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 "**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:

Peer Review

International Journal of Infection
Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.5812/iji-124057
Published in: International Journal of Infection: 9(3) ; e124057

Peer Review Report for "Vitamin D Status in COVID-19 Patients Versus Non-COVID-19 Individuals and Its Association with the Severity of Infection"

Author(s): Yasamin Khosravani-Nezhad, Mehrangiz Zanganeh, Masoumeh Mesgarian, Seyed Davar Siadat, Mohammad Bagheri-Mansouri, Zahra Vosoughi

Review Timeline:

Submit Date:	30 Mar 2022
Revised Date:	15 Jul 2022
Accepted Date:	19 Jul 2022

Revision (0)

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

REFEREE : Reviewer — 9 Apr 2022

Dear AE
This review has a good design but no new content. From the beginning of covid COVID-19 pandemic, it is believed that vitamin D deficiency can cause severe disease.
BEST REGARDS

REFEREE : Reviewer — 9 Apr 2022

Dear AE
The following items are suggested for the manuscript entitled: “Vitamin D status in COVID-19 patients versus non-COVID-19 individuals and its association with the severity of infection”:
1- Manuscript text should be edited due to writing and grammatical errors.
2- The results subsection of the abstract section should be rewritten and must be shortened.
3- In the abstract section, it is mentioned that: “The mean age of 122 COVID-19 patients, including 71 (58.2%) male patients, was 59±16 years in this study, while the mean age of the controls, including 61 male participants, was 48±13 years (P<0.05)”, so what about other participants and females? There is no data.
4- It is not mentioned in the text which method or technique was used to analyze vitamin D levels.
5- Which test was used to analyze the normal distribution of data?
6- It is recommended that the results section be edited (the results section can be presented more clearly).
Best regards

REFEREE : Reviewer

30 Apr 2022

Dear AE
There have been several recent works on this subject. The author advises studying and using the review article (below) for more information.
Epidemiol Health. 2021;43:e2021074. doi: 10.4178/epih.e2021074. Epub 2021 Sep 23.
The role of vitamin D deficiency on COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies, Mehmet Onur Kaya, Esra Pamukçu, Burkay Yakar
Best regards

REFEREE : Associate Editor

5 May 2022

Dear EIC
Please ask the author to correct the following comments
reviewer 1:
There have been several recent works on this subject. The author advises studying and using the review article (below) for more information.
Epidemiol Health. 2021;43:e2021074. doi: 10.4178/epih.e2021074. Epub 2021 Sep 23.
The role of vitamin D deficiency on COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies, Mehmet Onur Kaya, Esra Pamukçu, Burkay Yakar
reviewer 2:
This review has a good design but no new content. From the beginning of covid COVID-19 pandemic, it is believed that vitamin D deficiency can cause severe disease.
reviewer 3:
The following items are suggested for the manuscript entitled: “Vitamin D status in COVID-19 patients versus non-COVID-19 individuals and its association with the

severity of infection":
1- Manuscript text should be edited due to writing and grammatical errors.
2- The results subsection of the abstract section should be rewritten and must be shortened.
3- In the abstract section, it is mentioned that: "The mean age of 122 COVID-19 patients, including 71 (58.2%) male patients, was 59±16 years in this study, while the mean age of the controls, including 61 male participants, was 48±13 years (P<0.05)", so what about other participants and females? There is no data.
4- It is not mentioned in the text which method or technique was used to analyze vitamin D levels.
5- Which test was used to analyze the normal distribution of data?
6- It is recommended that the results section be edited (the results section can be presented more clearly).
best regards

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh : EIC

5 May 2022

Dear Author
Please correct the following comments.
reviewer 1:
There have been several recent works on this subject. The author advises studying and using the review article (below) for more information.
Epidemiol Health. 2021;43:e2021074. doi: 10.4178/epih.e2021074. Epub 2021 Sep 23.
The role of vitamin D deficiency on COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies, Mehmet Onur Kaya, Esra Pamukçu, Burkay Yakar
reviewer 2:
This review has a good design but no new content. From the beginning of covid COVID-19 pandemic, it is believed that vitamin D deficiency can cause severe disease.
reviewer 3:
The following items are suggested for the manuscript entitled: "Vitamin D status in COVID-19 patients versus non-COVID-19 individuals and its association with the severity of infection":
1- Manuscript text should be edited due to writing and grammatical errors.
2- The results subsection of the abstract section should be rewritten and must be shortened.
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4- It is not mentioned in the text which method or technique was used to analyze vitamin D levels.
5- Which test was used to analyze the normal distribution of data?
6- It is recommended that the results section be edited (the results section can be presented more clearly).
best regards
EIC

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 editor,

Thank you very much for reviewing and considering our manuscript. Unfortunately, I have to say when I was submitting the manuscript to your journal, I made a mistake and submitted the previous version of the manuscript which we revised it and made major changes to the data analyses. Therefore, I am attaching the latest version of the manuscript and I have also changed the color of the differences of the new version with previous one that you have. Here, I am writing this message to respond to your very respectful reviewers.

