

CORONAVIRUSES



Editor:
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Bentham Books

Coronaviruses

(Volume 2)

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Volume # 2

Editor: Jean-Marc Sabatier

ISSN (Online): 2737-5633

ISSN (Print): 2737-5625

ISBN (Online): 978-981-4998-60-4

ISBN (Print): 978-981-4998-61-1

ISBN (Paperback): 978-981-4998-62-8

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CONTENTS

PREFACE	i
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	ii
CHAPTER 1 BROAD-SPECTRUM ANTIVIRALS TO COMBAT COVID-19: THE REALITY AND CHALLENGES	1
<i>Wafaa A. Hewedy</i>	
INTRODUCTION	2
DRUGS TARGETING ENTRY PROCESS	3
Viral Envelope Proteins	3
<i>Nelfinavir</i>	4
<i>Arbidol</i>	5
Host Cell Proteins	7
<i>TMPRSS2 Inhibitors</i>	7
<i>Furin Inhibitors</i>	8
DRUGS TARGETING VIRAL REPLICATION	9
1) Ribavirin	9
2) Remdesivir	11
3) Sofosbuvir	13
4) Favipiravir	14
PROTEASE INHIBITORS	16
Lopinavir/Ritonavir	17
JAK INHIBITORS	18
Baricitinib	18
ABL INHIBITORS	19
Imatinib	19
NICLOSAMIDE	19
NITAZOXANIDE	21
CONCLUSION	21
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	22
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	22
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	22
REFERENCES	22
CHAPTER 2 COVID19: PREVENTIVE AND PROTECTIVE CONTROL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	32
<i>Kalyani Pathak, Manash Pratim Pathak, Urvashee Gogoi, Riya Saikia and Aparoop Das</i>	
INTRODUCTION	33
PREVENTIVE AND PROTECTIVE CONTROL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES PRACTICED IN DIFFERENT LEVELS	35
Environmental Measures	36
<i>Ensure Adequate Sanitization by Standard Disinfectants</i>	36
<i>Ensure Proper Ventilation, Temperature, and Humidity in Confined Places</i>	37
<i>Reduction of Close Contact in a Closed Environment</i>	37
<i>Identification and Management of Isolation Room for Suspected Cases</i>	38
Organizational Measures	38
<i>Engineering Controls</i>	40
<i>Administrative Controls</i>	43
<i>Personal Controls</i>	46
<i>Laboratory and Testing Controls</i>	46

Personal Measures	47
<i>Ensure Proper Use of Ppe (Personal Protective Equipment) and Disposal After Use</i>	47
<i>Donning of PPE kit</i>	47
<i>Doffing of PPE kit</i>	48
<i>Disposal of Contaminated PPE kit</i>	49
<i>Ensure Proper Coughing Etiquettes [44]</i>	49
<i>Use of Face Mask [44, 45]</i>	50
<i>Proper Handwash Procedure [46, 47]</i>	51
Societal Measures	51
<i>Ensure Proper Social Distancing</i>	51
<i>Ensure Proper Quarantine and Home Isolation Norms</i>	52
<i>Role of Mass and Social Media in Public Health Education System</i>	52
<i>Awareness at the Community Level</i>	53
THE NEED OF THE HOUR	54
Early Diagnoses of the Disease	54
Upgradation of the Hospital Management System	55
Efficient Training for Health Care Professionals	56
Appeal for a Change in Lifestyle	56
CONCLUSION	57
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	58
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	58
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	58
REFERENCES	58
CHAPTER 3 PLANT-DERIVED EXTRACTS AND BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS AGAINST CORONAVIRUS PROGRESSION: PREVENTIVE EFFECTS, MECHANISTIC ASPECTS, AND STRUCTURES	63
<i>Heba A.S. El-Nashar, Ahmed E. Elissawy, Omayma A. Eldahshan and Abdel Nasser B. Singab</i>	
INTRODUCTION	64
MATERIALS AND METHODS	65
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	65
Medicinal Plants with Antiviral Activity against Coronavirus	65
<i>Plant Extracts</i>	65
<i>Plant Essential Oils</i>	68
NATURAL COMPOUNDS WITH ANTIVIRAL ACTIVITY AGAINST CORONAVIRUS	70
Phenolic Compounds	70
<i>Alkaloids</i>	80
<i>Terpenoids</i>	83
CONCLUSION	90
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	90
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	90
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	90
REFERENCES	90
CHAPTER 4 GASTROENTERITIS: SYMPTOMS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY OF SARS-COV-2	97
<i>Aditi Nag, Sudipti Arora and Sonia Sethi</i>	
INTRODUCTION	97
SARS-COV-2 - THE PATHOGEN CHARACTERISTICS	98
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TRANSMISSION	99
PHASES OF INFECTION:	101
GASTROINTESTINAL MANIFESTATIONS OF COVID-19	101

