



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 65323

**Title:** COVID-19 as a trigger of Irritable Bowel Syndrome: a review of potential mechanisms

**Reviewer's code:** 02990971

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Staff Physician

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Denmark

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-03-04

**Reviewer chosen by:** Man Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-03-17 18:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-03-22 21:45

**Review time:** 5 Days and 3 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 Grade E: Do not publish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



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors make an interesting and convincing speculation into the relationship between COVID-19 and gut functioning. The relevant literature is presented in a thorough manner, the manuscript is well written and no unsubstantiated claims are made.



### PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 65323

**Title:** COVID-19 as a trigger of Irritable Bowel Syndrome: a review of potential mechanisms

**Reviewer's code:** 05911260

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-03-04

**Reviewer chosen by:** Man Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-03-17 10:47

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-04-12 03:10

**Review time:** 25 Days and 16 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 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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<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



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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

World Journal of Gastroenterology Manuscript review of Manuscript NO: 65323 Very good and comprehensive work. The authors summarized current little knowledge on how the COVID-19 may trigger irritable bowel syndrome. I include following comments:

- The manuscript has 6 authors, a rather unusually high number for an opinion review. There is some lack of clarity regarding the contribution of so many authors to a rather short review. For example, according the author contributions, several listed authors have only been involved in “conceived the idea for the manuscript” and some only in “reviewed the literature and drafted the manuscript”. As such, it’s not clear if some of the authors would qualify for authorship according to general journal criteria. •

Gastrointestinal involvement of Covid-19, lines 53-56: “Furthermore, it is hypothesised that ACE2 can impair the electrophysiological and synaptic functions of the neurons of the enteric nervous system, thus influencing the gastrointestinal motility, sensitivity and the pathways of inflammation[27].”. It should be stressed that it refers to animal studies (pig). There are several grammatic and typographic errors, such as: •

Introduction, line 5: “severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2)”. (SARS) should be removed. • Introduction, line 10: “SARS-CoV-2 is a is a”. • Introduction, line 12: “The spike protein mediates”. Spike should be abbreviated.

- Gastrointestinal involvement of Covid-19, line 43-44: “and in the pathophysiology of irritable bowel syndrome for contributing...”. Irritable bowel syndrome should be abbreviated. • Covid-19 and its management: what are the possible triggers of ibs?, lines 120-121: “inducing significant shifts in the relative abundance of bacteria (decrease in Verrucomicrobiales and Bacteroidales and increase in Clostridiales) in comparison compared to controls[68]. It should be corrected. • Covid-19 and its management: what are the possible triggers of ibs?, lines 127-128: “Also the fecal content of SCFAs



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(propionate and butyrate)". SCFAs it was not previously written in extended form. •

Conclusion, lines 1-3: "A wide spectrum of respiratory and systemic symptoms can occur during the acute disease with different degrees if severity,". It should be corrected.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 65323

**Title:** COVID-19 as a trigger of Irritable Bowel Syndrome: a review of potential mechanisms

**Reviewer's code:** 03266250

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Attending Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-03-04

**Reviewer chosen by:** Man Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-04-11 00:36

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-04-15 13:34

**Review time:** 4 Days and 12 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<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



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This paper systematically analyzes the pathological mechanism of COVID-19 and IBS from different perspectives. COVID-19 is a new disease for everyone, and there is no clear plan for the current treatment drugs, which will affect the intestinal flora of patients with COVID-19 to a certain extent. It is worth paying attention to the follow-up relationship between COVID-19 and IBS.