




Author's Response

Rehospitalization Rates and Mortality Factors of Chronic Respiratory Failure Patients Using Home-Based NIV Due to Chronic Obstructive and Restrictive Lung Diseases

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To the Editor:

I greatly appreciate the *Thoracic Research and Practice* policy of having an open forum where scientific disagreements can be discussed. We would like to thank the knowledgeable commentators on our study evaluating patients with long-coronavirus disease re-admitting intensive care unit due to acute respiratory failure (ARF).¹

The letter raised interesting points concerning the generalizability of the results due to the small sample size and study design. Since we aimed to evaluate the ICU re-admission of long-coronavirus disease (the symptoms lasting for 4-12 weeks), COVID-19 patients who were discharged and re-admitted to the ICU due to ARF were included in the study.² Therefore, the inclusion criteria inevitably limited the study population. In addition, even if the study was multicentered, larger sample sizes were quite difficult to achieve in a cross-sectional, 1-day point prevalence study. However, despite the small sample size, the study reveals an observational data (demographic and radiologic features, ICU data) of this specific group of patients in various regions and approaches such as treatment.

As the letter mentioned, the lack of a comparison group and the presence of observational data in the current study are limitations. We agree and also mentioned in the conclusion section that it is not possible to evaluate and define the risk factors for the long-term effects of COVID-19 in a cross-sectional study. However, this study serves as a preliminary investigation that could lead to more detailed prospective cohort and case-control studies.

In summary, the current preliminary study provides a snapshot features of ongoing symptomatic COVID-19 cases. In order to reveal the association between ICU re-admission and the presence of comorbidity, malignancy risk analysis should be performed through a control group.

Availability of Data and Materials: The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Author Contributions: Concept – E.T.; Design – E.T.; Supervision – E.T.; Resources – E.T.; Materials – E.T.; Data Collection and/or Processing – E.T.; Analysis and/or Interpretation – E.T.; Literature Search – E.T.; Writing – E.T.; Critical Review – E.T.

Declaration of Interests: The author has no conflicts of interest to declare.

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