Discussion on Wastewater Based Epidemiology Studies and their Findings	104
Detection of SARS- CoV-2 Genomic RNA and Genes in the Wastewater	110
FUTURE SCOPE	112
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	113
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	113
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	113
REFERENCES	113
CHAPTER 5 THE CHRONICLES OF CORONAVIRUS: A CHINESE KING WHO CONQUERED THE ENTIRE WORLD	118
<i>Sanauallah Sajid, Sajjad-ur Rahman, Muhammad Ali, Maliha Sarfraz, Imran Abdullah and Samiullah Sajid</i>	
INTRODUCTION	119
HISTORY	121
Structural Proteins	122
Assembly of SARS-CoV	123
COVID-19	123
Infection by COVID-19	125
Transmission	126
When Should a Person be Tested?	126
Care of Critically Ill Patients	127
Prevention and Control	127
Treatment	128
nCOV-19 PANDEMIC AND WAY FORWARD	128
TREATMENTS AND POTENTIAL TARGETS AGAINST SARS-COV-2	129
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES AND CONCLUSION	130
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	131
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	131
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	131
REFERENCES	131
CHAPTER 6 TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AS NATURAL REMEDY IN ARDS & COVID-19 THROUGH INTERLEUKINS	134
<i>Suresh Kumar Karri and Sheela Angappan</i>	
INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19	134
COVID-19 - GLOBAL CHALLENGES	135
PATHOLOGY OF ARDS (ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME) OR ALI (ACUTE LUNG INJURY)	136
ARDS/ALI in the Context of COVID-19	137
IL17s Role in ARDS/ALI	138
Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)	139
TREATMENT OPTIONS	140
Antiviral Drugs	141
Antimalarial Drugs	141
Anti-HIV Drugs	142
Anti-Inflammatory Drugs	142
Monoclonal Antibodies	142
What are their Adverse Effects?	142
Ongoing Clinical Studies, their Cost, and Disadvantages	143
HERBAL MEDICINE FOR COVID-19	143
Effects of Traditional Indian Medicine in COVID-19	145
<i>Mechanism of Action of B Erecta Extract in IL17 Inhibition & its Efficacy in ARDS</i>	147

