Impact of SARS-CoV-2 Infection on Patients Suffering from Liver Injury

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Dear Editor,

With great interest, we have read the recent article by Anastasiou et al. [1], wherein the authors described the effect of SARS-CoV-2 infection on mortality in patients suffering from Mild or severe liver injury. They demonstrated that while the mild liver injury was not associated with worse outcome in their cohort, cohort with severe liver injury showed multiple-organ failure and acute vascular events [1] leading to higher mortality.

While the findings of study are intriguing, we have few concerns about the study design as well as few suggestions which would bring better insight to the study.

1. Acute liver failure is a rare condition in which massive liver injury is associated with the rapid development of hepatic encephalopathy increasing the mortality in this group of patients [2, 3]. In the present study, it is very difficult to conclude that the death rate is higher in group 3 due to the infection of SARS-CoV-2.
2. Present study would have been more impactful if authors included ALF patients without SARS-CoV-2 infection.
3. The severity due to SARS-CoV-2 infection in majority of cases is directly proportional to blood oxygen saturation levels (SpO_2) [4]. However, the authors did not investigate it. This may have provided a better understanding of role of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the higher mortality rate among the groups.

4. It is surprising that authors did not discuss the aetiology of ALF patients such as viral hepatitis, Alcoholic hepatitis, Autoimmune hepatitis, Wilson disease, or sepsis etc. The mortality rate in ALF patients varies and dependent upon multiple factors such as aetiology, age, sex, and supportive care [5].

5. Authors classified patient on the basis of ALT and bilirubin levels but there is significant variation of age among the groups and the consequence of this variation is not discussed.

However, we agree with the authors that the fate of COVID-19 majorly depends on the comorbidity and age of the infected patients.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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