

# 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.

Tocilizumab Plus Corticosteroid in Elderly Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19 Pneumonia: A Retrospective Cohort Study.

This is a study performed to determine whether adding tocilizumab to corticosteroids decreases the incidence of mechanical ventilation in geriatric COVID -19 population in comparison with corticosteroids. Secondary objectives were to assess in-hospital mortality rate and improvements in the respiratory status.

This is a retrospective study comprises a period of first year of pandemic in non-vaccine era. 176 and 179 patients were included in the investigation and the comparison groups, respectively. The incidence rate of mechanical ventilation support and mortality were found to be greater in investigation group than the comparison group. However the earlier one did not reach the statistical significant. In addition, the combination regiment did not make any improvement in respiratory status.

The manuscript may have an impact on the current literatüre however there are several issues that should be corrected and covered.

1. In the abstract; The incidence of being placed on a ventilator within 28 days was of 20% and 11% (OR=2.0; p=0.016) ..... The OR was wrong.
2. Table 1 does need the p value column at the end.
3. Table 2, correct CI %95 range : %7.3 Or %17.3?
4. Secondary outcome line 2, OR ?, p?
5. Table 3, pls provide p values
6. A further statistical look is needed. For instance, why don't you provide regression analysis to look toci+Cs is independently associated with mortality
7. Do you consider the pharma therapy on mortality and entubation.

Best regards