<i>Limitations & Prospects of B. Erecta</i>	147
CONCLUSION	148
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	148
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	148
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	148
REFERENCES	148
CHAPTER 7 MOLECULAR PATHOGENESIS OF HUMAN CORONAVIRUSES OF 21st CENTURY	
<i>Ruma Karmakar, Satya Vadlamani, Jyoti Verma, Sakshi Kumari and Maitreyi Syamala Rajala</i>	
INTRODUCTION	155
COMPARISON OF ALL THREE HUMAN CORONAVIRUSES	157
Proteome Comparison	157
Subtypes of Human Coronaviruses	160
Host Cell Receptors Used by Coronaviruses for Infection	161
MOLECULAR PATHOGENESIS	162
Virus Infection	162
<i>Entry into the Host</i>	162
<i>Transmission Dynamics</i>	163
Clinical Features of Human Coronaviruses	164
Pathogenesis of Human Coronavirus Associated Diseases	166
<i>Lung Pathology</i>	166
<i>Multiple Organ Dysfunction</i>	169
Immune Response	171
<i>The Cytokine Storm Induced by Coronaviruses</i>	171
<i>The Adaptive Response with Respect to the Humoral and the Cellular Immunity</i>	172
Immune Evasion Strategies	174
Animal Models to Study the Molecular Pathogenesis of Human Coronaviruses	177
<i>Mouse Models</i>	177
<i>Non-human Primate Models</i>	179
CONCLUSION	179
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	180
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	180
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	180
REFERENCES	180
CHAPTER 8 COVID-19, MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROPATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF PAIN RELATED TO TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDER	
<i>Karen Dantur Batista Chaves and Maria Cristina Munerato</i>	
INTRODUCTION	192
TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDER AND OROFACIAL PAIN MECHANISMS	193
Mechanisms of Orofacial Pain	195
MENTAL HEALTH AND TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDER	197
COVID-19	199
CONCLUSION	201
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	202
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	202
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	202
REFERENCES	202
SUBJECT INDEX	437

PREFACE

In this still pandemic period of SARS-CoV-2 (and its variants, especially 'Delta' variant) infection that is responsible for Covid-19, the scientific literature on these viruses and related cellular targets is crucial to help the researchers/virologists and clinicians from all countries to develop a new generation of safer and more effective vaccines, as well as treatments to cure the more or less severe diseases and damages to the many organs and tissues of SARS-CoV-2-infected people. This second book on coronaviruses mainly brings together some useful information regarding the prevention/vaccination, and chemotherapies to the potential treatment of coronavirus infections. The collection combines eight chapters titled: (1) Broad-spectrum antivirals to combat covid-19: The reality and challenges (chapter 1), (2) Covid-19: Preventive and protective control management strategies (chapter 2), (3) Plant-derived extracts and bioactive compounds against coronavirus progression: preventive effects, mechanistic aspects, and structures (chapter 3), (4) Gastroenteritis: symptoms and epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 (chapter 4), (5) The chronicles of coronavirus: A Chinese king who conquered the entire world (chapter 5), (6) Traditional medicine as a natural remedy in ARDS & Covid-19 (chapter 6), (7) Molecular pathogenesis of human coronaviruses of 21st century (chapter 7), (8) COVID-19, mental health and neuropathophysiology of pain related to temporomandibular disorder (chapter 8).

Such a novel book compiling key data on SARS-CoV-2 and Covid-19 actually represents a tool of the utmost value for all researchers working on these research fields. It should also be of great interest to clinicians who are facing an overgrowing number of individuals with Covid-19. The data from 20th October 2021 give ca. 242 million cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection worldwide, with over 4.9 million deaths.

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CHAPTER 1**Broad-Spectrum Antivirals to Combat COVID-19: the Reality and Challenges****Wafaa A. Hewedy^{1,*}**¹ *Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt*

Abstract: Viral infections, which lack effective treatment, have posed an ongoing threat to human health. Most approved antiviral agents selectively target a single virus, providing a “one drug-one bug” solution. However, this approach has limited efficacy, particularly with emerging and re-emerging viruses with no specific, licensed antiviral drug or vaccine.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, tremendous studies have focused on the effect of some (broad-spectrum) antiviral agents on this emerging virus. The concept of broad-spectrum antivirals refers to the group of drugs with the capability of combating more than one virus rather than “one drug-one bug” agents. This approach may offer a new horizon for the management of emerging viral threats.

