

Lyon (France), July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Dear Editor,

We have read with great attention the letters and comments received by the journal following our publication.

The only letter that holds our attention is that of Viera et al. (BIOPHA-D-24-00992), which presents well-constructed and factual arguments (use of risk ratio, adjusted mortality rate) for a better estimation of the excess mortality related to the prescription of HCQ. The calculations lead to estimates of the same order of magnitude as those produced by our study.

However, this does not qualitatively challenge our results, as written by the authors of the letter. The authors mistakenly used a treatment effect combining hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine from a network meta-analysis for their estimates, which is not the purpose of our study.

All the authors agree with the arguments and conclusions set out in our responses.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely yours.

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