



lukman hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

Submission Confirmation for Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis

The World Journal of Men's Health <em@editorialmanager.com>
Reply-To: The World Journal of Men's Health <eic.wjmh@gmail.com>
To: Lukman Hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 2:01 PM

Dear Dr. Hakim,

Your submission entitled "Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis" has been received by journal The World Journal of Men's Health

You will be able to check on the progress of your paper by logging on to Editorial Manager as an author. The URL is <https://www.editorialmanager.com/wjmh/>.

Your manuscript will be given a reference number once an Editor has been assigned.

Article processing charges will be charged for accepted manuscripts submitted on or after April 1, 2020. (except for invited articles, editorials, and letters)

Thank you for submitting your work to this journal.

Kind regards,

Hyun Jun Park, M.D., Ph.D.
Editor-In-Chief
The World Journal of Men's Health

In compliance with data protection regulations, you may request that we remove your personal registration details at any time. (Use the following URL: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/wjmh/login.asp?a=r>). Please contact the publication office if you have any questions.



lukman hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

Your submission entitled Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis

The World Journal of Men's Health <em@editorialmanager.com>
Reply-To: The World Journal of Men's Health <eic.wjmh@gmail.com>
To: Lukman Hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 3:36 PM

Dear Dr. Hakim,

Your submission entitled "Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis" has been received by the journal, however, it is being returned to you for the following reason(s):

We have reviewed your article and it does not match the submission guideline below. Please edit and submit again.

1. A structured abstract should consist of Purpose, Materials and Methods, Results, and Conclusions.
2. List 4 to 6 keywords below the abstract.

Please address the above issue(s) prior to resubmitting your manuscript.

Thank you for submitting your work to this journal.

Kind regards,

Hyun Jun Park, M.D., Ph.D.
Editor-In-Chief
The World Journal of Men's Health

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lukman hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

The World Journal of Men's Health: Decision letter for WJMH-22-0019

The World Journal of Men's Health <em@editorialmanager.com>
Reply-To: The World Journal of Men's Health <eic.wjmh@gmail.com>
To: Lukman Hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

Mon, Mar 28, 2022 at 3:14 PM

Ref.: Ms. No. WJMH-22-0019

Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis
The World Journal of Men's Health

Dear Dr. Hakim,

Your above manuscript which you submitted to The World Journal of Men's Health, has been reviewed by editors and experts in the field. Although they found merit in your study, they have raised a few concerns. Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewer(s)' comments and revise your manuscript. A request for revision does not guarantee the article will be accepted for publication. The revised manuscript will be re-reviewed by the same reviewers or other reviewers upon decision of journal editors.

The comments of the reviewer(s) are included at the bottom of this letter.

You will be unable to make your revisions on the originally submitted version of the manuscript. Instead, revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer. Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document by using the track changes mode in MS Word or by using bold or colored text.

When submitting your revised manuscript, you must respond to the comments made by the reviewer(s) in the space provided with the following format:

Q1: *****

A1: *****

Q2: *****

A2: *****

In order to expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewer(s).

Please note your revision is due in Apr 27, 2022.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/wjmh/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

If you have questions, please contact the Editorial Office using your manuscript number WJMH-22-0019.

Yours sincerely,

Hyun Jun Park, M.D., Ph.D.
Editor-In-Chief
The World Journal of Men's Health

Comments from the Editors and Reviewers:

Editor: Reviewer #3: Dear authors,

I read your article entitled: "Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis" with great interest.
The subject of COVID-19 and its relationship to male fertility has been widely published.

These publications are unfortunately not all reliable and are criticised by many reply, or criticised because :

- 1- Semen analysis is not always done by accredited/specialised laboratories
- 2- Fertile/infertile status is not known and the causes of male infertility are not listed, or very rarely. This poses a problem for comparing men.
- 3- Sperm sampling is not always done in spermology laboratories (contamination by hands and coughing) is possible and may explain the presence of viruses in sperm; but more seriously, this raises doubts about the proper performance of the pre-analytical steps in sperm sampling
- 4- If the pre-analytical steps are poor, the result (volume, concentration) is not reliable. For example, the abstinence period is almost never recorded
- 5- Sperm analyses performed on a few subjects and on a single sample are unreliable, not reproducible and their variation could simply be due to chance
- 6- Fever is not always mentioned, although it is known that fever can alter sperm parameters in a reversible manner
- 7- medications received by patients are not mentioned, although they can also influence sperm concentration

For all these reasons, aggregating the results of ejaculate volume and sperm concentration and trying to make a meta-analysis of them is not possible.

