

We thank the editors and the reviewers for considering our manuscript and advising changes to further improve it. We have incorporated all the changes as suggested by the reviewers. We hope, you will find it appropriate for publication now. However, we will be happy to make any further changes you may suggest.

| No. | Reviewer's comments | Authors reply | Changes made |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| #1 | Dear Author; Congratulations and thanks for submitting the above-mentioned interesting article (A comparative observational study) for publication to the World Journal of Clinical Cases. I appreciate you and hope your case to be published. Comments: The case is interested and well described. The entire manuscript needs rearrangement in regarding the paragraphs and sections. | Thank you for your inputs. We have rearranged the sections as suggested. | Necessary changes made throughout the manuscript |
| | Please delete the repeated sentence in some sections. | Thanks for pointing it out. Have deleted the said text. | Necessary changes made |
| | In some of your paragraphs, you provide abbreviations, please describe them. | Sorry for the oversight. | Necessary changes made |
| | Expand your discussion by adding more literature review and rationales | Have added some more relevant literature and references | Necessary changes made in the discussion |
| | You provided melanin concentration in the discussion part of your manuscript, please add literature and by reasoning of melanin role in septic shock as well. | We have added the suggested literature. | Necessary changes made in text and the references. |
| | The manuscript needs minor language polishing. | Have taken professional inputs and incorporated the changes, as advised | Necessary changes made throughout the manuscript |

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| #2 | This manuscript can be accepted. | Thank you for accepting our manuscript | No changes made |
| #3 | The number of subjects, especially the number of non-survivors, is not sufficient to reach a clinical conclusion. The authors should expand the limitations section. | Thank you for your inputs. We agree with the reviewer that a larger cohort would have been more appropriate to make the final conclusions. That's why we have recommended larger studies on the topic. | Necessary text added in the limitations |
| | The result and conclusion parts of the abstract are unnecessarily long; therefore, they should be shortened by at least 40%. | As we felt compelled to give more details in the abstract, it had become lengthy. However, we have now shortened it significantly, as suggested. | Necessary changes made in the abstract |
| | The drugs used by the patients due to their chronic diseases should be documented. Medicines that may cause hypoperfusion or lactate elevation should be indicated. | As we did not collect data regarding these drugs, we have added this in our limitations. | Necessary text added in the limitations |