



# Interleukin-6 and intrapulmonary shunt

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Based on animal studies and indirect clinical evidence, it may be speculated that IL-6 has a pathophysiological role in intrapulmonary shunt associated to COVID-19 <https://bit.ly/3whQVqd>

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*To the Editor:*

We read with interest the article by Kotwica *et al.* [1] showing the utility of clinical pulse oximetry measurements to quantify shunt and ventilation–perfusion mismatch and their predictive value in severe coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The authors found that shunt correlated with markers of activated inflammatory response (*i.e.* C-reactive protein) but not those of activated coagulation (such as D-dimer). Their results reinforce the growing evidence for the role of impaired hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction (HPV) as a primary cause for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)-induced hypoxaemia [2].

