



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Methodology*

Manuscript NO: 73515

Title: COVID-19 and thyroid disease: an infodemiological pilot study

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05467628

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MBBS

Professional title: Doctor, Research Fellow

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Greece

Manuscript submission date: 2021-11-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-12-12 07:08

Reviewer performed review: 2021-12-19 05:45

Review time: 6 Days and 22 Hours

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 Grade E: Do not publish
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
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [**Y**] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an internet metrics work that utilizes GOOGLE TRENDS (GT) to investigate trends in searches for COVID-19 and thyroid disease. The manuscript builds upon existing works in the literature that utilize the same technique. While the work is interesting, several changes are required before the manuscript becomes appropriate for publication. Given below are my comments in no particular order: 1. There is excessive use of parentheses i.e. (), throughout the manuscript. These are not encouraged in academic writing, and rather clauses should be utilized for the same purpose. 2. Abstract has unexplained abbreviations, which need rectification. 3. Methods section should be expanded and divided into subheadings (e.g. data collection, inclusion & exclusion criteria, statistical analysis). Please refer to prior publications utilizing GTs. 4. Figure captions have unexpanded abbreviations, which need rectification. Each figure caption should be standalone. 5. It is possible to have figures 2 and 4 merged into a large graph with dual y-axes. This would be more useful to the reader in drawing the correlation. 6. Why has fatigue been taken as a search term? 'Fatigue' is a highly non-specific symptom, occurring in a wide variety of diseases and conditions, not just thyroid disease, but also in long COVID (a major confounding factor). Kindly justify within manuscript or rectify.



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Reviewer's code: 05371577

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BSc

Professional title: Research Assistant

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Greece

Manuscript submission date: 2021-11-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-18 03:16

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-25 00:51

Review time: 6 Days and 21 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
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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript is an infodemiological pilot study, assessing COVID-19 cases per se vs COVID-19-associated GT searches and thyroid-associated GT searches. There are several questions: 1. The frequency of vocabulary is related to the public's attention to the vocabulary, which can not directly reflect the epidemiological characteristics of the diseases involved in the vocabulary. 2. Why only choose the words listed in the methodology. 3. What's the point of doing this research? It needs to be clarified in the introduction.



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Reviewer's code: 05467628

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MBBS

Professional title: Doctor, Research Fellow

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Greece

Manuscript submission date: 2021-11-23

Reviewer chosen by: Ji-Hong Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-02-18 13:37

Reviewer performed review: 2022-02-18 13:48

Review time: 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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have constructively engaged with the reviewer's comments through which their manuscript has improved. Their manuscript seems appropriate for publication.