05-August-2024

Dear prof. Gad,

You submitted manuscript AJGH-2407-1056, " Fecal calprotectin as a Marker of Severity of COVID-19 Disease: A Hospital-based Study," to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. The reviewer's comments (s) are included at the end of this email.

The reviewers have requested revisions to your manuscript.  Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript. Instructions on how to do this can be found at the bottom of this email.

Because we are trying to facilitate the timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, your revised manuscript should be submitted as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. I look forward to your revision.

Sincerely,

Salem Y Mohamed

Chief Editor, African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Please revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer.  Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document using the track changes mode in MS Word or using bold or colored text.

Once the revised manuscript is prepared, you can send it to me via email.

When submitting your revised manuscript, please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter.  To expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewers.

**Reviewer Comments to Author:**

**Reviewer1: (NH)**

The article is a good idea, but it needs English editing. The results need to be re-evaluated. Both Tables 2 and 4 have invalid data. What is the number of patients post-21 days? Gi manifestation needs to be considered.

**Reviewer 2: (ME)**

The aim of the study is missing from the manuscript.
It is unclear if FC was predictive of COVID-19 disease severity among patients with or without GI manifestations.
What is the rationale behind using FC in assessing COVID-19 patients without GI manifestations?
Can the diagnostic accuracy parameters of FC be calculated in predicting COVID-19 severity compared to other biomarkers and severity indexes?

Check the uploaded file.

**Reviewer3: (AM)**

One of the paragraphs in the introduction is not understood. I think there is a typing error.
The last paragraph in the introduction should include the aim of the study.
The type of study is wrong; correct it.
How sample size was calculated? What is the sampling technique?
Add ethical considerations in detail.
Data analysis should include all statistical tests used.
The results had fundamental mistakes and needed statistical consultation. Comments in the attached file
Discussion and conclusion cannot be assessed till all result sections are fixed.

**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:

a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text.

b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.

c. References should cite three authors et al.: It is our house style to list a maximum of six authors and, if there are more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred.

Please find a link to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Author Guidelines, which explains these sections in more detail: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

6. Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.