Among BSAs, nucleotide and nucleoside analogs target enzymatic functions shared by some viruses, thus, inhibit their replication. An alternative approach of BSA agents is to target host factors commonly required by multiple viral pathogens, on which the viruses intimately rely. For example, anti-malarial agents (chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine) inhibit acidification of endosomes, an essential process for uncoating of some RNA viruses, kinase inhibitors impair intracellular viral trafficking, and statins attenuate replication of some enveloped viruses.

In this review, we will shed light on BSA agents with potential efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 infection. The time-consuming process of new drug development makes repositioning drugs, already approved for use in humans, the only solution to the epidemic of sudden infectious diseases as COVID-19.

Keywords: Antiviral, Arbidol, Baricitinib, Camostat, COVID-19, Favipiravir, Imatinib, Niclosamide, Nitazoxanide, Remdesivir, Ribavirin, Sofosbuvir.

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INTRODUCTION

In the past two decades, humanity has been exposed to several successive epidemics including the emergence of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-1) in 2003, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2013, Ebola virus disease in 2014, and currently, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) outbreak that represents an unprecedented public health challenge imposing great impact on nearly all countries around the world. The constant threat with the emergence of new strains of viruses has necessitated the search for novel effective therapeutic options.

Despite high species diversity, viruses share key elements that are essential for the design of therapeutic targets [1]. Although targeting specific viral factors *via* a “one drug, one bug” approach demonstrated measurable success in treating some viral infections such as influenza virus and hepatitis C virus, this approach is expensive, time-consuming, and more importantly, is associated with the rapid emergence of drug resistance [2]. Consequently, the concept of broad-spectrum antiviral drugs has been emphasized rather than developing drugs that are targeted to every specific virus. In this context, targeting common enzymes or proteins crucial in the life cycle of viruses or targeting host factors exploited by multiple viruses could provide broad-spectrum coverage for treating emerging viral infections [3, 4].

SARS-CoV-2, a member of the coronavirus family, has a very similar genome sequence identity with the SARS virus, and to a lesser extent with the MERS virus [5]. Moreover, the pathological features of those devastating virus infections are substantially similar. Hence, drugs that have been used previously to treat SARS or MERS may have the potential in treating patients with SARS-CoV-2 [6]. Coronaviruses (CoVs) undergo a distinct replication cycle, involving virion entry, RNA genome replication and transcription of viral mRNAs, protein translation, virion assembly, and packaging in the host cell, after which viral particles are released [7].

Coronaviruses specify two groups of (druggable) proteins; structural proteins and non-structural proteins. The structural proteins are functionally conserved among very closely related viruses. They include Spike (S), Membrane (M), Envelope (E), and Nucleocapsid (N) [8]. These proteins perform important functions in the viral life cycle: S is the main determinant of cell tropism, host range, and viral entry; E facilitates viral assembly and release, and has viroporin activity; M maintains the membrane structure of the virion, and N encapsidates the viral RNA genome [9]. Non-structural proteins are more conserved among CoVs and they are involved in essential functions of the viral lifecycle, such as 3C-like protease

(3CLpro; nsp3), papain-like Protease (PLpro; nsp5), and RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp; nsp12) [10]. These proteins are critical to the viral life cycle and provide potential targets for drug therapies.

On the other hand, several host factors have been identified to regulate signaling proteins crucial for the replication of viruses. Targeting host cell factors provides a different strategy against viral infections especially for those for which no effective treatment exists yet. An advantage of this strategy is that host factors do not undergo the same mutation rate that is seen for genomes of viruses. Furthermore, it may provide additive and possibly synergistic effects in combination with other strategies being developed to combat emerging viral infections.

Here, we will review the antiviral drug with broad-spectrum activity and its relevance in the treatment of coronavirus as per available data of clinical studies.

DRUGS TARGETING ENTRY PROCESS

Coronaviruses go through a staged entry process involving virion binding, receptor-mediated endocytosis, intracellular trafficking of virions to endosomes, and protease-dependent cleavage of spike (S) protein to facilitate fusion of the virion membrane to the endosomal membrane and deposition of the nucleocapsid into the cytoplasm [11, 12].

