

## Response to Rabelo-da-Ponte

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## **TO THE EDITOR**

We thank Rabelo-da-Ponte for his letter expressing concern regarding our study of convalescent plasma therapy for COVID-19. We agree with the findings by Rabelo-da-Ponte that convalescent plasma can reduce the SARS-CoV-2 loads and may decrease the plasma C-reactive protein levels of COVID-19 patients. As mentioned by Rabelo-da-Ponte, the sub-analysis of one randomized clinical trial [1] suggested a potential therapeutic benefit of convalescent plasma in COVID-19 patients suffering from severe stage but not life-threatening stage of disease. In our view, this indicates that convalescent plasma treatment should be initiated early, as suggested by our group previously [2, 3], because severe (respiratory distress and/or hypoxemia) is an earlier stage in disease progression than life-threatening (shock, organ failure, or requiring mechanical ventilation).

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