



Coronavirus disease 2019 in patients with inborn errors of immunity: lessons learned

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Purpose of review

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic has caused extreme concern for patients with inborn errors of immunity (IEIs). In the first 6 months of the pandemic, the case fatality rate among patients with IEIs resembled that of the general population (9%). This review aims at summarizing what we have learned about the course and outcome of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in patients with different IEIs and what this can potentially teach us about the immune mechanisms that could confer protection or predisposition to severe disease.

Recent findings

A total of 649 patients with IEI and COVID-19 have been reported in the last year and a half, spanning all groups of the International Union of Immunological Societies classification of IEIs. For most patients, the underlying IEI does not represent an independent risk factor for severe COVID-19. In fact, some IEI may even be protective against the severe disease due to impaired inflammation resulting in less immune-mediated collateral tissue damage.

Summary

We review the characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 infection in a large number of patients with IEI. Overall, we found that combined immunodeficiencies, immune dysregulation disorders, and innate immune defects impairing type I interferon responses are associated with severe disease course.

Keywords

coronavirus disease 2019, inborn errors of immunity, primary immunodeficiency, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2

INTRODUCTION

More than a year and a half into the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has infected more than 200 million individuals (confirmed cases) and caused more than 4 million deaths. Despite shielding and being prioritized in vaccination campaigns in many countries, many patients with previously known inborn errors of immunity (IEIs) became infected with SARS-CoV-2 and hundreds of these cases have now been reported in the scientific literature. Moreover, a number of reports validated the hypothesis that individuals who became severely ill with SARS-CoV-2 – a primary infection for both children and adults – could suffer from a hitherto unknown defined error of immunity [1^{**},2^{**},3,4,5^{**},6^{**},7^{**},8^{**}]. Based on these studies, a picture of the impact of COVID-19 in IEI is emerging. Furthermore, we are quickly understanding the fundamental requirements for successful host defense against SARS-CoV-2, as well as immune mechanisms that contribute to disease severity.

OVERVIEW OF REPORTS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 IN PATIENTS WITH INBORN ERRORS OF IMMUNITY

We here analyze the published case series and single cases describing the outcome of COVID-19 in patients with IEIs. Removing duplicate patients, to the best of our knowledge, we count a total of 649 reported patients with IEI who were infected with

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KEY POINTS

- IELs in general do not represent an independent risk factor for severe SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Combined immunodeficiencies, immune dysregulation disorders and defects of innate immunity impairing type I interferon responses, show a higher rate of severe disease and higher mortality.
- Inborn errors of type I interferon responses and IEL in which patients harbor autoantibodies against these cytokines, confer a high risk for critical COVID-19, reflecting the crucial role of type I interferon in host defense against SARS-CoV-2.

SARS-CoV-2, spanning all subgroups of immune defects as defined by the International Union of Immunological Societies committee for IEL (Table 1) [1[■],3,4,5[■],9[■],10–65]. Patients were mostly included based on a positive molecular test, antigenic test, or serology, although some reports also include patients with symptoms and clinical imaging compatible with a diagnosis of COVID-19, with or without a history of exposure to infected individuals [10,12,14,15,18]. As a result, the case fatality rate (CFR) attributed to COVID-19 could be overestimated in some reports. For example, in a UK cohort of 67 patients with IEL Shields *et al.* [15] report 12 patients as having succumbed to COVID-19, although only 47 (62.7%) had a PCR-proven or serology-proven infection. Counting the remaining 20 patients as COVID-19 cases without

proof could have led to an overestimation of COVID-19-related morbidity and mortality. Of note, since our knowledge on the multiple facets and complications COVID-19, such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) and in adults (MIS-A), has grown gradually during the pandemic, some relevant features of the disease were not highlighted in early reports [5[■]].

