

## Interleukin-6 level, right ventricular systolic dysfunction, and coronavirus disease 2019

To the Editor,

We would like to share our ideas on the article, "Interleukin-6 (IL-6) level is an independent predictor of right ventricular systolic dysfunction in patients hospitalized with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) (1). Erdoğan et al. (1) concluded that, "IL-6 is an independent predictor of RV systolic impairment in patients hospitalized with mild ... can be used to predict RV systolic impairment in patients suffering from this infection." (1). IL-6 might be a useful clinical predictor; however, there are many points to be discussed in this article. First, the subgrouping of patients with COVID-19 on the basis of severity might be useful. A patient with COVID-19 infection in the severe group might have a higher chance to develop clinical complications. In addition, there are various COVID-19 medications, and the effect of some of these drugs, such as hydroxychloroquine, on cardiac function should not be ignored. Finally, the level of IL-16 might also be affected by many underlying factors. For example, an intestinal parasitic infestation could result in an abnormal level of IL-16 (2, 3). Hence, the clinical value of IL-16 as a predictive parameter might be limited in areas with a high incidence of helminthiasis.

### REFERENCES

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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