

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 85939

Title: Progress of ulcerative colitis patients during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03645427

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Chief Doctor, Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: South Korea

Author's Country/Territory: Japan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-05-24

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-06-12 23:40

Reviewer performed review: 2023-06-13 10:44

Review time: 11 Hours

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|---|--|
| 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 Grade E: Do not publish |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |

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| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Peer-reviewer statements | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
| | Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The topic of this study is interesting and attractive. Most of IBD doctors was embraced by this new pandemic disaster and we did not know how COVID10 would influence IBD patients either directly or indirectly. However, this study has some major limitations before drawing conclusions. First, the results, concerning UC-DAI and Matts grading, showed too little information except means and SD. In particular, I wonder how many patiens were included in biopsy study and why?. Usually, biopsy procedure was not performed in every follow-up colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy during UC follow-up. In addition, site or indication of biopsy is important and they are different case by case. Therefore, i think it is difficult to compare, so need to compare baseline characteristics between each groups. Seconds, as you mentioned, of the 289 UC patients in 2020 study, 11 patients dropped out as of 2021, and another 10 patients dropped out as of 2022. I think you clarity the reasons of drop out because there may exist the possibility that transfer to other medical institution caused by acute exacerbation of disease can influence the statistical results. Third, peers understand it is inevitable that this study has some limitations but if you comments the limitations you experieced during the



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process, it would be better. Thank you for your inventive and informative study.

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Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Japan

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Review time: 4 Days and 17 Hours

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|---|--|
| Scientific quality | <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 |
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| Conclusion | <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 |
| Re-review | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Peer-reviewer statements | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
| | Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript demonstrated the effect of chronic stress from COVID-19 on disease condition in ulcerative colitis (UC) patients aggravated after the first wave. The authors found that the disease activity of UC patients recovered in 2021 and remained stable in 2022, aggravated by the stress of the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020 despite the persistence of the pandemic. This is a very interesting study. However, I still have several questions and suggestions listed below. Please make an answer or revision. 1. According to the gender information in Table 1, there were 9 fewer people in 2021 compared to 2020, and 8 fewer people in 2022 compared to 2021, which does not match the 11 and 10 people mentioned in the main body. 2. The small sample size of this study may have a certain impact on the results. 3. The language of this article still needs further refinement. According to the above, I suggest the authors should answer the questions and make a revision.