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Association between age and clinical characteristics and outcomes of COVID-19. LIU ET AL. RESEARCH LETTER Age, clinical characteristics and outcomes of COVID-19

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*To the Editor:*

The rapid outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been a matter of international concern as the disease is spreading fast [1, 2]. Considering that the contagious disease has led to an enormous impact globally, there is an urgent need to identify the risk populations with poor prognosis. Ageing is associated with certain changes in pulmonary physiology, pathology and function, during the period of lung infection. Therefore, age-related differences in responsiveness and tolerance become obvious and lead to worse clinical outcomes in elderly individuals [3]. Previous studies have mentioned that older COVID-19 patients are at an increased risk of death [4–7]. However, the age-related clinical characteristics, disease courses and outcomes other than death in COVID-19 patients remain unclear.