

CORRESPONDENCE



More on SARS-COV-2 infection in children and adolescents

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Pediatric Research (2022) 91:472; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-021-01723-z>

We read with great interest the study by Mantovani et al. (Vol. 89, issue 4)¹. The authors aimed to assess the overall prevalence of clinical signs, symptoms and radiological findings in children and/or adolescents with COVID-19. We want to congratulate the authors for establishing a timely and informative systematic review of COVID-19 in children. Certainly, the findings of Mantovani et al. hold significance for pediatricians. However, we would like to draw their attention to the following issues.

First, according to the exclusion criteria, the authors stated that 'papers in non-English language were excluded'. However, the references 21, 27 and 28 included in this study were all published in Chinese.

Furthermore, the authors failed to exclude studies suspected of including duplicate reporting. Some children or adolescents may have been included in multiple publications, as admission dates overlap for reports from the same hospital. Several studies were published by the same hospital with the periods of recruitment overlapped²⁻⁴. Including duplicates may introduce bias into a systematic review and may affect understanding the disease and its epidemiology⁵. Studies suspected of including duplicate reporting can be identified based on hospital location, participant admission date, maternal and neonatal characteristics, and outcomes. Thus, we suggest that the authors extract the setting/hospital and recruitment periods to reduce the overlapping risk⁶.

Jianghui Cai¹, Yonghong Lin¹ and Meng-jun Wu¹✉

¹Chengdu Women's and Children's Central Hospital, School of Medicine, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, China. ✉email: wumengjuncd@126.com

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

M.-j.W. conceived the design of the comments and made critical revision. J.C. and Y.L. drafted the manuscript. All authors approved the final version for publication.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to M.-j.W.

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