Archives of Clinical Infectious Diseases
Volume 19 · Issue 2 · e141644

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Mucormycosis Following COVID-19: A Comprehensive Case Series Investigation

Matin Ghazizadeh, Malihe Mohseni, Mahboobe Asadi, Aref Hoseini

SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
1 Oct 2023	17 Jan 2024	21 Jan 2024	10.5812/archcid-141644

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.

More about open peer review: brieflands.com/knowledgebase/opr

Contents

1 Original submission Referee 1, Referee 2 2
2 Revision 1 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 7

1 Original submission

2 comments · 5 Nov 2023 – 5 Nov 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 5 Nov 2023

Dear author:
I gladly review ": Mucormycosis Following COVID-19 Infection: A Comprehensive Case Series Investigation ".
My opinion is below:

- Despite the descriptive nature of this study, considering the importance of mucormycosis infection and its high mortality, it is considerably valuable.
- Authors should provide a comparative table of all cases of Mucormycosis Following COVID-19 Infection reported to date (with a clear search strategy in PubMed, Scopus, Medline, etc.) that includes year of report/country, age, sex, clinical presentation, underlying disease, treatment regimens, duration, and outcome.
- Please mention and compare the course of the disease in the patients, the administration of corticosteroids and its duration, and whether tocilizumab was administered.
- The manuscript needs major English editing.
My recommendation is major revision.

Referee 2 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 5 Nov 2023

Dear authors,
I appreciate the time and effort you invested in this study. The topic is novel, interesting, and within the journal's scope. Please address my comments to improve your manuscript:
1-I recommend submitting the manuscript as a case-series in accordance with the journal guidelines. Also, please omit all content related to the retrospective design of the study.
Title and abstract
2-"COVID-19 infection" is scientifically incorrect. Please substitute it with "COVID-19" or "SARS-CoV-2". Please omit retrospective study and substitute it with "case-series", and apply this change to the main text. Furthermore, please add "opportunistic infections" as a keyword.
Main text
3-Please add female sex to table 1. Did the patients receive any antifungal medication? If yes, please add it to table 1.
4-Please discuss therapeutic options for patients with mucormycosis, including antifungal regimens and surgery. You can use the manuscript with PMID "36227854" to improve your discussion section.
Language
5- I strongly recommend having it edited by an English editor to improve grammar, punctuation, fluency, and general style.
Best regards

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.

Response to Reviewers:

I kindly thanks you for your time and efforts you made on reviewing the manuscript entitled "Mucormycosis Following COVID-19 Infection: A Comprehensive Case Series Investigation" with ID: 41644. All your comments were applied point by point and were highlighted in the text, as follow:

Reviewer 1:

Dear authors,

I appreciate your time and effort involved in this study. The topic is novel, interesting, and within the journal scope of. Please address my comments to improve your manuscript:

1-I recommend submitting the manuscript as case-series in accordance with journal guidelines. Also, please omit all contents related to the retrospective design of the study.

Title and abstract

- We changed the manuscript as a case series in accordance with journal guidelines. Also, I omitted all contents related to the retrospective design of the study.

2-"COVID-19 infection" is scientifically incorrect. Please substitute it with "COVID-19" or "SARS-CoV-2". Please omit retrospective study and substitute it with "case-series", and apply it to the main text. Furthermore, please add "opportunistic infections" as a keyword.

Main text

-"COVID-19 infection" was substituted with "COVID-19". "Retrospective study" was replaced with "case-series", and "opportunistic infections" was added as a keyword.

3-Please add female sex to the table 1. Did the patients receive any antifungal medication? If yes, please add it to the table 1.

- "Female sex" and "antifungal therapy" were added in table 1.

4-Please discuss about therapeutic options for patients with mucormycosis including antifungal regimens and surgery. You can use the manuscript with PMID "36227854" to improve your discussion section.

- A Paragraph was added discussing about current therapeutic options using your recommended reference.

Language

5- I strongly recommend you editing it by an English editor to improve grammar, punctuation, fluency, and general style.

Best regards

- The manuscript was edited for improving grammar, punctuation, fluency, and general style.

Reviewer 2:

Dear author:

I gladly review ": Mucormycosis Following COVID-19 Infection: A Comprehensive Case Series Investigation "

My opinion is below:

-Despite the descriptive nature of this study, considering the importance of mucormycosis infection and its high mortality , it is considerable valuable.

-Authors should provide a comparative table for all reported cases about Mucormycosis Following COVID-19 Infection till now (with clear search strategy in PubMed, Scopus, Medline and etc.) that includes year of report/country, age, sex, clinical presentation, underlying disease, treatment regimens, duration and outcome.

- We searched the database and added the reported cases of mucormycosis following COVID-19. As the number of studies was too high to concise clearly in a table (298), the summary of the search was added as a paragraph in "Discussion". Some additional references were included.

-please mention and compare the course the disease in the patients, the administration of Corticosteroids and its duration, the administration or not administration of tocilizumab.

_History of administration of Corticosteroids and tocilizumab was mentioned in the “Result”.

-The manuscript needs major English edition.

The manuscript was edited for improving grammar, punctuation, fluency, and general style.

My opinion is on major revision

2 Revision 1

0 comments

No public comments in this round.