

**Post-publication review done on 31 May 2021 for article on MedRxiv, titled:**

**"Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices towards SARS-COV-2 Infection in the United Arab Emirates Population: a Cross-sectional Survey-based Study" [Link](#)**

===== REVIEW =====

## **ABSTRACT**

Well structured, smoothly progressing, clearly stating the aim; important results were well projected. The conclusion reflected the objectives. But the rationale for including mental factor (depression) should at least be concisely mentioned here (and later detailed in the body of the article).

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Well presented, included recent relevant literature (though relatively few) and inline with the article issue. But the authors presented several separate successive statements in a paragraph and cited them at the end of the last statement with one reference. They could have brought in assorted citations for separate statements to enrich the argument. But at least citation should be at the end of the first statement (This trend seems to occur repeatedly further down in other sections and need attention)

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## **METHOD**

Appropriate and clearly explained in detail, but may need reordering :

- 'Study instrument' : move up and attach it to 'Study Design' section.
- Re-ordering of steps of the procedure: i. e. time of launching and collecting of the questionnaire, sample size calculation, inclusion criteria, then description of the questionnaire.

Sentence "preventing covid-19 " may be better changed to something like: "to prevent the possibility of contracting covid 19".

Ethical declaration should be in a separate paragraph (preferably under its own sub-heading), not under 'statistical analysis'.

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## **RESULTS**

Clearly presented and reliable. Significances appropriately stated. Tables consistent. But this section should 'neutrally' present the results obtained without interference with comment. It is better to leave out instances of opinion, analysis, interpretation or evaluation; and spare them for the discussion. Examples of these instances are:

"The survey uncovered important determinants of the population..."

"Interestingly, only half..."

"Although excellent adherence was reported"

"Wearing face masks in public is considered one..."

"This value represents twice what was reported last year among ambulatory health services patients..."

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## **DISCUSSION**

Interpreted the key results fairly well although utilized scanty references to support or compare findings. citation in text also suffered pitfalls similar to those discussed above in introduction section. The majority of in-text citations do not correspond appropriately to their assumed position in the references section.

First sentence "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study in the UAE and Eastern Mediterranean region to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practices towards SARS-COV-2 infection." may not be accurate; several published articles in the mentioned region existed earlier than this one. please see:

Abdelhafiz, A. S., Mohammed, Z., Ibrahim, M. E., Ziady, H. H., Alorabi, M., Ayyad, M., & Sultan, E. A. (2020). Knowledge, perceptions, and attitude of Egyptians towards the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). *Journal of Community Health*, 45(5), 881-890

Almofada, Sarah K., et al. "Knowledge, attitudes, and practices toward COVID-19 in a Saudi Arabian population: a cross-sectional study." *Cureus* 12.6 (2020).

Ghazi, Hasanain Faisal, et al. "Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Regarding Coronavirus Disease-19: Population-Based Study in Iraq." Open Access Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences 8.T1 (2020): 137-141

Hasan, Hayder, et al. "A Cross-Sectional Study on University Students' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Toward COVID-19 in the United Arab Emirates." The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene 104.1 (2020): 75-84.

The statement in the sentence: "The relationship between depression risk and..... one study to date." need naming the reference and citing it.

The sentence: "Since this study was conducted during the early to intermediate stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, we expected good knowledge and practice results towards SARS-COV-2 infection among UAE residents." ; can the authors elaborate more in order to come up with a logical explanation of their expectation?

The sentence "More adherence to wearing mask in china, Zhong et al (2020) might be attributed to the fact that participants were visiting public crowded places" couldn't there be other pertinent reasons such as effective health education, strong legal regulations, abundance of supply, affordability ...etc? Engagement with more literature (sufficiently available) would elicit rather convincing explanations.

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## **CONCLUSION**

The article lacks a conclusion section that would concisely put together the important findings in context of the objectives in a summary. Although it can be put at the end of the discussion section, it is better to separate it under its own sub-heading.

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## **REFERENCES**

the references cited in-text or those in the references section need comprehensive revision to make sure they correspond correctly in both sections .

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## **OTHERS**

Acknowledgment, Ethical Declaration, and Conflict of interest should be in separate paragraphs, each under its own sub-heading.

language check needed specially for spelling: e.g participants, adherence...etc

Authors may wish to define 'UAE' fully at its first occurrence

===== END OF REVIEW =====