

Response to reviewers' comments

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: This article can be considered for publication but after minor review.

1-You have mentioned: severe COVID-19 can still be managed with the use of corticosteroids and interleukin 6 (IL-6) receptor blockers; Can you mention the mechanism of action for interleukin 6 (IL-6) receptor blockers and how it was effective in treating COVID-19 patients.

Response: One of the prime candidates for mediating inflammation in Covid-19 has been interleukin-6, a cytokine produced by macrophages that induces a proinflammatory response and is often elevated in patients with Covid-19. There are approved agents that block either the cytokine or its receptor. Interleukin-6 blocking drugs – tocilizumab and sarilumab – act to suppress the overreaction of the immune system in Covid-19 patients by blocking the binding of IL-6 to its receptor.

IL-6 plays a key role in immune cell proliferation and differentiation through the IL-6/IL-6R/JAK pathway. To date, clinically available antibodies targeting the IL-6/IL-6R/JAK pathway include anti-IL-6 antibodies (e.g., siltuximab), anti-IL-6R antibodies (e.g., tocilizumab and sarilumab), and anti-JAK antibodies (e.g., ruxolitinib and baricitinib), all of which have been successfully used to treat autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. Tocilizumab and sarilumab are both humanized anti-IL-6 receptor monoclonal antibodies, capable of binding to either mIL-6R or sIL-6R.

2- in Containment Strategy: It was mentioned that: Although the study reported breakthrough infections experienced by completely vaccinated patients and some who had also received a booster vaccine, all cases had increased levels of antibodies against the spike protein, a common finding in patients vaccinated with a booster dose; Can the booster vaccine protect from this new variant, please explain more.

Response: Yes, studies that we now cited have shown the effect of booster vaccination on Omicron.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Dear authors, I would like to appreciate your concern about the emergence of a new SARS-CoV-2 variant, omicron. I have gone through the manuscript and comments/correction has been provided in the article document in the track change method. Additionally, there were a lot of references used, and somewhere it was found unnecessary. I

have highlighted some of those that can be omitted, only keeping the most relevant ones. Citing should be made once at the end of the statement while mentioning a source.

Response: Many thanks. We have made the corrections.

Reviewer #3:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Well written manuscript I suggest authors to add a paragraph on PCR detection/suggestion of Omicron, the SARS-CoV-2 variant (S gene drop)

Response: We have added the suggestion.