

Jun 17, 2020

## Quality of COVID-19 research in preprints: a meta-epidemiological study protocol

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bhm8j49w>

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**Protocol Citation:** Yuki Kataoka, Shiho Oide, Takashi Ariie, Yasushi Tsujimoto, Toshi A. Furukawa 2020. Quality of COVID-19 research in preprints: a meta-epidemiological study protocol. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bhm8j49w>

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**Protocol status:** Working

**We use this protocol and it's working**

**Created:** June 17, 2020

**Last Modified:** June 17, 2020

**Protocol Integer ID:** 38304

**Keywords:** epidemiological study protocol background, epidemiological study, systematic review, systematic review article, controlled trial article, sr articles in medrxiv, quality of study, included study, research, study, controlled trial, following research question, medrxiv, trial article, medrxiv from 1st january, patient, study protocol, methodological quality, pubmed, ethical consideration

## Abstract

Background:

No studies have comprehensively assessed the quality of studies related to COVID-19 in preprints [11]. Hence, we will conduct a meta-epidemiological study based on the following research question: Are the quality of COVID-19 RCT and SR articles in medRxiv lower than those indexed in PubMed?

Methods:

We will conduct a meta-epidemiological cross-sectional study. We will include randomized controlled trial articles and systematic review articles indexed in PubMed or MedRxiv from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. We will include articles of COVID-19 patients or healthcare workers engaged in the care of COVID-19 patients. We will exclude study protocols. We will evaluate the characteristics of included studies, methodological quality, number of mentions on social networking sites (SNS), and citations. We will use chi-squared test, logistic regression analysis, and linear regression analysis as appropriate. Two-tailed p values will be considered statistically significant if less than 0.05.

Ethical consideration:

We will only use openly available data. There is no need to make ethical considerations.

## Attachments



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