The membrane fusion relies on the expression of fusogenic glycoproteins on infected cell surfaces. Both viral envelope proteins and host cellular proteins are crucial for this process, hence providing potential antiviral therapeutic targets.

Viral Envelope Proteins

The spike (S) glycoprotein, a key immunogenic CoV antigen, is essential for virus-host cell receptor interactions. It exists in trimeric forms, giving them their characteristic corona structures [13]. The S protein is embedded in viral envelopes and mediates a crucial role in the entry of viral particles into the host cell [14]. It includes two functionally distinct subunits; S1 and S2 subunits, which process by cellular proteases to remain activated. The S1 subunit of SARS and also SARS-CoV-2 contains a receptor-binding domain (RBD) that binds to angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptors to mediate viral entry [15, 7]. The S2 domain is responsible for the fusion of the viral envelope with the cell membrane through its putative fusion peptide region. It has been reported that the RBD domain of SARS CoV-2 Spike (S-new; Sn) has a higher binding affinity for the ACE2 receptor than that of SARS Spike (S-old; So), while the S2 proteins of

COVID19: Preventive and Protective Control Management Strategies

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Abstract: COVID-19 was identified as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. The uncontrolled transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease-2019) in almost 215 countries has posed a serious health issue among the world population. Cases of COVID-19 have emerged from the Huanan seafood market in Wuhan, South China, in December 2019 and have been rapidly spreading throughout the world since then. In this chapter, we have tried to extract data from various research reports, WHO guidelines, and other published articles to summarize the prevention strategies for COVID-19. This disease causes varying degrees of illness in patients like fever, cough, sore throat, breathlessness, fatigue, and other related symptoms. There are no drugs or other therapeutics presently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent or treat COVID-19. Current clinical management includes infection prevention, control measures, and supportive care through anti-viral, anti-microbial as well as immuno-modulating drugs as first-line treatment, followed by symptomatic treatment and oxygen therapy. Besides drugs, plasma convalescent therapy is being utilized in serious patients, but most of the vaccine candidates developed against SARS-CoV-2 are in the clinical trial stages. It is necessary to identify the potential cases as early as possible and isolate the vulnerable population from the confirmed cases of COVID-19, to prevent the potential transmission of infection to healthy people, other patients, and health care staff. Early protection, early identification, early diagnosis, and early isolation are crucial to combat the COVID-19 outbreak. Improved personal protection and hygiene management at community levels should be officially endorsed to protect the population from infections. Proper arrangement of medical resources (*i.e.*, oxygen supply, ventilators, PPE kits, gloves, sanitizer) can prevent the crucial damage caused by the disease. Another pressing need of the hour is to promptly discriminate patients with COVID-19 from other febrile diseases. Thus, the need of the hour is to develop rapid and accurate diagnostic technologies that can help the world to win the war against such viral pandemics.

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Keywords: Breathlessness, COVID-19, Oxygen supply, Preventive strategies, SARS-CoV-2, Ventilators.

INTRODUCTION

Over a long period of time, viral diseases have emerged as one of the serious and a major threat to public health and are still continuing to affect the world population as per the report of the World Health Organization (WHO). In the last twenty years, diverse viral epidemics like SARS-CoV (2002 to 2003), H1N1 influenza (2009), and MERS-CoV(2012) have been reported. Towards the beginning of December 2019, there was a sudden occurrence and outbreak of a new type of viral cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province of China. This newly encountered biological organism was named as 2019 novel coronavirus by the World Health Organization that was later on renamed as SARS-CoV-2. The word “Corona” refers to a crown shape-like structure as the surface of the virus exhibits crown-like projections. Coronavirus is a club-shaped RNA virus that is single-stranded with a size ranging from 80-100 nm. The Hunan seafood market at Wuhan, China, was assumed to be the main source of novel coronavirus [1].