Antibody deficiencies

Reflecting the relative frequency of humoral immunodeficiencies among IELs, the majority of patients who experienced COVID-19 are affected by antibody deficiency ($n=330$, 51%) [5[■],9[■],10,12–17,19,24,26,28,30,33,34,36,37,42,44,45,48,52,53,55,57–62,64,66–69]. Among them, 200 have common variable immunodeficiency (CVID, 60% of all antibody deficiencies), 59 have X-linked agammaglobulinemia (XLA, 18%) and eight have autosomal recessive agammaglobulinemia (2%). The remaining 63 patients have other B-cell defects including TRNT1 deficiency ($n=1$), activated PI3K δ syndrome (APDS, $n=4$), IgG subclass deficiency ($n=2$), specific polysaccharide antibody deficiency (SPAD, $n=13$), isolated IgA deficiency ($n=15$), or unspecified antibody deficiency ($n=28$). The rate of admission to ICU is 14% for the whole group of patients with Ab deficiencies and the subgroups of CVID and XLA patients. CFR is 8% for the whole group ($n=26$), 9% for CVID, 8% for XLA, 8% for SPAD, and 13% for the unspecified antibody deficiencies, while the CFR of patients with IgA deficiency, other

Table 1. Patients with inborn errors of immunity affected by coronavirus disease 2019: type of immune defect and outcome

Type of IEL	No. of patients (%)	ICU admission rate ^a	Case fatality rate (no.)
Antibody deficiency	330 (51%)	14%	8% (26)
CVID	200 (31%)	14%	9% (17)
XLA	59 (9%)	14%	8% (5)
Combined immunodeficiency	94 (14%)	20%	13% (12)
SCID pre-HSCT	7 (1%)	57%	57% (4)
SCID post-HSCT or GT	10 (1.5%)	0%	0%
Disorder of immune dysregulation	62 (10%)	28%	15% (9)
APS-1	27 (4%)	41%	15% (4)
Autoinflammatory disease	54 (8%)	4%	6% (3)
Innate immune defect	39 (6%)	62%	10% (4)
Phagocyte defect	34 (5%)	8%	6% (2)
Complement defect	29 (4%)	0%	0%
Phenocopy (Good syndrome)	7 (1%)	75%	43% (3)
Total	649	16%	9% (59)

CVID, common variable immunodeficiency; GT, gene therapy; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IEL, inborn error of immunity; SCID, severe combined immunodeficiency; XLA, X-linked agammaglobulinemia.

^aCalculated on patients for whom the information was available.

B-cell defects or APDS is 0%. The cause of death was reported for 15 patients: 14/15 had one or multiple comorbidities and succumbed to respiratory failure with or without sepsis and multiorgan failure, and one child developed secondary hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) and pulmonary hemorrhage [5[•],10,12,42,45,68].

Combined immunodeficiencies and posthematopoietic stem-cell transplantation/gene therapy

Ninety-four patients with a diagnosis of combined immunodeficiency (CID) were infected with SARS-CoV-2 (14%) [5[•],9[•],10,12–16,27,37,39,49,51,54,57,62,63,66]. The rate of ICU admission is 20% in this group, with a CFR of 13% ($n=12$). This cohort included 17 patients with severe CID (SCID), 10 of whom had previously undergone hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation (HSCT) or gene therapy [5[•],10,12–14,39,49,51]. The CFR among children with SCID who had not been treated with HSCT is strikingly high ($n=4/7$, all affected by preexisting unspecified lower respiratory tract infections, and one with Omenn syndrome also by BCGitis [13]), while none of the SCID patients after curative treatment required admission to the ICU or died, even in case of progressive graft failure ($n=1$) [5[•],10,12,14,39,49,51]. The cause of death was respiratory failure in all four cases [13]. In addition, an adult with unspecified CID died of HLH, an adolescent with CD40L deficiency died of MIS-C with pneumonia, and a child with serine-threonine protein kinase 4 deficiency had hepatitis, bloody diarrhea, and died of cardiorespiratory failure [10,13,16]. Among syndromic forms of CID, SARS-CoV-2 infection has been reported in six patients (two adolescents and four adults) with autosomal dominant hyper-IgE syndrome due to heterozygous dominant negative signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) mutations [5[•],63]. One adult with severe comorbidities, including obesity and cardio-respiratory impairment, died of respiratory failure and shock, while the other patients survived and had mild disease.

