

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 70830

**Manuscript type:** Case control study

**Title:** Methylprednisolone accelerate chest CT absorption in COVID-19: a three-centered retrospective case control study from China

**Reviewer:** Guillermo Arturo Valencia M.D. (Country: Peru)

**Reviewer's Code:** 05432812

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This interesting case control study “Methylprednisolone accelerate chest CT absorption in COVID-19: a three-centered retrospective case control study from China” analyzed the use of low-to-moderate doses of corticosteroids (methylprednisolone) compared with arbidol in Chinese patients with COVID-19 pneumonia in Wuhan. The primary endpoint is to evaluate the absorption of pulmonary lesions, including possible biomarkers. I consider that this manuscript is publishable in the World Journal of Clinical Cases due to current situation of COVID-19 pandemic, including new variants and the urgent necessity of effective drugs.

I have many suggestions/recommendations in order to improve the manuscript. **We have responded each of the questions raised in the peer-reviewed report and highlight in red.**

#### 1. Section “Aim”

“To investigate the efficacy and safety of **low-to-moderate** dose short-term methylprednisolone for COVID-19 patients”

Please define here the ranges of low-to-moderate dose of methylprednisolone.

**Answer: 30 to 40 mg/day**

**2. Section "Conclusion" (page 2)**

"Low-to-moderate dose short-term methylprednisolone can accelerate the chest CT imaging absorption of COVID-19 and is effective safe in clinical use"  
**What is the goal of a quick/rapid imaging absorption, considering it is just a radiologic result? Is to avoid severe COVID-19 phases? Delay the inflammatory phase? Reduce the hospital stay? Please explain it in introduction section and discussion.**

**Answer: Low-to-moderate dose short-term methylprednisolone can accelerate the chest CT imaging absorption of COVID-19 so as to improve symptoms and alleviate the condition in a short term,reduce the hospital stay,meanwhile avoid severe COVID-19 phases. The protocol has been proven to be effective and safe in clinical use.**

**3. Section "Introduction"**

"As an emerging severe infectious respiratory disease..."

**Put the date of emerging outbreak (since December 31th, 2019 in Wuhan - China)**

**Answer: This sentence is a reference from literature, expressing that COVID-19 is a new emerging severe infectious respiratory disease, regardless of the date of emerging outbreak (since December 31th, 2019 in Wuhan - China). Therefore, it has not been modified according to the opinions of reviewer.**

"...has caused a worldwide outbreak..."

**...has caused a pandemic...**

**Answer:Modified.**

**4. Section "Therapy and groups"**

"...were treated with methylprednisolone (orally or intravenously) ..."

**Please specify the dose for PO and IV administration**

**Answer: The initial dose for PO and IV ranges from 24 to 80 mg per day has been mentioned in Section "RESULT"(3.2Use of methylprednisolone).**

"...which was classified as four situations: no absorption, slightly absorption, obvious absorption and progression"

I suggest: show these definitions in a table (appendix)

**Answer:Modified in Table 4.**

**5. Section "Discussion", first paragraph**

~~"...SARS-CoV-2 that has caused worldwide outbreaks."~~

~~...that was declared a pandemic by WHO...~~

**Answer:Modified.**

"SARS-CoV-2 is characterized by strong infectivity..."

I suggest to add: "...including new variants"

**Answer:Modified.**

**6. Section "Discussion", fourth paragraph**

"In our study, we also observed that arbidol had a certain curative effect in treating COVID-19"

This sentence is not clear. I recommend delete it.

**Answer:Modified.**

**7. Section "Conclusion", first and second paragraph**

First and second paragraphs should be deleted. There are too lengthy.

Please just show results of your study instead of consensus statements.

**Answer:Modified.**

**8. Section "Conclusion", third paragraph**

What is the goal of obtain rapid absorption? Avoid severe/inflammatory phases? Please explain this issue in introduction and discussion section.

**Answer:COVID-19 has caused a lot of morbidity and mortality worldwide, occupying more medical resources.Low-to-moderate dose short-term methylprednisolone can rapidly improve symptoms, oxygenation and pulmonary function, alleviate the patients' condition in a short term, reduce the**

**hospital stay, avoid severe COVID-19 phases and save medical resources ultimately.**