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

Jundishapur Journal of Microbiology
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Peer Review Report for "Gastrointestinal Presentation in a Patient with COVID-19 Without Respiratory Tract Symptoms: A Case Report From Qom, Iran"

Author(s): Ahmad Hormati, Alireza Shahhamzeh, Reza Aminnejad, Mahbobeh Afifian, Sajjad Ahmadpour

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 19 Mar 2020
Revised Date: 31 May 2020
Accepted Date: 1 Jun 2020

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 | **Revision** (0) — 3 Apr 2020

Dear AE,
Even if the topic is of interest, I believe that the manuscript is poorly scientifically sound and has to be improved to be accepted for publication.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) — 12 Apr 2020

Dear EIC,
The manuscript is studied, and there are some comments which should be addressed by the author. According to the comments, the document needs major revision.
Kind regards,

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0) — 7 May 2020

Dear Author,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to JJM. I have completed the review of your manuscript and a summary is appended below (Pleases find attached files). The reviewers recommend the reconsideration of your paper following major revision. I invite you to resubmit your manuscript after addressing all reviewer comments. Please answer point by point to reviewer's comments on a separate sheet under WORD format and write your modifications in the revised version (WORD format) in colored or highlighted letters. Your answers to reviewers' queries are not only for the Editorial Board but for the readers and should be included, when appropriate, in the manuscript for improvement and a better understanding.

When resubmitting your manuscript, please carefully consider all issues mentioned in the reviewers' comments, outline every change made a point by point, and provide suitable rebuttals for any comments not addressed. In addition, JJM INSTRUCTION attached to the mail, Pleases find it.

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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 Professor Ali Zarei Mahmoudabadi

Thank you very much for your time and consideration to evaluate my manuscript. Appropriate changes were made and highlighted in the revised manuscript according to the suggestions of EIC and reviewers step by step (Highlighted). I can apply if other reforms are necessary. I hope that this revised manuscript will be considered for publication in your reputed journal.

Sincerely

Sajjad Ahmadpour

Reply to the reviewers' comments (Manuscript Number: 102844**)**

Reviewer Number	Original comments of the reviewer	Reply by the author(s)
1	Even if the topic is of interest, I believe that the manuscript is poorly scientifically sound and has to be improved to be accepted for publication. The authors had a case with unusual gastrointestinal prodromal of COVID-19. However, because authors did not swap of the patient either nasopharyngeal or samples from feces for detection of COVID-19, so they cannot strongly claim that unusual GI could be related to COVID-19. On the other hand, although there are reports of gastrointestinal symptoms before respiratory symptoms, these cases are rare and is not reliable for diagnosis of COVID-19.	In this study, COVID-19 and pneumonia was diagnosed based on the positive PCR assay and sequencing of PCR amplicons using a throat swab. For more validation we used Chest CT scan that resulted lung involvement. It's completely true that the onset of GI symptoms in suspected patients is not reliable for diagnosis of COVID-19. But our finding in GI clinic demonstrate that some patient referred to our GI clinic with pure GI symptoms and without respiratory symptoms. We also believe that the onset of gastrointestinal symptoms without lung involvement is rare in patients. However, it is important to note that there were cases in patients who had only pure gastrointestinal symptoms, and we found no logical justification for these symptoms, and on the other side because the epidemic of COVID-19 was started in Iran, we were more likely became suspicious to SARS-CoV-2 infection and carefully evaluated them, which eventually fund that they are positive for SARS-CoV-2. We even repeated the rt-PCR test every day to be sure and carefully followed the patients. We also monitored lung involvement and its changes by CT scan. We found that people who came in with only pure gastrointestinal symptoms did not think they were likely to

		be infected with the virus, and that they transmitted the virus to gastroenterologists as well as their families during the course of gastrointestinal symptoms. Therefore, diagnosis of these patients and isolating them can also play an important role in managing and preventing the transmission of the virus. In some article for example this article; " **A case of COVID-19 patient with the diarrhea as initial symptom and literature review"** https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinre.2020.03.013 The authors reported that diarrhea can be considered as an initial symptom of COVID-19. With these explanations and based on the reported articles of the researchers, the necessary corrections were applied in the article.
2	The authors indicate that ACE-2 receptor for COVID-19 express in intestinal tract. The presence of ACE-2 receptor is not only enough for the virus replication and the virus replication is not exactly documented in gut.	It's completely true that the he presence of ACE-2 receptor is not only enough for the justification of GI symptoms. The expression of the role of this receptor for gastrointestinal symptoms is based on the fact that the expression of this receptor in the gastrointestinal track is high. However, this statement is only hypothetical and has not been conclusively proven, and may even be wrong. However, in various articles, the role of this receptor in the occurrence of gastrointestinal symptoms has been mentioned.
3	Finally, this manuscript need to frequent English grammar editing.	The language of the article was sent to Kowsar Institute for editing. All typographical errors as well as editorial comments were applied to the article.

We thank the reviewers for their careful reading of the manuscript and their constructive remarks. I hope that this revised manuscript is suitable enough for publication in your prestigious journal.

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Revision (1)

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

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision (1)** 1 Jun 2020

Dear Authors
According to the associated editor report, your manuscript is accepted for publishing in JJM and send to the publisher for the next process.
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Please add ORCID number into you and your collages account, then automatically appear in your published papers in JJM both in HTML and pdf.
Thanks.