

Peer-Review Report

# Peer Review of “Health Care System Overstretch and In-Hospital Mortality of Intubated Patients With COVID-19 in Greece From September 2020 to April 2022: Updated Retrospective Cohort Study”

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**Related Articles:**Preprint (JMIR Preprints): <http://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/43341>Authors' Response to Peer-Review Reports: <https://med.jmirx.org/2024/1/e59637>Published Article: <https://med.jmirx.org/2024/1/e43341>*JMIRx Med* 2024;5:e59639; doi: [10.2196/59639](https://doi.org/10.2196/59639)

**Keywords:** COVID-19; pandemic; health care disparities; intensive care unit; ICU; right to health; quality of care; intubation; mortality; health disparity; health inequality; surveillance data; in-patient; mortality; COVID-19 patient; hospitalization; disparity; inequality; surveillance; health care system; Greece; region; Delta; Omicron; vaccination; vaccine; public health; patient load; deterioration; time

*This is the peer review report for “Health Care System Overstretch and In-Hospital Mortality of Intubated Patients With COVID-19 in Greece From September 2020 to April 2022: Updated Retrospective Cohort Study.”*

## Round 1 Review

### General Comments

This paper [1] is interesting but needs improvement.

### Specific Comments

#### Major Comments

*We aimed to update this analysis to include the large “Delta” and “Omicron” waves that affected Greece during 2021-2022*

So why did you analyze data also from 2020?

*Vaccination did not affect the mortality of these already severely ill patients.*

Did you check how many months before they had received the vaccine? How many of the participants were not vaccinated?

*Vaccination did not show a statistically significant association with mortality, regardless of the number of doses received (Figure 2).*

#### Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

This needs rephrasing if all participants were vaccinated at least once.

*Between 1 September 2020 and 3 April 2022...*

I see that your previous study included data up to May 2021. Thus, there is a lot of overlap in the data of these two studies.

There are many errors in the use of English and typos which makes it difficult to understand. See examples below:

*Mortality was significantly higher above 400 patients*

This is not very clear (please rephrase).

*...with an adjusted Hazard Ratio of 1.22, 95% CI: 1.09-1.38)*

Where does the parenthesis open?

*...rising progressively up to 1.48 (95% CI: 1.31-1.69) for 800+ patients.*

This is not clear.

*...we found no statistically association between mortality and...*

Please correct typo.

#### Minor Comments

It would be good to include DOIs to all references.

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**References**

1. Lytras T. Health care system overstretch and in-hospital mortality of intubated patients with COVID-19 in Greece from September 2020 to April 2022: updated retrospective cohort study. JMIRx Med. 2024;5:e43341. [doi: [10.2196/43341](https://doi.org/10.2196/43341)]
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