A total of 15 other patients treated with HSCT or gene therapy were infected with SARS-CoV-2 [5[•],9[•],10,16,27,43]. Of three Wiskott–Aldrich syndrome (WAS) patients who underwent HSCT ($n=2$) or gene therapy ($n=1$), one succumbed to cytomegalovirus (CMV) encephalitis and bacterial pneumonia, while the other two survived [5[•],10]. Two patients who were transplanted to treat X-linked proliferative syndrome due to mutations in the gene encoding X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis protein (XIAP) died after being infected with SARS-CoV-2

post-HSCT: one was infected on day 6 post-HSCT and had a mild disease, but later succumbed to fungal infection in the context of poor engraftment, and the other died of sepsis and HLH in the context of severe graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) [5[•],10]. One patient each was transplanted for leukocyte adhesion deficiency III, nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- κ B) essential modulator (NEMO) deficiency, cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein 4 (CTLA4) haploinsufficiency, Chediak–Higashi syndrome, or chronic granulomatous disease (CGD), and all survived COVID-19 [5[•],10,16,27,43]. Finally, the Italian IEI network reports five additional patients (a sixth with WAS is already included in the report from Meyers *et al.*) with unspecified IEIs treated with HSCT, gene therapy or thymus transplantation, who all survived COVID-19 [9[•]].

Immune dysregulation disorders

As for immune dysregulation disorders, COVID-19 has been reported in 62 patients (10%), the majority of whom were affected by autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome type 1 (APS-1, $n=27$, 44%) [3,4,5[•],10,13,14,16,21,22,37,40,56,57,70]. The rate of ICU admission was 28% and CFR 15% ($n=9$). The rate of admission to the ICU rises to 41% for APS-1 patients, while CFR remains at 15% ($n=4$). All APS-1 patients who died succumbed to respiratory failure [21]. The high rate of severe disease and mortality among APS-1 patients is explained by their preexisting neutralizing antitype I interferon autoantibodies (anti-IFN- α and/or ω), which were shown to block the initial antiviral type I interferon response by Bastard *et al.* [7[•],21]. Eleven patients have CTLA4 haploinsufficiency or lipopolysaccharide-responsive and beige-like anchor protein (LRBA) deficiency (18%) and two succumbed (CFR 18%) [5[•],14–16,56]. Three patients had XIAP mutations, and 2/2 of these patients died post-HSCT [4,5[•],10].

Autoinflammatory disorders

Autoinflammatory disorders were present in 54 patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 (8%), 39 with familial Mediterranean fever (FMF, 72%) [5[•],12,13,20]. The rate of ICU admission was 4% and CFR 6% ($n=3$) for the entire group, while both ICU admission rate and CFR were 3% ($n=1$) for FMF patients. One child with unspecified autoinflammatory disease died of MIS-C and vasculitis, while a child with deficiency of IL-1 receptor antagonist syndrome died of respiratory failure [12,13]. Five children with Aicardi–Goutières syndrome (AGS, two reported to be on janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors) all survived [5[•],9[•],15].

Innate immune defects

Thirty-nine patients with innate immune defects and COVID-19 have been reported (6%) [1[■],5[■],10,16,23,35,38,47,71]. The rate of ICU admission of this group is the highest at 62%, potentially because a large number of patients was accounted for by studies focusing on innate immune defects in critical COVID-19 cases [1[■],23]. The CFR is 10% ($n=4$). In one case, cause of death was septic shock and in another one neurological involvement with seizures, cerebral sinus thrombosis and venous infarction, and multiorgan failure [23,47].

Phagocyte defects

Thirty-four patients with phagocyte defects are reported (5%), among whom 18 have CGD (53%) [4,5[■],10,12–14,16,43,50,57,66]. ICU admission rate and CFR is 6% ($n=2$). The cause of death in these two cases of children with CGD resulted from bacterial septic shock [5[■],12].

Complement deficiencies

Twenty-nine patients with complement deficiency, mostly hereditary angioedema, had mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 (4%) [10,15]. In some cases, infection was associated with an angioedema attack, however no infected patients required ICU admission, and all patients recovered.

