

Peer-Review Report

# Peer Review of “Emergence of the First Strains of SARS-CoV-2 Lineage B.1.1.7 in Romania: Genomic Analysis”

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**Related Articles:**

Preprint (medRxiv): <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.29.21250643v1>

Preprint (JMIR Preprints): <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/28049>

Authors' Response to Peer-Review Reports: <https://med.jmirx.org/2021/3/e23393/>

Published Article: <https://med.jmirx.org/2021/3/e28049/>

(*JMIRx Med* 2021;2(3):e32296) doi: [10.2196/32296](https://doi.org/10.2196/32296)

**KEYWORDS**

infectious disease; COVID-19; strain; virus; Romania; transmission; spread; mutation; impact; case study; genome; sequencing; genetics; epidemiology; variant; virology; lineage

*This is a peer-review report submitted for the paper “Emergence of the First Strains of SARS-CoV-2 Lineage B.1.1.7 in Romania: Genomic Analysis.”*

## Round 1 Review

**General Comments**

This paper [1] reports the identification and characterization of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 variant (the English variant) in North-East Romania and a synopsis of the circulation of this

variant in Romania. The manuscript is timely, straightforward, and professionally crafted, and the results are of interest for the characterization of SARS-CoV-2 strains. Such routine surveys are necessary to trace the emergence of new variants of interest and are scarce in Eastern Europe.

**Minor Comments**

The manuscript needs some revision of English. It is generally well prepared, but there are several instances in which it could benefit from a professional revision.

**Conflicts of Interest**

None declared.

**Reference**

1. Lobiuc A, Dimian M, Sturdza O, Filip R, Covasa M. Emergence of the First Strains of SARS-CoV-2 Lineage B.1.1.7 in Romania: Genomic Analysis. *JMIRx Med* 2021 Aug;2(3):e28049 [FREE Full text] [doi: [10.2196/28049](https://doi.org/10.2196/28049)]

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