The WBC, NEU, MON and PCT levels in the case group were lower than those in the control group, and LYM was higher than that in the control group (P>0.05). In the case group, ESR and CRP were significantly increased (P<0.05). The AUC of WBC, NEU and MON were all less than 0.5; the AUC of LYM, CRP and PCT were 0.611, 0.648 and 0.611; and the Youden index were 0.208, 0.271 and 0.417. The sensitivity and specificity of PCT were 84.40% and 56.25%, while the sensitivity of CRP and LYM was 52.1% and 58.3%. The AUC of ESR was 0.894, the Youden index was 0.667, the sensitivity was 85.40%, and the specificity was 81.25%. ESR combined with CRP, AUC was 0.899, and Yoden index was 0.667.

**Conclusion**

ESR has good diagnostic accuracy and authenticity and can be used to differentiate COVID-19 from other common viral respiratory infections.