Even with robust statistics, the literature on this disease suffers from reliability.

Reviewer #4: This topic is very timely and interesting. However, there are some questions as follows.

1. It seems to be incorrect that stated the mRNA detection rate 12% in the abstract. It is stated as 7% in the main text. Anyway, as the authors reveal, only 3 studies showed semen mRNA, and 17 other studies did not show mRNA. Is the meta-analysis of the 3 literatures that found mRNA meaningful while ignoring 17 published studies?

2. Some patients collected semen during infection while some patients collected after recovery. Is there any bias due to heterogeneity in the covid-19 infection status of patients among the studies?

3. In the results, there is considerable heterogeneity most semen parameters including semen volume, sperm concentration, sperm motility and sperm morphology percentage. Did you find out the cause of this heterogeneity? How about a subgroup analysis according to clinical characteristics, for example, disease severity, age, collection time, and underlying disease? Finding the cause of this heterogeneity seems to suggest new hypotheses for future studies.

Reviewer #6: This is a nicely performed study to assess the male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients. The authors concluded that SARS-CoV-2 infection may result in decreased sperm concentration in severe cases and the mechanism relates to potential reproductive tract inflammation. In addition, the absence of large viral RNA detection in the semen indicates a systemic effect, although this is largely unproven. Although related well-designed research is lacking, this is a nicely performed review and has been reported well. I think this paper is suitable for the acceptance of the World Journal of Men's Health. Several points could be revised and clarified to improve the manuscript for publication on WJMH.

1. It seems difficult because there are not many related reports, but is there any possibility of the difference according to the SARS-CoV-2 subspecies?

2. Several studies have been reported that more than 25 viruses generally considered to be non-sexually transmitted, have been discovered in the human semen. Because of the long duration of the pandemic period, are there any reports related to sexually transmitted infection and the effect on the pregnancy/newborn?

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 **Revision_Due.ics**
1K



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Submission Confirmation for WJMH-22-0019R1

The World Journal of Men's Health <em@editorialmanager.com>
Reply-To: The World Journal of Men's Health <eic.wjmh@gmail.com>
To: Lukman Hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 2:52 PM

Ref.: Ms. No. WJMH-22-0019R1

Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Dear Dr. Hakim,

The World Journal of Men's Health has received your revised submission.

You may check the status of your manuscript by logging onto Editorial Manager at (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/wjmh/>).

Kind regards,

Hyun Jun Park, M.D., Ph.D.
Editor-In-Chief
The World Journal of Men's Health

In compliance with data protection regulations, you may request that we remove your personal registration details at any time. (Use the following URL: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/wjmh/login.asp?a=r>). Please contact the publication office if you have any questions.



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The World Journal of Men's Health: Decision letter for WJMH-22-0019R1

The World Journal of Men's Health <em@editorialmanager.com>
Reply-To: The World Journal of Men's Health <eic.wjmh@gmail.com>
To: Lukman Hakim <lukman-h@fk.unair.ac.id>

Sun, May 15, 2022 at 1:37 PM

Ref.: Ms. No. WJMH-22-0019R1

Male reproductive tract involvement and sperm parameters in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis
The World Journal of Men's Health

Dear Dr. Hakim,

I am pleased to inform you that your work has now been accepted for publication in The World Journal of Men's Health.

It was accepted on May 15, 2022.

Your manuscript has been forwarded to the publisher, who will contact you by email regarding proofs in approximately 4-6 week. For all questions, please contact Production directly at edit@medrang.co.kr.

Comments from the Editor and Reviewers can be found below.

Thank you for your fine contribution. On behalf of the Editors of The World Journal of Men's Health, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal.

With kind regards,

Hyun Jun Park, M.D., Ph.D.
Editor-In-Chief
The World Journal of Men's Health

Comments from the Editors and Reviewers:

Editor: Reviewer #4: Thank you for your response. This study helped to understand the effect of covid-19 on male fertility.

Reviewer #6: You have clearly answered all the questions, and particularly, my point was discussed with details and reasons that positively surprised me. I think that this paper is ready for for publication.

In compliance with data protection regulations, you may request that we remove your personal registration details at any time. ([Remove my information/details](#)). Please contact the publication office if you have any questions.