

Received: 2023-05-19 **Reviewed:** 2023-05-30 **Revised:** 2023-07-08 **Accepted:** 2023-07-10 **Published:** 2023-02-28**E d i t o r****R e v i e w e r s**

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1. Round 1*1.1 Reviewer*

Date: 30 May 2023

I read with a great attention the paper entitled "Retrospective Analysis of Hematological Abnormalities in Older Diabetic Patients with SARS-CoV-2 Infection".

The rational of the study is interesting. However, the paper presents several major limitations. The paper can not be accepted as an original paper, but authors are asked to rewrite it as a short report including only one big table.

GENERAL REMARKS

- Please use, overall the paper, always diabetes mellitus not diabetes
- All abbreviations should be explained the first time they are used - unless it is a standard unit of measurement - and thereafter the use of abbreviations should be consistent throughout the paper. Avoid excessive use of abbreviations. Avoid to abbreviate one word as hemoglobin, hematocrit. Abbreviations should be reserved to long terms.
- Avoid elegant variations of terms: older or elderly,
- Use sex not gender

TITLE

- Add two terms in the title: "pilot study" and "short report"

ABSTRACT

- Define all abbreviations: COVID, PCR, SARS-CoV-2,
- L37: add years after 7.14
- L39-40: delete "Descriptive statistics summarized the data."
- L42: delete "and 48.14% were female"
- Delete (RBC), (HGB), (HCT), (MPV), (PDW),
- Authors are asked to define the following terms: Thrombocytosis, thrombocytopenia, leukocytosis, leukopenia, Neutrophilia, neutropenia, Lymphocytosis, lymphopenia
- Sometimes HGB sometimes Hgb: use always hemoglobin

KEYWORDS

- Please use MeSH terms, avoid similar terms (geriatric, geriatrics)

INTRODUCTION

- To be shortened by 50%
- To be divided into three short paragraphs: what is known, what is unknown, the aims of the short report
- The aims of the study were cited twice: l91 and l105???
- Several sentences are lacking references: l69: add a reference after implications,
- L73: add (WBC) after white blood cell
- L79-80: add (RBC) after red blood cell
- L83: write [1-3,5] in bold character
- L91: aimed not aims
- L91: the aims of the study must be at the end of the introduction
- L107: change as "The study focused on analyzing the levels of different hematological parameters, including WBCs, RBCs, hemoglobin, hematocrit, platelets, and lymphocyte count, in older diabetic patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection."

METHODS

- Very short
- No other author can duplicate the study
- What about the sample size calculation?
- No statistical subsection?
- How DT2 was defined? How readers can be sure that retained patients are T2DM patients?
- Authors are asked to define all the criteria (with solid references) used to diagnosis all the hematological abnormalities, for example thrombocytosis, thrombocytopenia, leukocytosis, leukopenia, Neutrophilia, neutropenia, Lymphocytosis, lymphopenia...
- Authors are asked to report the name of the automat used to measure the hematological data, the coefficient of variation of each hematological data.
- L119: delete (PHCC)
- L124: delete (ECGs)

If rewritten in a good way as a short report, the paper can be reevaluated

RESULTS

- Very long
- There is a redundancy between tables and figures. Figures do not add anything to the results
- L131-132: delete "and 48.14% females"
- L132: in text: 92.59% and inside table 92.60?
- L13: RBC was previously abbreviated (several other examples exist)
- Avoid to redefine the hematological abnormalities in this section. All definitions should appear in the Methods section.
- L176: (Figures 1, 2, 3, respectively)

DISCUSSION

- Not structured
- To be shortened and focalized on the main results
- Regroup all the limitations in only one section (l226: limitations, l262: limitations,
- Several redundancy: several sentences were written twice: see l262-266 and l226-229) and l277-289)
- L221: the reference 12 is not related to Taj et al (should it be reference 5)?
- L301: of immune? You have not studied the immune system

TABLE

All data can be regrouped in only one big table

Table 1. Define all used abbreviations in the bottom of the table in alphabetical order (SD, WBC, ect....), define RDW-CV

FIGURES

- To be deleted

REFERENCES

Not homogenized

Ref 7. Delete doi: 10.1080/17446651.2021.1909472.

Ref 8. Delete doi: 10.1016/j.metabol.2020.154216.

What are the references 15 and 16 not related to the study aims and not cited in the text.

2. Round 2

2.1 Reviewer

Date: 03 July 2023

Minor changes are requested. I have applied several changes inside the paper. Please consider for publication the paper attached to this correspondence.

3. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.