



Marseille, January 20, 2020

To the Editor of Clinical Infectious Diseases

Dear Editor,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled " Predictive Factors of Clinical Assays during COVID-19".

This article highlights the different criteria associated with the results of studies on the two main molecules proposed for the treatment of COVID-19, namely hydroxychloroquine and remdesivir. More specifically, it proposes criteria to evaluate the quality of future clinical studies in infectious diseases, including the evaluation of conflict of interest, and medical expertise, including the importance of detailed therapeutic protocols. Indeed, while methodological quality is well evaluated by current recommendations (PRISMA, CONSORT, etc...), these do not prevent biases related to conflict of interest and lack of medical expertise (control for age and comorbidities, severity of the disease, importance of microbiological confirmation, evaluation of contraindications...).

We hope that these criteria can help future authors and reviewers to avoid errors with serious consequences such as the Lancetgate scandal.

All authors have seen and approved the manuscript and have significantly contributed to the work. The manuscript has not been previously published and considered for publication elsewhere.

Sincerely,

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