OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://sites.kowsarpub.com/kowsar/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine
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Peer Review Report for "Clinical Characteristics of Critically Ill Patients Infected with COVID-19 in Rasoul Akram Hospital in Iran: A Single Center Study"

Author(s): Poupak Rahimzadeh, Saied Amniati, Reza Farahmandrad, Seyed Hamid Reza Faiz, Setareh Hedayati Emami, Azadeh Habibi

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 6 Jul 2020
Revised Date: 3 Aug 2020
Accepted Date: 25 Aug 2020

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

Tohid Karami: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 14 Jul 2020

Dear AE,
The paper has been focused on a recent pandemic disease, COVID-19. They described and compared the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of the 70 critically infected ill patients with COVID-19 admitted in ICU wards of Rasoul Akram Hospital, Tehran, Iran, from 29 February to 25 April 2020. The type of study is cross-sectional and descriptive. They collected and compared demographic and clinical characteristics, laboratory data, and outcomes between deceased and recovered patients. The paper claimed that the mortality rate of critically ill patients with COVID-19 is very high, and the patients with dyspnea and required mechanical ventilation are at high risk for death.
- Strengths: This review is very focused on critically ill patients with COVID-19 infection, which is in the limelight of the researcher. The paper is well written and there is no typo and grammar mistake.
Weaknesses:
1) In the "Keywords" section:
Please review keywords tailored to study variables.

2) In Table 1:
The word "characteristics" is misspelled.
Regard

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 25 Jul 2020

Dear AE,
Thank you for inviting me to review this case series about the clinical and epidemiologic manifestation of patients with covid-19 admitted in intensive care unit in IRAN,
I read this manuscript (Case series) exactly and my opinion ;
ACCEPT
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 25 Jul 2020

Dear AE,
The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus is primarily spread via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, and talking. Common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, sore throat, cough, malaise, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and breathlessness. It probably seems that COVID-19 is the greatest threat to human societies in the 21st century.
Advantages :
1 - Understanding all clinical implications of the COVID-19 will help to improve disease management and thus control the pandemic.
2 – This study was done on critically ill patients with COVID-19 infection whereas most previous studies have just reported the general epidemiological findings.
Overall :
1 - In the whole article, the word Hospital is replaced with the hospital (with lowercase).
2 - The different names of the hospital in the article should be changed to one name.
Title :
Line 2: Add the “hospital name” that this study has been done.
Abstract :
Line 15: In the result, part adds the percentage of patients with hypertension.
Background :
Line 42: Replace “At the time of writing” with “Until July 6, 2020”
Results :
Line 122: Add the percentage of patients with hypertension.
Line 135 and 136: Add p-value of fever and cough difference.
Discussion :
Line 230: The criteria for mechanical ventilation are unclear.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 26 Jul 2020

Dear EIC,

According to respected reviewers' comments, the manuscript needs minor revision.
Kind regards

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0)

28 Jul 2020

Dear Author
To increase the chances for citation, and consequently, to increase your H-index, suggest to remove the name of hospital, city, and country from your text body
Final decision: Minor revision
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Dear EIC Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine journal,

Thanks for the nice comments by reviewers.

Enclosed please find the revised version of the manuscript plus the reply letter with a point to point comment's reply. The changes have been highlighted with red color in the text.

Hope the answers will be accepted by the Editorial team.

Best

Seyed Hamid Reza Faiz

Corresponding Author

Reviewer 1:
The paper has been focused on recent pandemic disease, COVID-19. They described and compared the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of the 70 critically infected ill patients with COVID-19 admitted in ICU wards of Rasoul Akram Hospital, Tehran, Iran, from 29 February to 25 April 2020. The type of study is cross-sectional and descriptive. They collected and compared demographic and clinical characteristics, laboratory data, and outcomes between deceased and recovered patients. The paper claimed that the mortality rate of critically ill patients with COVID-19 is very high, and the patients with dyspnea and required mechanical ventilation are at high risk for death.

Strengths: This review is very focused on critically ill patients with COVID-19 infection, which is in the limelight of the researcher. The paper is well written and there is no typo and grammar mistake.

Weaknesses:
1)In the "Keywords" section:
Please review keywords tailored to study variables.

Done.
2)In Table 1:
The word "characteristics" is misspelled.

Done.

Regard

Reviewer 2:
The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus is primarily spread via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, and talking. Common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, sore throat, cough, malaise, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and breathlessness .It probably seems that COVID-19 is the greatest threat for human societies in the 21st century.
Advantages :
1 - Understanding all clinical implications of the COVID-19 will help to improve the disease management and thus control the pandemic.
2 – This study was done on critically ill patients with COVID-19 infection whereas the most previous studies have just reported the general epidemiological findings.

Overall :
1 - In the whole article the word Hospital replace with hospital (with lowercase) .

Done
2 - The different names of the hospital in the article should be changed to one name.

Changed to: Rasoul Akram hospital
Title :
Line 2 : Add the “hospital name” that this study has been done.

Added.

Abstract :
Line 12 : In result part add the percentage of patients with hypertension.

Added(45% of deceased cases)
Background :
Line 42 : Replace “At the time of writing” with “Until July 6, 2020”

Done
Results :
Line 123, 124 : Add the percentage of patients with hypertension.

Added. 50 percent of infected patients and 45% of deceased cases had hypertension
Line 132 and 133 : Add p-value of fever and cough difference.

We found cough and fever in 77.5% of non-survivors compared with 90% in recovered patients (P=0.66)
Discussion :
Line 230 : The criteria for mechanical ventilation are unclear.

As we mentioned in limitations of the study, we did not study mechanical ventilation criteria in this survey.

Line 246-247: "Our findings provide some important clinical characteristics of critically ill patients with COVID-19 infection admitted in ICU and needed ICU care and ventilatory support."

Reviewer 3:
Dear Associate editor
Thank you for invite me to review of this case series about clinical and epidemiologic manifestation of patients with covid-19 addmited in intensive care unit in IRAN,
I read this manuscript(Case series) exactly and my opinion ;

ACCEPT

Associate Editor's Comments:

Associate Editor 1:
Dear Editor in Chief
According to respected reviewers comments, the manuscript needs minor revision.
Kind regards

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 18 Aug 2020

Dear AE,
Respected Authors have considered all recommendations and have corrected the manuscript according to honorable reviewers' comments.
Kind regards

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) — 18 Aug 2020

Dear EIC,
According to reviewers' comments, respected Authors have considered all recommendations and have corrected the manuscript according to honorable reviewers' comments.
Kind regards

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) — 25 Aug 2020

Dear Author,
The document is reviewed carefully by the reviewers. According to their comments and your revisions as requested, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks.