

Coronavirus disease 2019 morbid pulmonary pathology: What did we learn from autopsy examinations?

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Handling editor:

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1st Editorial decision
07-Jun-2021

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00120

Morbid pulmonary pathology of COVID -19: What did we learn from Autopsy?
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear Dr Ahmed,

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 Jul 07, 2021.

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: Dear Author,

here my comments...

Introduction: I suggest some articles to clarify and for a correct anatomopathological identification

Mansueto G, Niola M, Napoli C. Can COVID 2019 induce a specific cardiovascular damage or it exacerbates pre-existing cardiovascular diseases? *Pathol Res Pract.* 2020 Sep;216(9):153086. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153086. Epub 2020 Jun 26. PMID: 32825954; PMCID: PMC7319650.

Mansueto G. COVID-19: Brief check through the pathologist's eye (autopsy archive). *Pathol Res Pract.* 2020 Nov;216(11):153195. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153195. Epub 2020 Aug 28. PMID: 32890939; PMCID: PMC7452828.

Fisicaro F, Di Napoli M, Liberto A, Fanella M, Di Stasio F, Pennisi M, Bella R, Lanza G, Mansueto G. Neurological Sequelae in Patients with COVID-19: A Histopathological Perspective. *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 2021 Feb 3;18(4):1415. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18041415. PMID: 33546463; PMCID: PMC7913756.

Methods: The concept is correct but you need to review technical english. For example .. histochemistry, immunohistochemistry ... are sufficient without "stain"

Results and Discussion:

Macroscopy (gross) findings replace with Macroscopy or macroscopic appearance or gross appearance

Review english

Microscopic examination: H&E and immunohistochemistry (IHC)

microscopic histological pathological features of post-mortem COVID-19 autopsy cases

replace with histopathological lung findings from COVID-19

histochemical and IHC staining replace with special methods such as IHC

Other comments:

The DAD involves various stages from exudative to fibrotic. I advise you to better explain this histological entity and I propose again the pathologist's experience:

Mansueto G. COVID-19: Brief check through the pathologist's eye (autopsy archive). *Pathol Res Pract.* 2020 Nov;216(11):153195. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153195. Epub 2020 Aug 28. PMID: 32890939; PMCID: PMC7452828.

Mansueto G, Niola M, Napoli C. Can COVID 2019 induce a specific cardiovascular damage or it exacerbates pre-existing cardiovascular diseases? *Pathol Res Pract.* 2020 Sep;216(9):153086. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153086. Epub 2020 Jun 26. PMID: 32825954; PMCID: PMC7319650.

The concepts in this paragraph are correct but I recommend that you review English and use a

more correct terminology as a pathologist.

Nucleic acid testing: Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay...:
ARDS is a clinical syndrome and PCR is a molecular method. Reshape thinking

Comments: The information is not new but an evaluation of the literature is always helpful.
Review English of all the text and above all use specific language for histopathology and read
the works that I have indicated to you.

Thanks and good job.

Reviewer #5: This is a well-written review article.
It may need updating.

Authors' response

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00120

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Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

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

Dear Prof Heger,

We thank you and the reviewers for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript.
Please see our response for all the points raised by the reviewers and this can be seen in the
text in track changes

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: Dear Author,

here my comments...

Introduction: I suggest some articles to clarify and for a correct anatomopathological
identification

Mansueto G, Niola M, Napoli C. Can COVID 2019 induce a specific cardiovascular damage

or it exacerbates pre-existing cardiovascular diseases? Pathol Res Pract. 2020 Sep;216(9):153086. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153086. Epub 2020 Jun 26. PMID: 32825954; PMCID: PMC7319650.

Mansueto G. COVID-19: Brief check through the pathologist's eye (autopsy archive). Pathol Res Pract. 2020 Nov;216(11):153195. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153195. Epub 2020 Aug 28. PMID: 32890939; PMCID: PMC7452828.

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Methods: The concept is correct but you need to review technical english. For example .. histochemistry, immunohistochemistry ... are sufficient without "stain" (Revised)

Results and Discussion:

Macroscopy (gross) findings replace with Macroscopy or macroscopic appearance or gross appearance (Replaced)

Review english

Microscopic examination: H&E and immunohistochemistry (IHC)

microscopic histological pathological features of post-mortem COVID-19 autopsy cases replace with histopathological lung findings from COVID-19 (Replaced)

histochemical and IHC staining replace with special methods such as IHC (done)

Other comments:

The DAD involves various stages from exudative to fibrotic. I advise you to better explain this histological entity and I propose again the pathologist's experience: (DAD stages reviewed)

Mansueto G. COVID-19: Brief check through the pathologist's eye (autopsy archive). Pathol Res Pract. 2020 Nov;216(11):153195. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153195. Epub 2020 Aug 28. PMID: 32890939; PMCID: PMC7452828.

Mansueto G, Niola M, Napoli C. Can COVID 2019 induce a specific cardiovascular damage or it exacerbates pre-existing cardiovascular diseases? Pathol Res Pract. 2020 Sep;216(9):153086. doi: 10.1016/j.prp.2020.153086. Epub 2020 Jun 26. PMID: 32825954; PMCID: PMC7319650.

The concepts in this paragraph are correct but I recommend that you review English and use a more correct terminology as a pathologist. (We revised and corrected) (we also reviewed the papers and used them as references)

Nucleic acid testing: Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay...:

ARDS is a clinical syndrome and PCR is a molecular method. Reshape thinking (we checked and amended)

Comments: The information is not new but an evaluation of the literature is always helpful. Review English of all the text and above all use specific language for histopathology and read the works that I have indicated to you. (English reviewed and histopathology terms used)

Thanks and good job.

Reviewer #5: This is a well-written review article.
It may need updating. (updated)

With kind regard

Dr Ahmed

2nd Editorial decision
30-Jun-2021

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00120R1
Morbid pulmonary pathology of COVID -19: What did we learn from Autopsy?
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear author(s),

Reviewers have submitted their critical appraisal of your paper. The reviewers' comments are appended below. Based on their comments and evaluation by the editorial board, your work was FOUND SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AFTER MINOR REVISION.

If you decide to revise the work, please itemize the reviewers' comments and provide a point-by-point response to every comment. An exemplary rebuttal letter can be found on at <http://www.jctres.com/en/author-guidelines/> under "Manuscript preparation." Also, please use the track changes function in the original document so that the reviewers can easily verify your responses.

Your revision is due by Jul 30, 2021.

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:

Dear authors,

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript.

The peer-review process is now complete.

However, before we can move to publication of your manuscript I need you to correct English grammar and spelling. There are numerous linguistic and grammatical inconsistencies that detract from the expected academic level English, stipulated on our website as being a hard requirement for publication.

Please involve a native speaker in this final process or engage a contractor or JCTR staff (latter two come at a cost). In case of requesting one of our editors' assistance, please contact me (m.heger@jctres.com) so that I can make the proper arrangements.

Kindest regards and good luck with these last steps,

Michal Heger
Editor

Authors' response

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00120
Morbid pulmonary pathology of COVID -19: What did we learn from Autopsy?
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

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

Dear Prof Heger,

We thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. The language of the manuscript was revised by Language editor and please see enclosed updated version of the manuscript

With Kind regard

Dr Ahmed

3rd Editorial decision
20-Jul-2021

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00120R2
Morbid pulmonary pathology of COVID -19: What did we learn from
Autopsy examination?
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

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

Comments from the editors and reviewers: