms. No. 61087 for transfer to the World Journal of Meta-Analysis

**Title:** COVID-19–Associated Stroke Risk: Could Nutrition and Dietary Patterns Have a Contributing Role?

Dear Prof Lian-Sheng Ma,

Thank you very much for your email dated Dec 13, 2020, regarding the preliminary evaluation of our manuscript and the opportunity to revise paper and transfer offer. We have taken each critique and comment very seriously, and now submit a revised version in response to the reviewers' comments. We hope that you will find our manuscript acceptable for publication in the World Journal of Meta-Analysis.

I really appreciate your valuable comments. I have addressed the comments in my paper by highlighting them in yellow color.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Z. Vahdat Shariatpanahi

#### **Reviewer #1**

- Thank you very much for your attention. I'm glad you found this article interesting! Based on your valuable suggestion, part of "Evaluation of the hypothesis" has been divided into a more explicit and detailed sections. The contents described in different sections and subtitles. It is important to note that available studies concerning stroke in COVID-19 patients are still negligible. On the other hand, there are few articles examining the role of nutrition in COVID-19 patients, and virtually no studies have evaluated our hypothesis. Due to the limited exist literature and our time to revise the current manuscript, it was not possible to complete it into a systematic review or meta-analysis. Therefore, as recommended by dear science editor, the current manuscript type has been changed to a minireview. Also, the format of references has been standardized, and the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers added.

#### **Reviewer #2**

- We are very grateful for your valuable comment. The manuscript is now a minireview and a summary of the content has been presented in two Tables. The content has been also expressed under appropriate categories and subheadings.

### **Reviewer #3**

- Thank you for your meticulous review and key concern. It is noteworthy that, adherence to healthy dietary patterns and more consumption of some foods and nutrients in the recommended daily allowance has always been flagged as a prevention approach in chronic and acute conditions. However, it is important to note that the present study did not provide dietary advice to definitive prevention of COVID-19–associated stroke, but merely reviewed existing literature to evaluate the hypothesis that nutrition could be related to COVID-19 and its associated stroke. As we know, nutrition cannot be effective in preventing this crisis in the short time, but it can be found that the history of dietary patterns and nutritional intake in patients with stroke or other serious COVID-19–associated complications what is the difference with those in COVID-19 patients without serious complications or even in healthy population by further nutritional intake evaluations or food frequency questionnaire-based studies. If the future studies confirm the present hypothesis, i.e. people who adherence to the healthy dietary patterns and habits are less likely to suffer from severe COVID-19–associated complications such as stroke, the chronic supportive role of a healthy diet in critical situations will be highlighted once again. This issue has been addressed in the revised manuscript.

### **Science Editor**

- I appreciate your careful effort to review this manuscript. All the reviewer concerns have been addressed in the revised manuscript. A summary of the content has been presented in two Tables. Moreover, the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement has been submitted. Manuscript type has been changed to a minireview. I upload the approved grant application form along with resubmit revised manuscript. The PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list have been provided and were listed all authors of the references. “Conclusion” section has been writhed at the end of the main text.