

# Review of: "Tocilizumab Plus Corticosteroid in Elderly Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19 Pneumonia: A Retrospective Cohort Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The work is very important and carried out in a sufficiently large group of geriatric patients - at high risk of death due to COVID-19.

My main objection is that the authors do not compare the importance of the baseline respiratory support. Meanwhile, the study group seems to be much more seriously ill than the control group. The explanation given in the discussion is not sufficient and the results should be evaluated in matched groups of patients.

I believe that before drawing conclusions, the significance of the differences between the groups in Table 1 and Table 3 should be presented.

In addition, the authors omitted important literature items on the effectiveness of TOC and TOC + DX:

Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther. 2021 Jan;19(1):93-100. doi: 10.1080/14787210.2020.1800453. Epub 2020 Aug 1.

J Clin Med. 2021 Apr 9;10(8):1583. doi: 10.3390/jcm10081583.