

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: JNHM-104

**Title:** The role of IL-6 and IL-8 in the severity of bloody diarrhea caused by parasitic infections: a case control study

### Recommendation:

Accept after major revision .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity				✓
Significance		✓		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-198

Date: 27-05-2026

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

The manuscript investigates the association between PON1 Q192R polymorphism, oxidative stress markers, and cardiovascular disease risk in diabetic and hemodialysis patients from a Moroccan population. The topic is relevant and potentially valuable, particularly because data from North African populations are limited. However, the manuscript has major issues in statistical interpretation, language quality, methodological clarity, data presentation, and scientific rigor.

### Major Comments

1. Most odds ratios reported are **not statistically significant** because the confidence intervals cross 1.0.

Examples:

- OR = 1.37 (95% CI: 0.62–3.04)
- OR = 1.97 (95% CI: 0.63–6.21)

Despite this, the manuscript repeatedly claims increased cardiovascular risk and strong associations. These conclusions are overstated and not adequately supported statistically.

### 2. Phenotype vs Genotype Confusion

The manuscript repeatedly refers to:

- “allelic frequency”
- “phenotype distribution”
- “Q192R polymorphism”

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However, actual genotyping methods are not described. The study appears to infer phenotypes from enzyme activity ratios rather than direct molecular genotyping. This needs clarification because phenotype estimation is not equivalent to genotype determination.

### 3. Poor Language and Grammar

The manuscript contains extensive grammatical problems, including:

- incorrect verb tense; sentence structure issues; inconsistent terminology; typographical errors

Substantial English editing is required.

### 4. Methodological Issues

- No sample size calculation or power analysis.
- Confounding variables not adequately controlled.
- Medication effects (especially statins) may strongly influence PON1 activity but are insufficiently addressed.
- Cardiovascular disease definition is unclear.
- Adjusted odds ratios are reported, but adjustment variables are not clearly stated.

### 5. Tables are Poorly Organized

Several tables are incomplete or confusing:

- Table formatting is inconsistent.
- OR tables are fragmented.
- Confidence intervals are improperly written.
- Some tables appear duplicated or partially corrupted.

6. The discussion repeatedly interprets non-significant trends as confirmed associations. Statements such as:

- “This study confirms...”
- “The R allele is responsible...”

are scientifically too strong given the weak statistical support.

### Minor Comments

- Units and symbols inconsistent.
- Repeated statements throughout Discussion.
- Some sentences are difficult to interpret scientifically.
- Excessive repetition of literature citations.