Letter to the Editor

Prognostic nutritional index, immune nutritional status and COVID-19

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Dear Editor,

We would like to share ideas on the manuscript "Prognostic nutritional index (PNI) as indicator of immune nutritional status of patients with COVID-19 [1]." Ekinci et al. concluded that "*PNI, calculated from the serum albumin concentration and total lymphocyte count, is a simple and objective indicator …. useful for risk stratification of patients with COVID-19 in clinical practice. 2019* [1]." We agree on the possible usefulness of the PNI. However, the outcome of the patient depends on many factors, including comorbidity and COVID-19 treatment. Effect of those factors should be analyzed. Regarding comorbidity, many concurrent medical problems, such as underlying chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), are associated with poor outcome of COVID-19 [2]. Analysis of the effects of comorbidity by the Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI) might be useful. In a previous report, a combined PNI and CCI increased prognostic utility in many medical disorders [3, 4]. Additionally, many studied laboratory parameters might be confounded by other possible concurrent medical disorder. For example, underlying thalassemia and parasitic infestation might affect hemoglobin and ferritin levels [5, 6]. The usefulness of the PNI in the endemic area of those medical problems should be further reassessed.

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Conflict of interest
The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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