

Reply to the Editor.

Dear Respected Editor/Reviewer

Good day

Thank you very much for the comprehensive review and for the precious time that you spent reviewing this study. We did the advised changes and answered the queries. All the changes were marked in red color for easy tracking by the reviewer. The manuscript looks much better with these changes. We tried to improve the language as we can. Thank you again for your precious assistance.

Here we are replying point by point:

The reviewer comments:

Reviewer 1:

Thank you very much for your comprehensive and helpful comments and advice.

Here is our reply point by point:

Full Title: The Covid-19 Pandemic and Its Effects on Children with Autism.

Comments

1. Title: Does the title reflect the main subject/hypothesis of the manuscript?

-Yes. But, it has to be specific.

The authors' aim was to address the effects of Covid-19 on Children with Autism (as stated in the whole manuscript), rather than the Covid-19 pandemic, which is vast. Therefore, the title must be: The effects of covid-19 on children with Autism.

Our reply: We did the requested action and changed the title as advised.

2. Abstract: Does the abstract summarize and reflect the work described in the manuscript? -No. At least the main points of the manuscript have to be summarized in a short and precise way (Immune status, neurotrophic effects, mortality, impact on autism management, and a need for vaccination). And also, the aim of the review has to be stated in the abstract.

Our reply: We did the requested action and changed the abstract as advised. The changes are highlighted in red color.

3. Key words:

Do the key words reflect the focus of the manuscript? -Yes

Our reply: We thank you

4. Background: Does the manuscript adequately describe the background, present status and significance of the study?

- The following idea should be taken to the conclusion and recommendation part.

“So we should regularly re-evaluate the mental and physical conditions and development of children with autism and try to find alternative means of treatment. The medical and rehabilitation teams are critically required to support children with autism and their families and ensure the continuity of physical and mental healthcare during and after the pandemic”.

Our reply: We did the requested action and moved this paragraph to the conclusion as advised. The changes are highlighted in red color.

-Some ideas in the introduction part are not referenced. - There is one recommendation table in this section. “Table 1: Recommendations to minimize the effects of pandemics on people with autism”. Are you summarizing the recommendations you reviewed from the literature, or those are your own ideas? It is better if you put them with corresponding literature.

Our reply: We amalgamated the conclusion and recommendation in one section at the end of the manuscript followed by the table. The changes are highlighted in red color.

As regards the table, the recommendations are our idea, but it is based on pieces of evidence derived from the scientific literature. We added the corresponding literature as references in the table.

5. Methods: Does the manuscript describe methods (e.g., experiments, data analysis, surveys, and clinical trials, etc.) in adequate detail? - Not applicable

Our reply: We thank you

6. Results: Are the research objectives achieved by the experiments used in this study? What are the contributions that the study has made to research progress in this field?

- Not applicable

Our reply: We thank you

7. Discussion: Does the manuscript interpret the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically? Are the findings and their applicability/relevance to the literature stated in a clear and definite manner? Is the discussion accurate and does it discuss the paper's scientific significance and/or relevance to clinical practice sufficiently? -

Not applicable

Our reply: We thank you

Conclusion: Well concluded. Include also the recommendation section.

Our reply: We amalgamated the conclusion and recommendation in one section at the end of the manuscript followed by the table. The changes are highlighted in red colour.

8. Illustrations and tables: Are the figures, diagrams and tables sufficient, good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents? Do figures require labeling with arrows, asterisks etc., better legends?

- Remove the statement that says: "Figure 1 shows the various neurological symptoms observed in patients with COVID-19", since you already put the figure legend under the figure. Put only the figure reference (number) in the text.

Our reply: We did the requested action as advised and removed the statement.

9. Biostatistics: Does the manuscript meet the requirements of biostatistics? -Not applicable 10. Units: Does the manuscript meet the requirements of use of SI units?

