

## Letter to the Editor



# Author's Reply to Heart Transplantation to Fulminant Myocarditis during COVID-19 Outbreak

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

► See the letter “Heart Transplantation to Fulminant Myocarditis during COVID-19 Outbreak” in volume 50 on page 1040.

We sincerely appreciate the letter by Viroj Wiwanitkit for our recently published report regarding the successful heart transplantation case to a fulminant myocarditis patient during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.<sup>1)</sup>

Infection transmission of COVID-19 is the highest concern in all fields of contemporary medical practice, and it is especially important during the process of heart transplantation. Pre-transplantation prevention strategies of infection need to be focused on the recipient with advanced heart failure, the brain death donor, and all the related medical staff.<sup>2)3)</sup>

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most hospitals should take their role to care for COVID-19 confirmed patients and at the same time, they need to maintain their ordinary function of managing non-COVID-19 patients. Therefore, a complete isolation strategy to separate COVID-19 patients from noninfected patients is an important issue. COVID-19 patients need to be isolated in the negative pressure isolation room and heart transplant recipients receiving immunosuppressive treatment need to be treated at a different location, preferably in the positive pressure isolation room. In terms of the ‘good’ management, heart transplant team members are required to provide the best level of pre- and post-operative management for the successful treatment outcome even in the hard times of the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, medical staff members who are in close contact with the heart transplant recipient should thoroughly follow the basic infection-prevention guideline during their routine clinical practice. With this strategy, the ‘Medical Superheroes’ can keep on saving lives from advanced heart failure during the challenge of unprecedented virus pandemic.

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