Respond to reviewer 1:

Dear reviewer,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We are well aware of other articles and meta-analyses on COVID-19 infection, but our study suggests a reverse result on our patients, meaning that we couldn't find significant correlation not only between vitamin D status and COVID-19 infection, but not also with its severity. Our patients and controls were not significantly different in vitamin D status. And, when we excluded the patients with underlying diseases, the relationship was also not significant. However, more scientific investigations are required. We believe that our perspective of the vitamin D status and COVID-19 infection and severity is almost unique. Other studies in Iran are in different cities. Different people in different regions have different vitamin D status and deficiency. And, I believe reverse results in different studies are essential for the medical science, and publication of our study may help with that.

Respond to reviewer 2:

Dear reviewer,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. I am responding to all of the numbered required edits one by one:

1. We have presented the English editing certification of our manuscript meaning that the manuscript has been edited by native language editor, therefore, I respectfully appreciate if you could kindly mention the parts of the manuscript which requires editing in your opinion.
2. I have shortened the result subsection of the abstract section. Thank you for mentioning that.
3. Dear reviewer, 71 male means that out of all 122 patients there were 71 male and 51 female patients. However, I have added this part to the sentence to prevent any future misunderstandings.
4. I added the technique of vitamin D analysis to the material and methods section.
5. The statistics of the new version of the manuscript is different from the previous one. I appreciate if you revise the new statistics.
6. We have made changes to the results section. I am waiting for your kind revisions and more specific edits.

Respond to reviewer 3:

Dear reviewer,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. I have studied your suggested systematic review on the relationship of COVID-19 infection and vitamin D deficiency. However, our study

in Tehran shows different results and we could not find significant relationship between Vitamin D status and COVID-19 infection or its severity. Therefore, I believe reverse results in different studies are essential for the medical science, and publication of our study may help with that.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

REFEREE : Reviewer — 28 May 2022

Dear AE
1- In the result section of the abstract, there is no data about the mean age of the women participants in the study. It is recommended to be added.
2- The following sentence in the discussion section should be edited: "The insignificant correlation in 18 all the patients with/out an underlying disease suggests...
Best regards.

REFEREE : Reviewer — 29 May 2022

Dear AE
I thank the author for the corrections. Now the article could be a candidate for publication.
Kind regards

REFEREE : Associate Editor — 30 May 2022

Dear EIC
Please ask the author to correct the following comments.
1- In the result section of the abstract, there is no data about the mean age of the women participants in the study. It is recommended to be added.
2- The following sentence in the discussion section should be edited: "The insignificant correlation in all 18 patients with/out an underlying disease suggests.
best regards

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh : EIC — 30 May 2022

Dear Author
Please correct all comments.
1- In the result section of the abstract, there is no data about the mean age of the women participants in the study. It is recommended to be added.
2- The following sentence in the discussion section should be edited: "The insignificant correlation in 18 of all the patients with/out an underlying disease suggests.
Best regards.
EIC

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

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 editor,

Thank you very much for reviewing and considering our manuscript. I hope you are doing well and safe. I have applied your kind editing requests to the manuscript.

Here are point by point reply to very respectful reviewers;

Dear reviewer 1,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. The data in the result section of the abstract actually presents the mean age of the whole patients not only men. And for no longer misunderstanding, I have re-write the sentence to "The mean age of 122 COVID-19 patients, including 71 (58.2%) male patients and 51 (41.8%) women patients, was 59±16 years in this study, while the mean age of the controls, including 61 male participants and 61 female participants, was 48±13 years (P<0.05)." (page 1, line 16).

The inexpressive sentence in the discussion sentence is also changed to the following sentence, "The insignificant correlation in this study suggests that in small scale of individuals vitamin D deficiency was not related to neither Covid-19, nor its severity." (page 4, line 40).

Dear reviewer 2,

Thank you very much for reviewing and considering our manuscript.

All the required changes are applied in red color to the manuscript. Please let me know if any other changes are required.

Sincerely,

Yasamin Khosravaninezhad

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

REFEREE : Reviewer — 16 Jul 2022

Dear AE
Due to the corrections made to the manuscript, this article is recommended for acceptance and publication.
Best regards.

REFEREE : Associate Editor — 19 Jul 2022

Dear EIC

We announce that the manuscript has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Infection based on the opinions of reviewers.
best regards

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh : EIC — 19 Jul 2022

Dear Author
Congratulations
Hereby, we announce that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Infection . The manuscript will be available online in future issues.
Wish you all the best
EIC
Dr. Hamidreza Koupayeh