-Not applicable

Our reply: We thank you

11. References: Does the manuscript cite appropriately the latest, important and authoritative references in the introduction and discussion sections?

-Yes

Our reply: We thank you

Does the author self-cite, omit, incorrectly cite and/or over-cite references?

-No 12.

Our reply: We thank you

Quality of manuscript organization and presentation: Is the manuscript well, concisely and coherently organized and presented? Is the style, language and grammar accurate and appropriate?

-Yes. But, need some minor corrections.

Our reply: We thank you; we revised the whole manuscript again by a native speaker and corrected the errors. Also, the manuscript was edited with Wiley Editing services after we did the requested changes to ensure the adequacy of the language.

13. Research methods and reporting: Did the author prepare the manuscript according to the appropriate research methods and reporting?

-Yes

Our reply: We thank you

14. Ethics: Did the manuscript meet the requirements of ethics?

-Yes

Our reply: We thank you

Reviewer 2:

Thank you very much for your comprehensive and helpful comments and advice.

Here is our reply point by point:

Please read my comments/suggestions given below for preparing the revised draft:
My Comments and Suggestions to Authors:

1- The abstract is not convincing and is disorganized, it should be refined to precisely illustrate what authors have done in this paper within 200 words. The abstract must be a concise yet comprehensive reflection of what is in your paper. Remember that reader want to know: 1-what is the problem. 2- why the problem is relevant 3- wants an overview of your approach. 4-need to know the results.

Our reply: We thank you; we revised the abstract as advised and wrote it according to your advice. However, the word number is not 200 as the journal policy allowed for more than this count. However, we tried to make the abstract as concise as we can but did not affect its integrity.

2- The manuscript needs a good introduction, the introduction section of the paper is weak, and authors are advised to improvise the introduction section.

Our reply: We thank you; we revised the introduction as advised and wrote it according to your advice. The changes were highlighted in red.

3- The authors should pay more attention to paper writing. There are many errors, which hinder the reading fluency of readers.

Our reply: We thank you; we revised the whole manuscript again by a native speaker and corrected the errors. Also, the manuscript was edited with Wiley Editing services after we did the requested changes to ensure the adequacy of the language.

4- The contributions presented in this paper are not sufficient for possible publication in this journal. I highly suggest authors clearly define the contributions.

Our reply: according to our understanding that you mean the author's contributions? If you mean the author's contribution, this was highlighted in the cover letter to the editor.

If you mean contribution of the manuscript to the scientific community as regards this topic, we do believe that this minireview will help both the patients and the healthcare professional to be aware of the possible effects of the pandemic to be used in future similar situations. We also believe that our suggestion in table 1 could help both the scientific community as well as the government to initiate a guideline to manage children with autism as well as children with special needs to alleviate the effects of similar situations in the future.

5- The manuscript organization needs to be restructured. Kindly be as concise and straight to the point as possible.

Our reply: We do believe that we made the manuscript in a more organized way that is easy to be followed

6- There are no citations for many sentences in this manuscript. Why?

Please check.

Our reply: We added the missing citations both in the manuscript and table. A total of 13 references were added. The added references were highlighted in red.

7- There are many repetitions in sentences.

Our reply: repetitions were removed.

8- The writing of the manuscript. There are many incomplete sentences or sentences without subjects.

Our reply: We checked the whole manuscript and corrected any similar situation when present.

9-The conclusions in this manuscript are primitive. Write your conclusions.

Our reply: We corrected the conclusion and amalgamated the conclusion and recommendation in one section at the end of the manuscript followed by the table. The changes are highlighted in red color.

LANGUAGE POLISHING:

Native English-speaker did language polishing

ABBREVIATIONS

The basic rules on abbreviations were strictly followed

EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS:

All the editorial instructions were followed in finalizing this manuscript.

On behalf of all authors, we thank editors and reviewers for their support during the publication of this manuscript.

Many thanks

Professor Mohammed Al-Biltagi