

July 18, 2021

Andrzej S Tarnawski

WJG

Editor-in-Chief,

Dear Dr., Tarnawski

We would like thanks the editors and the reviewers for their positive criticisms regarding our manuscript entitled “Coronavirus Disease-19 among African Americans and Hispanics: Does Gastrointestinal Symptoms im-pact the outcome?” for consideration of publication in World Journal of Clinical Cases.

Below, we answered the reviewer’s comments. We also added the required documents as was requested.

The reviewers’ minor issues:

1 As the authors mentioned, I just feel that the title of the article is not well focused and well explained in the discussion section:

We tried to revise the discussion section to make it more precise and relate to the title of the article.

2. Author mentioned that there are too many authors.

The co-authors majority were medical students and were involved in data curators and extraction for the patients. The task was very laborious, and they did a good job for the outcome of the project. I know every journal respects the scholarly activity of the medical students.

EDITORIAL OFFICE’S COMMENTS ANSWERS:

- **Self-Citation:** Author mentioned there are 2 self-cited references for the first author. The self-referencing rate should be less than 10%. We have 2 self-citations out of 29 citations which accounts to less than 7%. We used self-citation where we found it to be appropriate.
- **Biostatistics Review certificate:** We added it as 68996-Biostatistics Review Certificate

- **Informed Consent Form**: There was not written consent form since the study used the chart review. We attached it as 68996-Signed Informed Consent Form(s)
- **Audio core tip**: No audio core tip is required for our paper.
- **Article Highlights**: We added the Article highlights in the end of the manuscript.
- **Tables**: For Tables we attached single Word file submitted as “68996-Tables.docx.

Please let me know if you need additional information and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Hassan Ashktorab