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To the Editor

The interest of combining cytokines detection at the early phase of Covid 19 infection has been recently reported by Nagant and coll to predict the severity of the disease and the probability of intensive care transfer (1).

If cytokines are easily evaluable in serum and have been proposed as potential immunological biomarkers for predicting disease progression (2,3) it remains dependant on the delay after hospital admission to obtain these serum determinations. This is a critical factor for a score combining only cytokines detection to predict illness evolution. It is important to know in these observations how much time after admission cytokines results were obtained to calculate the prediction score in Covid 19 patients. This important information has not been reported in this interesting work.

The cytokine score results could be correlated with more easily and quickly obtainable patients evaluations, as the results of clinical examination (respiratory rate) or blood gas evaluation with cutaneous Oxygen saturation follow-up, oxygen supplementation or arterial blood gas examinations with PaO₂ and PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio determination. Different existing scores using this easily available data like Quick COVID-19 Severity Index (qCSI) or the ROX score combining these clinical features and oxygenation supplementation or evaluation have been developed to assess the probability of respiratory distress which remains one of the major causes of intensive care admission for Covid 19 patients and to identify in this population patients at risk of severe respiratory complications 4,5). As reported by Nagant and coll the WHO classification effectively referred to these wellknown and easily available data collected in emergency rooms to classify Covid 19 patients.

It would also be interesting to compare the results of the calculated cytokine scoring with chest CT scan results and particularly with the extension of lung area showing typical pulmonary infiltrates suggesting Covid 19 lesions which also inform about the severity of the Covid 19 lung lesions (6,7).

So this cytokine score calculation could effectively contribute to confirm the severity of the Covid 19 illness but this score needs to be quickly obtained after emergency admission. Otherwise other well described scores or easy to perform examinations give rapidly significant indications about the severity of the Covid 19 illness and the probability of intensive care admission in most cases for respiratory support.

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Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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