

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 72429

**Title:** Dose-response relationship between risk factors and incidence of COVID-19 in 325 hospitalized patients: A multicenter retrospective cohort study

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04092118

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Postdoc, Senior Lecturer

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-10-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-10-16 06:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-10-16 15:25

**Review time:** 9 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I've read the manuscript entitled "Dose-response Association between Risk Factors and Incidence of COVID-19 in 325 Hospitalized Patients: A Multicenter Retrospective Cohort Study", which describes a cohort of COVID-19 patients and risk factors associated with in-hospital mortality. The topic is of great interest in the setting of the ongoing pandemic, building to current evidence on pointing out risk factors and phenotype of the patient at risk for severe disease. "To our knowledge, no previous studies have been done among patients with definite outcomes" – What do the authors mean exactly? There are several large studies analyzing risk factors for mortality and severe disease in COVID-19 patients. There are some redundant or inappropriate phrases throughout the manuscript – eg in results "none of the patients were younger than 20 years of age", this is obvious as in methodology the inclusion criteria was "adult inpatients ( $\geq 20$  years old)". Also, there is some inconsistency regarding outcomes assessed in the study – "combination of age, sex, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein, d-dimer, lactate dehydrogenase, and procalcitonin model was more precise in predicting clinical outcome than the single factor alone" – how was clinical outcome defined/assessed? The statistics and data on dose-response relationship is interesting. The authors should acknowledge the limitation in the time-period of the study population (at the beginning of the pandemic), with the respective consequences (regarding diagnosis, treatment, admission criteria).

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**Reviewer's code:** 03251508

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** South Korea

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

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**Review time:** 9 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<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
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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<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 is represent the important issues not answered yet. This is a timely-appropriate topic. It will provide the precious knoledge regarding the risk factors for clinicians to keep in mind in dealing with COVID-19 patients.