

# Review of: "Impact of COVID-19 on imports of medical products: A panel data approach"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is ambitious and seeks to address an interesting issue. Please find below some suggestions.

## Introduction:

Nice introduction to the topic.

You could update the data for European imports, at the moment they refer to the first 10 months in 2020.

Some references in the removal of important restrictions would be useful, particularly when figures for trade surplus are used.

English writing could be slightly edited.

## Literature review and conceptual framework:

The literature review section efficiently presents the state-of-the-art in relevant studies.

The conceptual framework tends to describe the empirical context that this study is based on. So, it could be renamed to empirical context.

## Literature:

Some other variables could be also included, such as trade tariffs and barriers. The latter are sought to be captured with the dummy variable of Dextra. There is a connection here that the authors could elaborate in the analysis.

What does the term 'individual econometric model' stand for?

Why do the authors compare 2015 to 2020 and not estimate the change of imports between 2019 and 2020? In such a way they could capture the impact of Covid-19 more effectively. It would be useful if they could justify their decision to focus on 2015 and 2020.

The authors could refer to the year that each variable refers to, while also improving the titles of tables 1 and 3. At the moment, it is not clear what this 2015 to 2020 refers to. Is it aggregate data for the six year period? Or something else?

The paragraph 'The variable beds captures... between the independent variables (Table 2)' Could come earlier in the section, after the description of the model equation.

Results:

A deeper integration of the results into the literature review as presented in section 2 could be very useful for this paper.