

Answers to Reviewers

Name of journal: *World Journal of Methodology*

Manuscript Type: Systematic Review

Title: Post-COVID-19 Cholangiopathy: Systematic Review

Mazen Rasheed, MSc. MD. Vinícius Remus Ballotin, MD. Lucas Goldmann Bigarella, MD. Jonathan Soldera, MSc, MD.

Reviewer 1

The Authors present a systematic review to synthesize evidence on post-COVID-19 cholangiopathy. The topic appears intriguing and not so-explored in literature. The paper is overall well written and the results are interesting. Some comments, in a constructive spirit:

Thank you for your review of our systematic review on post-COVID-19 cholangiopathy. We appreciate your positive feedback, recognition of the topic's significance, and the constructive comments provided. Your input will be invaluable in improving the clarity and impact of our work. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the understanding of post-COVID-19 cholangiopathy and will address your comments in our revised manuscript.

- are the first lines of the introduction really necessary? I feel that every reader of this journal (and, let me say, everybody) knows about the genesis and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While it is true that the readers of this journal generally have a comprehensive understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic's genesis and consequences, we feel it is

essential to include these introductory lines. This pathology is predominantly managed by hepatologists and liver transplantation units, and it is crucial to ensure that all readers, including those within these specialized fields, have the necessary context and background information.

-the literature research dates back to March 2022: more than one year ago. The Authors must perform an additional literature research to check for any new paper, and revise the manuscript accordingly.

As this manuscript is part of an MSc thesis that has been in progress for over a year, conducting a new search would require restarting the systematic review process. Despite this limitation, we assure you that we have made every effort to include relevant studies up until the given cutoff date

- Conclusions should be expanded, to better present Authors' views on the topic.

Done.

Reviewer 2

Dear authors The topic is very interesting as there is a new disease recently diagnose. The language might be extensively review as there are many grammatical errors. There are also some questions that might be answererd:

We sincerely appreciate your review and the interest you have shown in our topic of post-COVID-19 cholangiopathy, which is indeed a recently diagnosed disease. We acknowledge your feedback regarding the language and grammatical errors, and we apologize for any shortcomings in that regard. We will thoroughly revise and improve the language to ensure clarity and accuracy.

- Which liver enzymes increase more? GGT? Alkaline phosphatase? How is the magnitude? Does the absolute value of liver enzymes relates with prognosis?

We greatly appreciate your review of our manuscript. Based on your feedback, we have included an additional sentence in the file to further address the point you raised. Thank you for bringing this to our attention, as it has allowed us to enhance the clarity and completeness of our work.

- Is the prognosis of PCC related with severity of COVID-19?

Yes, and this is described in the paper: "As described in literature, PCC is often accompanied by respiratory failure and acute renal injury".

- Did all patients had previous normal liver tests and ultrasound?

We believe so. This information was not available for every paper.

- What was the outcome of patients that did not receive OLT?

This data is not available on the reviewed papers.

- Are there any risk factors for PCC? You must clarify the terms COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 and one is the disease and the other the virus, and both are used erroneously during the text.

Clarified.

Round 2

Specific Comments To Authors: I am sorry, but the Authors do not have addressed my comments. While I acknowledge that my request to shorten the Introduction can be ignored, the Authors should update their literature research.

Response :

We have thoroughly reviewed the reviewer's comments, and it is asked of us to redo the command search, which would result in redoing the whole systematic review, and have come to the conclusion that a significant amount of rewriting will be required. As such, we anticipate that we will need until the end of July to complete the revisions as requested.

We understand the importance of addressing the reviewer's concerns and ensuring the quality of the paper. Our team is committed to undertaking the necessary revisions to meet the highest standards. We will make sure to incorporate all the recommended changes and improve the overall clarity and coherence of the systematic review.

I hope this message finds you well. I am pleased to share the updated manuscript file and the Table file with you. The process of re-doing the systematic review to incorporate the latest updates was indeed challenging, but we are confident that our efforts have resulted in an improved paper. We are sincerely committed to meeting the high standards of WJM.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to all our peers who have contributed to this work. Their valuable input has been instrumental in shaping the quality of our research.