

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

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.

Answer:

We thank the Reviewer #1 for his kind comment.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

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 (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.

Answers:

We thank the Reviewer #2 for his precious and constructive comments, which will improve the quality of the manuscript. Apart from the suggested corrections, the language of the manuscript has been fully revised and several other errors have been corrected.

Q1: 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 to 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.

A1: we better specified the different contributions of the authors for the manuscript

Q2: 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).

A2: We changed the sentence to “Furthermore, preclinical evidence indicates 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”

Q3: Introduction, line 5: “severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2)”. (SARS) should be removed

A3: (SARS) has been removed

Q4: Introduction, line 10: “SARS-CoV-2 is a is a”.

A4: We corrected the sentence.

Q5: Introduction, line 12: “The spike protein mediates”. Spike should be abbreviated.

A5: Spike has been abbreviated (S).

Q6: Gastrointestinal involvement of Covid-19, line 43-44: “and in the pathophysiology of irritable bowel syndrome for contributing...”. Irritable bowel syndrome should be abbreviated.

A6: Irritable bowel syndrome has been abbreviated (IBS)

Q7: 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.

A7: The sentence has been corrected.

Q8 Covid-19 and its management: what are the possible triggers of ibs?, lines 127-128: “Also the fecal content of SCFAs (propionate and butyrate)”. SCFAs it was not previously written in extended form.

A8: SCFAs has been written in the expanded form.

Q9 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.

A9: The sentence has been corrected.

Reviewer #3:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

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.

Answer:

We thank the Reviewer #3 for his kind comment.

EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Answer to Science director:

We appreciate the constructive comment of the Science editor and we are grateful for the significant suggestions for improving the quality of the manuscript.

The language of the whole manuscript has been revised and many corrections have been done.

The questions raised by the reviewers have been answered.

A figure has been added (Figure 1).

The self-cited reference [DOI: 10.1016/j.dld.2020.09.015] is a significant one for the information apported to the line of argument of the manuscript and it is unique. Thus, we would like to keep it for its relevance appropriateness. Otherwise, if the Science editor still thinks it is improper, we will definitively remove it.

PMID and DOI numbers have been added to the reference list, where available. All authors of the references are listed.

Answer to Company editor-in-chief:

We appreciate the constructive comment of the Company editor-in-chief and we are grateful for the significant suggestion for improving the quality of the manuscript. A figure (Figure 1) has been added.