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Collapse induration of alveoli is an ultrastructural finding in a COVID-19 patient

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Electron microscopy reveals collapse induration with alveolar epithelial cell death, basal lamina denudation, collapse and sealing of alveoli in a COVID-19 patient, implicating surfactant dysfunction and alveolar instability in fibrosis initiation <https://bit.ly/38yEX2g>

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To the Editor:

The delicate alveolar blood–air barrier is a primary target in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Its micro-architecture consists of an alveolar epithelium composed of type I and type II cells and covered with surfactant, a thin interstitium and a capillary endothelium. Of particular relevance for the pathogenesis of severe COVID-19 is the infection of type II alveolar epithelial cells [1]. Based on their dual function as producers of surfactant and as precursors for both epithelial cell types, surfactant alterations and aberrant epithelial regeneration can be expected.