



Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

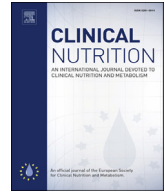
Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Clinical Nutrition

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/clnu>

Letter to the Editor

## Reply - Letter to the editor: Impact of COVID-19 in nutritional and functional status of survivors admitted in intensive care units during the first outbreak. Preliminary results of the NUTRICOVID study

---

**Keywords:**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)  
Intensive care  
Nutritional therapy  
Malnutrition  
Functional status  
Health-related quality of life

---

Dear Editor:

We acknowledge the comments of Gomes da Silva et al. to our article and would like to reply to their queries [1].

First, we would like to address that the aim of our study was to evaluate the long-term nutritional, functional recovery, and use of resources for ICU admitted COVID-19 survivors and not to evaluate the variables that could have influenced the in-hospital outcome, including survival.

Our article presented the study protocol with preliminary data of the patients included and at discharge [2]. As we mentioned, there were several limitations in this preliminary analysis. Firstly, many data were retrospectively collected through electronic medical records, that in some cases were not complete due to the overburden of work in the units during the pandemic crisis; this information includes, for instance, the initiation of medical nutritional therapy and the caloric and protein goals achieved by the patients during the hospital stay. Secondly, the sample size was not calculated to find correlations between variables or to compare subgroups; hence, no statistically significant conclusions can be drawn from the results obtained regarding, for example, the age of the patients. Finally, our data were collected at the first outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic when there was a lack of resources, including ICU beds, to treat these patients. Even though we did

not include this information in our article, the patients admitted to the ICU were those with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, bilateral pneumonia and severe acute respiratory distress syndrome. At that time, the determination of SARS-CoV-2 viral load was not available for the stratification of patient severity but only employed in exceptional cases.

We want to mention that we have finalized the data collection and already analyzed the 1-yr outcomes, which we will send to publish in the coming weeks.

### References

- [1] Gomes da Silva K, Almeida Barros WM, da Silva Souza AP, de Oliveira Nogueira Souza V, Lopes de Souza S. Letter to the editor: impact of COVID-19 in nutritional and functional status of survivors admitted in intensive care units during the first outbreak. Preliminary results of the NUTRICOVID study. *Clin Nutr* 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2022.06.003>.
- [2] Cuerda C, Sánchez López I, Gil Martínez C, Merino Viveros M, Velasco C, Cevallos Peñañel V, et al. Impact of COVID-19 in nutritional and functional status of survivors admitted in intensive care units during the first outbreak. Preliminary results of the NUTRICOVID study. *Clin Nutr* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2021.11.017>.

Cristina Cuerda\*

Nutrition Unit, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón,  
Madrid, Spain

Julia Álvarez-Hernández On behalf of the NUTRICOVID study  
research group of SENDIMAD  
Endocrinology and Nutrition Service, Hospital Universitario Príncipe  
de Asturias, Madrid, Spain

\* Corresponding author. Nutrition Unit, Hospital General  
Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Doctor Esquerdo 46, 28007  
Madrid, Spain. Fax: +34915868540.

E-mail address: [cuerda.cristina@gmail.com](mailto:cuerda.cristina@gmail.com) (C. Cuerda).

31 May 2022