**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases  
**Manuscript NO:** 93103  
**Title:** Iron and ferritin effects on intensive care unit mortality: A meta-analysis  
**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed  
**Peer-review model:** Single blind  
**Reviewer’s code:** 07937720  
**Position:** Peer Reviewer  
**Academic degree:**  
**Professional title:**  
**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** Reviewer_Country  
**Author’s Country/Territory:** China  
**Manuscript submission date:** 2024-02-19  
**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique  
**Reviewer accepted review:** 2024-02-24 12:24  
**Reviewer performed review:** 2024-02-29 02:33  
**Review time:** 4 Days and 14 Hours  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific quality</th>
<th>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</th>
<th>[ ] Grade B: Very good</th>
<th>[ ] Grade C: Good</th>
<th>[ ] Grade D: Fair</th>
<th>[ ] Grade E: Do not publish</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Novelty of this manuscript</td>
<td>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</td>
<td>[ ] Grade B: Good</td>
<td>[ ] Grade C: Fair</td>
<td>[ ] Grade D: No novelty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</td>
<td>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</td>
<td>[ ] Grade B: Good</td>
<td>[ ] Grade C: Fair</td>
<td>[ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation</td>
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</table>
### Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript

- **[ ]** Grade A: Excellent
- **[ ]** Grade B: Good
- **[Y]** Grade C: Fair
- **[ ]** Grade D: No scientific significance

### Language quality

- **[ ]** Grade A: Priority publishing
- **[Y]** Grade B: Minor language polishing
- **[ ]** Grade C: A great deal of language polishing
- **[ ]** Grade D: Rejection

### Conclusion

- **[ ]** Accept (High priority)
- **[ ]** Accept (General priority)
- **[Y]** Minor revision
- **[ ]** Major revision
- **[ ]** Rejection

### Re-review

- **[Y]** Yes
- **[ ]** No

### Peer-reviewer statements

- Peer-Review: **[Y]** Anonymous
- **[ ]** Onymous

- Conflicts-of-Interest: **[ ]** Yes
- **[Y]** No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1. This systematic review presents evidence of a negative correlation between serum iron levels and mortality among patients with sepsis. Furthermore, it reveals a minor yet adverse impact of serum ferritin on mortality among the US population.

2. This study had a few limitations. First, only studies published in English journals were included. There is only 19 studies involved. Second, predicting the effect of misclassification of cohort studies on the results was challenging. Third, systematic confounding or the risk of bias in observation studies cannot be ruled out easily.