PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 85939

Title: Progress of ulcerative colitis patients during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 03645427

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Chief Doctor, Director

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: South Korea

Author’s Country/Territory: Japan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-05-24

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-06-12 23:40

Reviewer performed review: 2023-06-13 10:44

Review time: 11 Hours

Scientific quality
[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good
[ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish

Novelty of this manuscript
[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair
[ ] Grade D: No novelty

Creativity or innovation of this manuscript
[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair
[ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</th>
<th>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</th>
<th>[ ] Grade B: Good</th>
<th>[ Y] Grade C: Fair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] Grade D: No scientific significance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language quality</td>
<td>[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing</td>
<td>[ Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing</td>
<td>[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>[ ] Accept (High priority)</td>
<td>[ ] Accept (General priority)</td>
<td>[ ] Minor revision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-review</td>
<td>[ ] Yes</td>
<td>[ Y] No</td>
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<td>Peer-reviewer statements</td>
<td>Peer-Review: [ Y] Anonymous</td>
<td>[ ] Onymous</td>
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<td>Conflicts-of-Interest:</td>
<td>[ ] Yes</td>
<td>[ Y] No</td>
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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The topic of this study is interesting and attractive. Most of IBD doctors was embarrased by this new pandemic disaster and we did not know how COVID10 would influence IBD patients either directly or indirectly. However, this study has some major limitations before drawing conclusions. First, the results, concerning UC-DAI and Matts grading, showed too little information except means and SD. In particular, I wonder how many patients were included in biopsy study and why?. Usually, biopsy procedure was not performed in every follow-up colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy during UC follow-up. In addition, site or indication of biopsy is important and they are different case by case. Therefore, I think it is difficult to compare, so need to compare baseline characteristics between each groups. Seconds, as you mentioned, of the 289 UC patients in 2020 study, 11 patients dropped out as of 2021, and another 10 patients dropped out as of 2022. I think you clarity the reasons of drop out because there may exist the possibility that transfer to other medical institution caused by acute exacerbation of disease can influence the statistical results. Third, peers understand it is inevitable that this study has some limitations but if you comments the limitations you experieced during the
process, it would be better. Thank you for your inventive and informative study.
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**Title:** Progress of ulcerative colitis patients during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic  
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**Reviewer’s code:** 05030001  
**Position:** Peer Reviewer  
**Academic degree:** MD  
**Professional title:** Doctor  
**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** China  
**Author’s Country/Territory:** Japan  
**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-05-24  
**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu  
**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-06-12 13:52  
**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-06-17 07:52  
**Review time:** 4 Days and 17 Hours  

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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This manuscript demonstrated the effect of chronic stress from COVID-19 on disease condition in ulcerative colitis (UC) patients aggravated after the first wave. The authors found that the disease activity of UC patients recovered in 2021 and remained stable in 2022, aggravated by the stress of the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020 despite the persistence of the pandemic. This is a very interesting study. However, I still have several questions and suggestions listed below. Please make an answer or revision.

1. According to the gender information in Table 1, there were 9 fewer people in 2021 compared to 2020, and 8 fewer people in 2022 compared to 2021, which does not match the 11 and 10 people mentioned in the main body.
2. The small sample size of this study may have a certain impact on the results.
3. The language of this article still needs further refinement. According to the above, I suggest the authors should answer the questions and make a revision.