Review of: "Forecasting by Analogy: A Parallel between the Trend of Confirmed COVID-19 Deaths in the Winters of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 in Italy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of COVID-19 death trends in Italy from October 2022 to February 2023 and projects future trends for the 2023-2024 winter wave. It highlights a peak in COVID-19 deaths during the holiday weeks of December 2022 to January 2023, followed by a significant decline, returning to end-of-October levels by early February 2023. The study effectively uses data on weekly death numbers and growth/decline rates to forecast future impacts, predicting a total of 4100-4200 deaths for the November 2023 to January 2024 period, assuming similar duration and rates of increase and decrease as the previous year.

The results presented in this study, focusing on the weekly number of COVID-19 deaths and their growth/decline rates in Italy for two consecutive periods (2022-2023 and 2023-2024), seem to lack depth in data analysis and interpretation. While the study provides a detailed tabulation of weekly deaths and predicts future trends under two different assumptions (A and B), it doesn't thoroughly discuss the underlying factors influencing these trends or the reliability and limitations of the predictive models used. The simplicity of the approach, primarily based on linear extrapolation of past trends, raises questions about the accuracy of the predictions, especially considering the dynamic and complex nature of a pandemic influenced by various external factors like virus mutations, public health measures, and vaccination rates. The study's value lies in its attempt to provide a quantitative analysis of COVID-19 death trends, but it falls short in offering a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the evolving pandemic situation.