Good syndrome

Finally, seven patients with Good syndrome (thymoma with hypogammaglobulinemia, 1%) have been reported to have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 [9[■],10,12,32,42]. They mostly displayed a severe phenotype, with 5/7 (75%) patients requiring admission to ICU admission, and three patients succumbing (CFR 43%). Cause of death in one case was respiratory failure, and septic shock, myocarditis, pneumonia and hyperinflammation in another [10,12].

SEVERITY OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 IN PATIENTS WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF INBORN ERRORS OF IMMUNITY

When the first reports on COVID-19 in patients with IEL emerged in 2020, we learned that overall mortality among these patients was comparable with global mortality at the time and that patients shared the same risk factors for severe and critical disease as the general population, though the median age of IEL patients with severe COVID-19 was lower and the rate of admission to ICU per age group higher [5[■],11]. A year later, we observe an ICU admission rate of 16% and a stable CFR in the IEL population (9%, 60/649

patients), which is higher than in the general population [global average 2.1% (range: 0.5–18%), <0.3% <40 years to 13–20% >80 years] [72–75]. Among the IEL patients reported with their age, CFR is 10% among children, 7% for 20–40 years, 10% for 40–60 years, 14% for 60–70 years, and 36% for >70 years. Among the 18 children with IEL who died, eight (47%) had a CID, three (17%) had an immune dysregulation disorder, two each (12%) an autoinflammatory disease, a phagocyte defect or XLA, and one an innate immunity disorder [5[■],10,12,13,47]. This includes four children with SCID pre-HSCT and five patients who either died from causes not directly related to COVID-19, or who were already in a severely compromised state at the time of infection. Mortality in the group aged 20–40 years was dominated by patients with APS-1 (4/9, 44%), followed by XLA and innate immunity disorders (two each, 22%), and CID (1/9, 11%). Above 40 years of age, 75% of deaths occurred among antibody deficient patients.

Differences between the CFRs in the IEL group and the general population can be explained by two factors: on the one hand, large scale screening for SARS-CoV-2 infection has significantly lowered the CFR in the general population. On the other hand, patients with IELs tend to have more comorbidities at a younger age than the average otherwise-healthy person. Moreover, physicians tend to publish single cases when they are remarkable in their course or outcome, thus introducing a bias toward more severe cases being reported. Indeed, a large and elegant unbiased cohort study conducted by Milito *et al.* [9[■]] on the whole Italian population of IEL patients with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection revealed a CFR of 3.8% in IELs, which is very close to the overall CFR in Italy (~3%).

Combined immunodeficiencies

The CFR of COVID-19 in CIDs is slightly higher than the average for all IELs reported to date (13%). Mortality from SARS-CoV-2 is extremely high in children with SCID pretransplantation, while SCID patients who underwent curative procedures show 100% survival rate, with no severe cases reported [10,12–14,39,49]. Together with fatal COVID-19 in three patients with acute and severe complications post-HSCT (GVHD, CMV infection, fungal infection, and graft failure), this could either indicate a role of cellular immunity in controlling SARS-CoV-2 infection, or an increased mortality in the context of an already compromised general state.

Immune dysregulatory disorders

A high rate of both ICU admission and mortality have been reported for patients with immune

dysregulatory disorders. Bastard *et al.* found preexisting neutralizing autoantibodies against IFN- α and ω , but rarely IFN- β , in at least 10% of patients with critical COVID-19 pneumonia (up to 20% in patients 80 years and older) [6[■],7[■]]. These findings were confirmed by several groups [21,22,76–81]. For APS-1 patients, the presence of antitype I interferon antibodies was well known; however, no viral infection phenotype had been described until the pandemic [82]. Despite this, CFR among APS-1 patients is like the whole group of immune dysregulation disorders, indicating that immune dysregulation diseases arising from distinct genetic causes can predispose to severe COVID-19. On the other hand, patients affected by autoinflammatory disorders do not seem to have a specifically higher risk of severe COVID-19 and have mostly a mild course [5[■],10,20]. One prediction would be that elevated production or action of type I interferon, as one of the inflammatory mechanisms, provides effective innate host defense against SARS-CoV-2 infection, thereby minimizing disease severity.

