

# SARS-CoV-2 in Semen

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Dear Editor,

I would like to discuss the publication “Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 in semen of patients in the acute stage of COVID-19 infection” [1]. Kayaaslan et al. [1] concluded that “although all semen samples were obtained in the acute stage of the infection when the nasopharyngeal swab test was positive, we did not detect SARS-CoV-2 in semen.” In fact, there are some previous reports showing no existence of pathogen in semen samples [2, 3]. Nevertheless, a recent meta-analysis still noted that there is still a requirement for caution on the possibility of COVID-19

transmission via sexual contact [4]. In fact, there is a very low possibility that semen will be the body fluid leading to disease transmission. During a sexual contact, the distance between partners is very short, and the chance of transmission by respiratory contact should be a more important consideration [5].

## Disclosure Statement

There is no conflict of interest.

## References

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- 3 González-Castro A, Peñasco Y, Escudero-Acha P, Cuenca E. [Isolation of SARS-CoV-2 on reproductive tissue, a possible path of transmission]. *Rev Esp Salud Publica*. 2020 Jul;94:e1–2. Spanish.
- 4 Khalili MA, Leisegang K, Majzoub A, Finelli R, Panner Selvam MK, Henkel R, et al. Male fertility and the COVID-19 pandemic: systematic review of the literature. *World J Mens Health*. 2020 Oct;38(4):506–20.
- 5 Wiwanitkit V. Atypical modes of COVID-19 transmission: how likely are they? *Epidemiol Health*. 2020;42:e2020059.