

## COVID-19 in Children With Tuberculosis: Methodological Issues

I read with interest the recently published research paper highlighting COVID outcomes in children with tuberculosis [1]. I have the following concerns related to the study.

The study methodology is unclear. Was this a retrospective chart analysis? The number of children with no tuberculosis is surprisingly low (as compared to those with tuberculosis), when we look at other pediatric coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) studies [2]. The authors have stated “*Only a few studies have highlighted the association between tuberculosis and COVID-19*”; however, no references have been cited for this statement. In fact, there are multiple studies on this aspect of COVID-19 [3,4]. A meta-analysis [4] suggests that in adults COVID with tuberculosis patients are at an elevated risk of mortality than non-tuberculosis COVID patients. Authors should elaborate on possible differences between pediatric and adult tuberculosis that could explain their different outcomes.

**RAJESH KULKARNI**

*Department of Pediatrics,  
Post Graduate Institute-YCM Hospital,  
Pune, Maharashtra.  
docrajesh75@yahoo.com*

### REFERENCES

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### AUTHORS' REPLY

We thank the reader for the interest in our work. Many of the queries raised have already been addressed in two previous communications [1,2].

This was a retrospective study in which data on patients were extracted from the database. This was described in brief in the methods section, due to word limits. For references to other coronavirus diseases 2019 (COVID-19) studies, due to the reference limit in the brief research section, we could not add the references.

We had submitted a brief discussion on tuberculosis and COVID-19 in adults vs children. However, it was removed in subsequent revisions due to word limits and references limit. An upcoming publication from our center will report on the adult-pediatric differences in COVID-19 and tuberculosis coinfection.

**SUSHANT MANE, MANAS PUSTAKE\***

*Centre of Excellence for Pediatric TB,  
Grant Government Medical College and  
Sir JJ Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, Maharashtra.  
\*pustakemanas@gmail.com*

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