Innate immune defects

Zhang *et al.* [1[■]] performed a genetic screen of 13 loci associated with severe influenza infection or other severe viral infection. They found deleterious variants in *IFNAR1*, *IRF3*, *IRF7*, *TBK1*, and *TICAM1* in 3.4% of patients with critical COVID-19 [1[■]]. van der Made *et al.* [23] performed whole exome sequencing in previously healthy pairs of previously healthy brothers with critical COVID-19 and identified two loss-of-function variants in *TLR7*. Asano *et al.* [8[■]] have recently identified an additional 14 deleterious *TLR7* alleles in males with critical COVID-19. They showed an impaired type I interferon production by plasmacytoid dendritic cells. Significantly, several cases of very severe SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia in patients with MyD88 deficiency have also been reported [71]. This is arguably surprising since individuals with MyD88-deficiency have previously only been reported to suffer from severe invasive bacterial infections, rather than any viruses [83]. A previous study on SARS-CoV-1 demonstrated that MyD88 has an essential role in mice in controlling pulmonary viral replication [84]. Thus, it is possible that MyD88 plays a hitherto unknown role in early antiviral response against coronaviruses.

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in patients with inborn errors of immunity

A new COVID-19-related clinical entity affecting children emerged in the first few months of the pandemic, namely MIS-C [85,86,87,88[■]]. Unlike in

acute COVID-19-related hyperinflammation, where multisystem inflammation and cytokine storm go together with severe respiratory symptoms and typically affect adults, MIS-C appears several weeks after SARS-CoV-2 exposure and is not correlated with the severity of the initial infection [85,86,87,88[■]]. Similarly, MIS-A has been reported in adults [89]. Patients with MIS-C and MIS-A present with multiorgan involvement without severe respiratory illness, preceded by 4–6 weeks by an asymptomatic or paucisymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection. SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, positive PCR or a history of exposure are detected in almost all cases [85–87,89]. Although partly overlapping with Kawasaki disease, MIS-C generally affects older children (7.5–12 years), with a predilection for males and subjects of African or Hispanic ancestry. In more than 70% of cases patients have multiorgan dysfunction with mucocutaneous (70%), gastrointestinal (>80%), cardiovascular (80–100%), respiratory (50–70%), or neurologic involvement (40%) [85,86,87,88[■],90]. It has a more severe clinical course, often presenting with shock (50%), and a high prevalence of myocarditis (90%) [85,86,87,88[■]]. Finally, it is associated with a pronounced hyperinflammatory state with higher levels of inflammatory markers and more severe cytopenia than in Kawasaki disease, often fulfilling the diagnostic criteria for HLH [85,86,87,88[■]].

Among the 649 IEI patients with COVID-19, at least 23 had MIS-C or HLH. Ten patients (six children, four adults) met the criteria for HLH, although it is possible some of them would have been diagnosed with MIS-C if this entity had been known at the time of the earliest presentations [5[■]]. Seven out of ten of these patients also had pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), eight required ICU admission and three died (one adult, two children). Fourteen children (two females) were classified as suffering from MIS-C (median age 11 years, range 1–17) [3,4,5[■],12]. Seven out of 14 also had pneumonia or ARDS, six were admitted to the ICU and three died. There were no reports of MIS-A among patients with IEI, although hyperinflammation in the context of SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia was described [5[■],12]. Notably, there is an overrepresentation of disorders of immune dysregulation (5/62 patients, 8%, including two XIAP deficiency, one Chediak-Higashi syndrome and one SOCS1 deficiency) and phagocyte defects (4/34 patients, 11%, including three CGD), which are associated to increased or chronic inflammation.

DISCUSSION

The description of the clinical course and outcome of hundreds of patients with an IEI infected with

SARS-CoV-2 since the beginning of the pandemic gives us a better understanding of predisposing factors and immunological mechanisms underlying severe COVID-19. First, the crucial role of the type I interferon response is convincingly shown by the enrichment in pathogenic variant in genes responsible for interferon production and downstream signaling in several patients with critical COVID-19 [1[■],8[■],23]. Similarly, a high rate of severe disease occurred in patients with preexisting antitype I interferon autoantibodies, such as patients with APS-1 [21]. In fact, autosomal inborn errors of type I immunity and antitype I interferon autoantibodies underlie at least 10% of critical COVID-19 cases. A hypothesis that needs to be further explored is that the higher CFR and ICU admission rates seen in patients with different types of IELs, and patients with disorders of immune dysregulation in particular, could be caused by the presence of these autoantibodies. Autoimmunity is indeed a feature of many IELs and phenocopies of IELs, like Good syndrome, in which antitype I interferon autoantibodies have already been described [91–94]. A collaborative effort to screen patients with IEL for anti-interferon auto-antibodies is ongoing (www.covidhge.com) [95–97].

