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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Does COVID-19 Infection Change Thyroid Hormone Levels? A Comparative Cross-Sectional Study in Iran

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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

3 comments · 4 Nov 2023 – 14 Jan 2024

Referee 1 Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 4 Nov 2023

dear author
Please explain why you decided to conduct research on thyroid hormone. This is not mentioned in the background.
It would be better to summarize the results section because the author repeated the findings in both the table and the text.

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 14 Jan 2024

Dear Author,
This manuscript needs minor revision and should be revised and then resubmitted.
Thank you

Editor-in-Chief

MINOR REVISION 14 Jan 2024

Dear Author,
Based on our reviewers' comments, your manuscript needs some revision in all sections. Please revise and resubmit.
Thank you

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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.

Dear reviewers

Thank you as you read and commented this manuscript carefully. Please see our replies to your comments as follows:

Reviewer 1: *dear author* *please mention why you decided have a research on thyroid hormone? this is did not mention in background*	Thank you. There are some studies about thyroid hormone changes in COVID-19 pandemic, but this topic needs further evaluation and also we did not have any study in Iran on this topic.
it is better the result section summarize, because the author repeated the findings in table and text as well.	Some statements were deleted from the results section.
Reviewer 2: *Why are the control group not considered based on the negative test?*	We did not run COVID-19 test for the control group, because they did not have signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
Where and how were the case and control groups selected?	The following statement was added to :the methods section The case group were recruited from COVID-19 patients who hospitalized in the Razi hospital, and the control group were recruited from people who admitted to the Novin laboratory in Ahvaz at the same time of sampling for their annual checkup and thyroid hormones measurements were .among their assessments
Was there matching? *Did the control group have the same blood sample tested twice?*	We did not do any matching. The control group did the thyroid tests only once, and in the same time for the baseline measurement for the case group. This sentence was added to the methods section.
In results: As evident from this table, participants in the control group were significantly younger than that in the case group. Why?	We did not do any matching. Therefore, it is clear that some variables are significant between the two groups, which their effect were adjusted using ANCOVA test.

2 Revision 1

3 comments · 31 Jan 2024 – 10 Feb 2024

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 31 Jan 2024

dear chief editor
Fortunately, the author revised the manuscript carefully, so the decision is accept.

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 7 Feb 2024

Dear Author,
All comments have been addressed, and this manuscript is acceptable.
Thank you

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 10 Feb 2024

Dear Author,
All comments have been addressed, and the manuscript is acceptable.
Thank you