




Go slow to go fast: a plea for sustained scientific rigour in air pollution research during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Present studies on the role of air pollution and COVID-19 spread, and the prognosis in patients, do not fulfil quality criteria and are not sufficiently informative <https://bit.ly/3hGjd73>

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Researchers in the air pollution field are well aware that indoor and outdoor air pollution is associated with multiple disorders, including an increase in respiratory infection-related morbidity and mortality [1, 2]. Investigating associations linking air pollution and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) spread and prognosis of respiratory disease in COVID-19 patients is therefore timely, relevant and plausible. Over a 10-day period, three papers involving original research associating COVID-19 mortality and air pollution were published [3–5]. These publications attracted considerable attention from international news outlets and on social media [6, 7].