The initial observation that patients with XLA had better outcomes than patients with CVID, possibly due to the absence of the proinflammatory Bruton tyrosin kinase (BTK)-dependent NF- κ B activation, is not reflected in this larger cohort of patients, who show the same ICU admission rates and a similar CFR (9 vs. 8% in CVID and XLA patients, respectively) [5[■],11]. Since the median age of CVID patients is 40 years and that of patients with XLA or agammaglobulinemia is 23 years, patients with XLA seem to have a worse outcome at a younger age. This could potentially be explained by the fact that CVID patients often present later in life and so develop comorbidities at a later age, while patients with agammaglobulinemia often have chronic lung damage already in childhood. Alternatively CVID patients could have antitype I interferon autoantibodies as part of an autoimmune phenotype. Although patients with disorders of immune dysregulation are more at risk for both severe pulmonary COVID-19 and its inflammatory complications, such as MIS-C or HLH, patients with phagocyte defects are not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia but have an increased risk of hyperinflammation [4,5[■],12]. Significantly, patients with autoinflammatory disorders such as FMF and AGS also show no increased risk of severe disease compared with the general population [5[■],10,20].

Insight into immune mechanisms responsible for SARS-CoV-2 immunity and inflammation is driving therapeutic trials with IL-6 inhibition with tocilizumab, BTK inhibition with ibrutinib and acalabrutinib, or JAK-STAT inhibition with ruxolitinib in patients with severe hyperinflammation in the context of COVID-19 [98,99,100[■]]. Early therapy with type I interferon has also been attempted in several patients, although the timing of this treatment is challenging [100[■],101,102]. Caution should be used with regard to convalescent plasma, which has been successfully administered to several patients with IELs and prolonged COVID-19, but has also been found to harbor antitype I interferon autoantibodies [27,33,39,42,45,48,49,76]. Therapeutic plasma exchange could be beneficial to remove deleterious autoantibodies and proinflammatory cytokines in critical patients, and it has been attempted with anecdotal positive results [100[■],103–105]. Monoclonal antibodies that neutralize SARS-CoV-2, such as the combination of casirivimab and imdevimab (Regen-Cov) or sotrovimab, have also proven effective as primary or secondary prevention of COVID-19 [106,107]. Therefore, passive immunotherapy with these antibodies could potentially be used early in patients with IELs at high risk for severe disease as a strategy to prevent the development of COVID-19-related complications or as aids in clearing the infection in patients with prolonged shedding of SARS-CoV-2 [108]. Finally, some patients with IEL are able to mount a humoral and/or cellular immunity against the virus in a natural infection setting or in a vaccination setting [67,109,110]. RNA-based vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 have proven safe and effective in patients with IEL, who should therefore be prioritized for early vaccination around the world, together with their family members as a mean of community-based protection in case of insufficient individual response to the vaccine [109,111].

CONCLUSION

We reviewed the characteristics and outcome of SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with IEL and found that the underlying immune defect does not represent an independent risk factor for severe COVID-19, except for CID – though the number of patients is small—but especially immune dysregulation disorders (APS-1) and innate immune defects impairing type I interferon responses. Further studies are needed to assess the role of anti-type I interferon antibodies in larger cohorts of individuals with IEL and critical COVID-19, to better direct the therapeutic strategies most apt to prevent or treat severe complications in these patients.

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Conflicts of interest

I.M. is supported by the CSL Behring Chair in Primary Immunodeficiency in Children, paid to Institution. There are no conflicts of interest for the remaining authors.

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Papers of particular interest, published within the annual period of review, have been highlighted as:

- of special interest
- of outstanding interest

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