

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.

The use of analogy for prediction attracted my attention to this paper. The manuscript, however, lacks important aspects required to be considered before publication. Few of those are given below:

The transmission of COVID-19 and the deaths that followed is a very complex subject with many known and unknown variables. Using just analogy with past years' data cannot provide reliable predictions. If one still wants to continue with analogy-based predictions, at least a sufficient number of years' worth of data should be made available.

In my opinion, authors need to use a statistical model that includes at least known factors like meteorology, etc., and also use the past COVID-19 incidence data to develop a model based on lagged correlations. In this manner, the model may handle analogies.

Governments are implementing a number of interventions; therefore, it is unlikely that forecasts made using analogies would be valid in the future.

The model performance is a crucial step that is missing in the paper. I would suggest carrying out the model evaluation after considering the aforementioned points.

In addition to being non-academic, the paper contains numerous grammatical and English errors that should be fixed.