The commonly associated signs and symptoms include fever, cough, cold, difficulty in breathing and problems associated with the respiratory system. Also, the conditions like total damage of the kidneys, respiratory syndromes, and death of the patients may result depending upon the severity of the disease (Fig. 1). There are seven categories of CoV that have the capability of infecting human beings. Out of the seven types, HCoV-NL63 and HCoV-229E are the two α -CoVs. SARS-CoV, HCoV-HKU1, HCoV-OC43, and MERS-CoV are the four types of β -CoVs, and the last type is recognized as SARS-CoV2. The data of genomic study analysis indicated that the genetic sequence exhibited by SARS-CoV2 has 96% similarity to that of bats SARS-CoV (SARSr-CoV-RaTG13), and hence it was thought that SARS-CoV has originated from bats. It was since 9th January 2020 that the disease caused by the novel coronavirus was termed COVID-19 after the submission of the complete genetic sequence of SARS-CoV2 by Chinese researchers. With time as the viruses have become resistant to all the treatment strategies, hence it has potentially evolved as a pandemic affecting a huge population worldwide and thereby threatening public health. Outside China, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased to 13 times, and the countries affected by COVID-19 have increased by three times (Table 1). Further, more than 1,18,000 cases and 4,000 deaths have been reported in 114 countries, and thereby, WHO declared the COVID-19 a pandemic on 11th March, 2020 [1, 2].

Table 1. List of total confirmed cases and death of COVID-19 globally in 2020 [2].

Country	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Deaths
United States of America	3,544,143	137,674
Brazil	2,046,328	77,851
India	1,077,618	26,816
Russian Federation	771,546	12,342
South Africa	350,879	4,948
Peru	345,537	12,799
Mexico	331,298	38,310
Chile	328,846	8,445
The United Kingdom	294,070	45,273
Iran	271,606	13,979

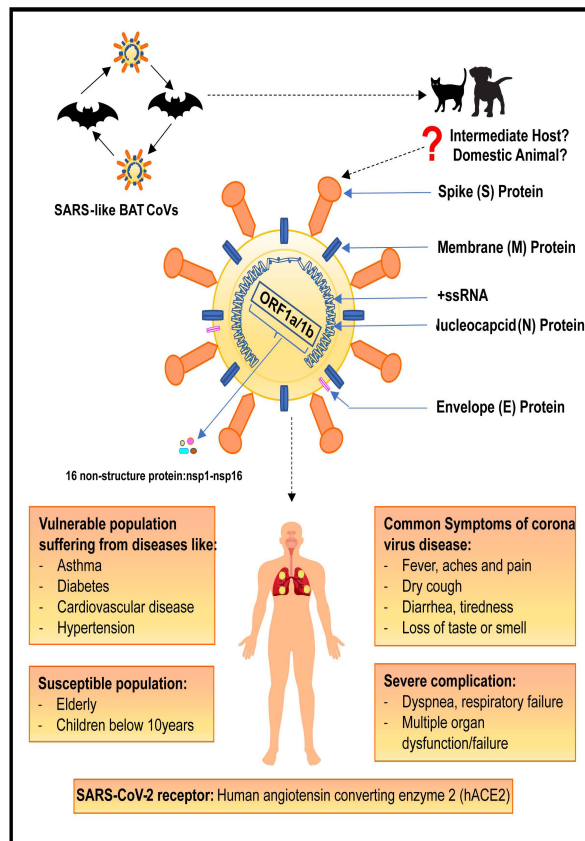


Fig. (1). Transmission of Coronaviruses to the human body (Self-created by authors).

