

## **Anti-tumor necrosis factor agents and COVID-19: A word of caution**

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Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear Dr. Chan,

Reviewers have now commented on your paper. You will see that they are advising that you revise your manuscript. If you are prepared to undertake the work required, I would be pleased to reconsider my decision.

For your guidance, reviewers' comments are appended below.

If you decide to revise the work, please submit a list of changes or a rebuttal against each point which is being raised when you submit the revised manuscript. Also, please ensure that the track changes function is switched on when implementing the revisions. This enables the reviewers to rapidly verify all changes made.

Your revision is due by Aug 25, 2020.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jctres/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

Yours sincerely

Michal Heger  
Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: This commentary analyzed the role of anti-TNF agents in managing IBD patients with COVID-19. I agree about the caution in using this drug, especially in fragile older patients. However, authors have to consider that Spanish researchers reported recently the intentional use of two 10 mg/kg doses of infliximab, one week apart, in a patient with severe ulcerative colitis and COVID-19-related pneumonia, achieving a satisfactory recovery from intestinal and pulmonary disease without complications (Rodríguez-Lago I et al. *Gastroenterology* 2020. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2020.04.043 [Epub ahead of print]). This experience has to be cited and commented.

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Author's response

Prof. Michal Heger  
Department of Pharmaceutics, Jiaxing University Medical College, Zhejiang, China  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

July 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Subject:** Submission of a revised version of the manuscript entitled “*Anti-tumor necrosis factor agents and COVID-19: A word of caution*”.

Dear Prof. Heger,

It is our honor to submit for your consideration the revised version of our manuscript entitled “*Anti-tumor necrosis factor agents and COVID-19: A word of caution*” for publication in *The Journal of Clinical and Translational Research*.

We thank you and the reviewer for your consideration and for outlining very relevant modifications that would definitely improve the quality and the content of the manuscript. Please allow us to lay out through this letter the improvements and changes that were made to the manuscript, in response to the comments of the reviewer as instructed.

- “However, authors have to consider that Spanish researchers reported recently the intentional use of two 10 mg/kg doses of infliximab, one week apart, in a patient with severe ulcerative colitis and COVID-19-related pneumonia, achieving a satisfactory recovery from intestinal and pulmonary disease without complications (Rodríguez-Lago I et al. *Gastroenterology* 2020. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2020.04.043 [Epub ahead of print]). This experience has to be cited and commented.”
- We thank the reviewer for drawing our attention to this very relevant and recent publication. As suggested, the findings of this research were duly reported, with a detailed description of the reported case of infliximab initiation in a patient with a mild case of COVID-19. Additional complementary findings, namely fatality rate,

were also added to the description of the manuscript's results. All reported information was commented in the manuscript with nuanced insight on the role of anti-TNF agents as a potential adjunct in the treatment of COVID-19.

All modifications are visible in the manuscript via the changes' tracking function and were highlighted for clarity.

In the hope that we were able to make all the required adjustments, we thank you, and the reviewer, for the very valuable comments. We remain at your disposal for any further inquiries.

Best regards,

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Dear authors,

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical and Translational Research.

You will receive the proofs of your article shortly, which we kindly ask you to thoroughly review for any errors.

Thank you for submitting your work to JCTR.

Kindest regards,

Michal Heger  
Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research