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# Reduction of Complements $C_3$ and $C_4$ in Saliva and Serum of Patients Suffering SARS-CoV-2 Infection

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## About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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## 1 Original submission

4 comments · 27 Nov 2023 – 28 Nov 2023

**Mohammad Gholami** Reviewer — MINOR REVISION — 27 Nov 2023

I have read your work, and there are a few comments that I will mention below.
1- Please specify the basis for dividing COVID-19 patients into severe and critical groups.
2- The language of the text is not fluent and needs to be revised, and there are grammatical errors in the text that need to be corrected.
3- Your discussion section needs to be expanded. In general, in infectious diseases, due to the consumption of complement proteins, the levels of these proteins decrease. It is necessary to mention the innovation of the work and, in addition, explain how complement makes the disease worse in people with COVID-19.

**Negin Hosseinirouzbahani** Reviewer — MINOR REVISION — 27 Nov 2023

The data have been obtained using good technology and are well presented. I have some comments to improve the quality of the paper:
1- Authors should mention the full name of each abbreviation at its first use (for example, “Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19)” in the introduction of the abstract).
2-Clearly specify the criteria for entering the severe and critical COVID-19 groups.
3-In the paper, the data are well analyzed statistically, but authors should mention the full name and information of the SPSS software (for example, version 20.0 software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA)).
4-As you know, complement components are not produced in salivary glands (mentioned in the discussion section). The changes in complement component levels in the serum and then in the saliva are due to the increased activity of the complement cascade and are common in microbial diseases. There are many published articles about C3 and C4 concentrations and COVID-19. In addition to examining complement in saliva, please further specify the innovation of your work.
5-The language of the text is not fluent and needs to be revised, especially in the results section.

**Referee 1** Reviewer — MINOR REVISION — 28 Nov 2023

1. Instead of the keywords C3 and C4, use "Complement proteins" in the Abstract to comply with MESH.
2. The " Material and method" and " Results " sections are too short. Please rewrite these sections.

**Editor-in-Chief** — MINOR REVISION — 28 Nov 2023

minor revision

2

# Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

The authors did not provide a point-by-point response to the reviewers' comments in this round.

## 2 Revision 1

1 comment · 4 Dec 2023

### Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 4 Dec 2023

Accept