

# Comment on “Potential role of ACE2 in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) prevention and management”

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## TO THE EDITOR

We read interesting correspondence reported by Liu *et al.*<sup>[1]</sup> We would like to remind the forgotten aspects of ACE 2 enzyme.

ACE 2 enzyme doesn't only hydrolyze angiotensin proteins, it also hydrolyzes ghrelin, Apelin-13 and other proteins.<sup>[2]</sup> ARB and ACEI may increase ACE2 enzyme, which may increase the infection and decrease apelin-13 and ghrelin levels.

Ghrelin and Apelin-13 are reported to be neuroprotective.<sup>[3,4]</sup> Also, after ischemic injury, ghrelin seems to improve recovery.<sup>[4]</sup> In COVID patients, taking these drugs may be more prone to stroke and other neurological complications. Decrease in ghrelin levels may increase the virus induced acute lung injury.<sup>[5]</sup>

Decreased level of these hormones may be responsible from several complications in COVID-19.

The other aspects of diseases and drugs that may effect ACE2 expression<sup>[1]</sup> is they may also effect the response of drugs targetting COVID-19. We don't know if vaccine efficiency may also be affected by these factors.

## Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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