CHAPTER 3

Plant-derived Extracts and Bioactive Compounds against Coronavirus Progression: Preventive Effects, Mechanistic Aspects, and Structures

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Abstract: Coronaviruses (CoVs) are associated with several infectious outbreaks in humans, beginning with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the global outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by SARS-CoV-2 in December 2019. There are currently no natural or synthetic drugs that inhibit SARS-CoV2. Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, many people have returned to the use of complementary or traditional medicinal therapies for prophylaxis or treatment. Herbal extracts and their purified natural compounds provide a platform for the development of novel antiviral candidates. Effective drugs may be designed based on the chemical structure of natural compounds that exhibit potential effects. Researchers have primarily focused on 3-chymotrypsin-like protease (3CLpro), papain-like protease (PL^{pro}), RNA-dependent RNA polymerase, and spike (S) proteins as drug targets for SARS-CoV. Furthermore, phylogenetic studies of the viral genome have provided evidence of a close similarity between SARS-CoV2 and SARS-CoV1. Here, we review the literature with respect to plant extracts from different families that have been examined for antiviral activity against coronavirus diseases and explore the underlying mechanisms. We also discuss the structures of promising natural compounds representing different categories that serve as SARS-CoV chemical inhibitors. Hopefully, this chapter will provide a valuable tool for scientists interested in developing effective naturally derived anti-SARS-CoV-2 drugs for the management of COVID-19 development and progression.

Keywords: Antiviral, Coronavirus, Outbreak, Protease, Respiratory, Traditional medicine.

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INTRODUCTION

Several infectious outbreaks have been associated with coronaviruses in humans, beginning with SARS in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012 [1, 2]. On January 30, 2020, an outbreak of viral pneumonia was caused by a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in Wuhan, China [3]. On March 11, the WHO announced an epidemic outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [4]. By April 12, 2020, 1,696,588 confirmed cases of infection were reported with 105,952 deaths [5]. The rapid transmission of COVID-19 resulted in a major global risk with confirmed cases occurring in 213 countries and a global fatality rate of approximately 3.92% [6].

Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses with a positive-sense, single-stranded RNA genome and a helical symmetry [7]. They belong to the family Coronaviridae and are divided into three groups based on serological cross-reactivity and nucleotide sequence [7]. Group I coronaviruses include animal pathogens, such as porcine transmissible gastroenteritis coronavirus (TGEV) and human coronavirus (HCoV-229E) [7]. Group II includes pathogens of veterinary relevance, such as murine coronavirus and mouse hepatitis virus (MHV)-JHM strain and human severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV). Group III includes avian coronaviruses [8]. The symptoms of coronavirus infection primarily occur in the upper respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts of animals and mammals [9]. Recently, the phylogenetic studies of the viral genome provide evidence of a close similarity (approximately 89.1%) between SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV-1 [3].

Cumulative experience for the rational use of herbal medicine, trial and error, and the progression of the chemistry and biology fields has resulted in the development of herbal drugs and their extracts. This has led to a breakthrough in the treatment of many serious diseases, and these developments, in contrast to ancient ones, are primarily the result of modern western civilization. Since the 18th century, major developments in chemistry have occurred, and scientists were prompted to isolate active ingredients from herbal extracts. For example, the isolation of the antimalarial drug quinine from the Cinchona extract [10], the cardiotoxic and antiarrhythmic drug digoxin from the digitalis extract [11], the potent analgesic morphine from papaver [12] and the anticancer drug paclitaxel from *Taxus brevifolia* [13] took place. Moreover, these isolated molecules have inspired scientists to develop “similar” drugs based on natural “templates”. Thus, aspirin was synthesized to simulate the action of salicylic acid isolated from the Willow bark [14]; the discovery of natural and semi-synthetic antibiotics was based on the isolation of penicillin from the fungus *Penicillium notatum* [15] and the synthesis of the antimalarial drug chloroquine was based on the structure of quinine [16].

Currently, scientists are actively searching for effective antiviral agents that effectively combat COVID-19 [17]. Unfortunately, there are presently no specific antiviral drugs for the control of COVID-19. As a result, the development of safe, effective, and highly potent anti-coronaviral agents for controlling the potential emergence of pandemic coronaviruses is an urgent need [7]. Medicinal plants, especially those used in traditional medicine, have attracted significant attention because they contain bioactive compounds that may be developed to treat various diseases with minimal side effects [18]. Notably, approximately 10% of more than 4,000 plant species have demonstrated significant *in vitro* antiviral potential [19].

With respect to COVID-19, we dedicated this chapter to providing an update on the effectiveness of natural products that exhibit antiviral activity against different strains of coronavirus. The chapter is divided into two sections: medicinal plants including plant extracts and essential oils, and natural compounds. Hopefully, this review will assist scientists in the development of new candidate drugs to combat the unlimited spread of COVID-19.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data were collected through an electronic search using PubMed, SciFinder, Scirus, Google Scholar, and Web of Science, as well as conducting a library search for articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Medicinal Plants with Antiviral Activity against Coronavirus

Plant Extracts

A screening study was employed to evaluate the potential of *Cimicifuga rhizoma*, *Meliae cortex*, *Coptidis rhizoma*, *Phellodendron cortex*, and *Sophora subprostrata* extracts against various strains of coronavirus [20]. The extracts effectively decreased mouse hepatitis virus A59 (MHV-A59) production and intracellular viral RNA and protein expression with EC₅₀ values ranging from 2.00 to 27.50 µg/ml. These extracts also significantly decreased porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) production and, to a less extent, decreased vesicular stomatitis virus production *in vitro*. Another study conducted by the same group demonstrated that *Sophora flavescens* radix, *Sanguisorba officinalis* L. radix, *Acanthopanax gracilistylus* W.W. Smith cortex, and *Torilis arvensis* fructus were effective against MHV-A59 replication in infected cells [21]. Mechanistically, the inhibitory effect was attributed to the induction of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) expression through extracellular signal-related kinase and p38 activation.

CHAPTER 4

Gastroenteritis: Symptoms and Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2

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Abstract: Previous studies on the coronavirus (CoVID-19) have shown that respiratory symptoms such as fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath are mainly the common manifestations at the onset of the infection. These symptoms are largely similar to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which prevailed in 2003, and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012, indicating droplet and contact transmission to be the reason for transmission. However, it is widely accepted that a range of common attributes, like diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal discomfort, can be observed among various affected populations, along with an early and mild onset commonly followed by typical respiratory symptoms. Increasing affirmation from several recent research works on SARS-CoV-2 has indicated that the gastrointestinal tract (intestine) epithelium is a favorable host to SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus particles. These findings are confirmed by the viral detection in biopsy specimens and stool samples of even the positive patients, thus explaining at least partially the gastrointestinal symptoms in the patients. Additionally, the wastewater-based epidemiology studies being done by various countries suggest that individuals can start shedding the virus particles in the feces long before any of the key symptoms could be manifested or before the patients could be clinically diagnosed. These findings have ignited the questions on potential recurrence and transmission of COVID-19 from persistent fecal shedding from the infected individuals.

Keywords: COVID-19, Faecal-oral Transmission, Gastroenteritis, WBE.

INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses are small in size (65 –125 nm in diameter) and contain single-stranded RNA as nucleic material, ranging from 26 to 32 kbs in length. The coronaviruses family have subgroups including alpha (a), beta (b), gamma (c), and delta (d) coronavirus. All four genera of coronaviruses can be found in birds and mammals, including bats. The first coronavirus was avian infectious bronchitis viruses (IBV) which caused disease in chickens and humans [1, 2].

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Various other important coronaviruses such as SARS- CoV, MERS-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2 were found to be correlated with inflammations in humans [3, 4]. Previously it was thought that these viruses cause infection in animals until a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak occurred in Guangdong, China, in 2002 [5], and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Middle Eastern countries [6]. The separate cases of pneumonia of unrevealed origin in late December 2019, from China, were reported to be caused by a novel coronavirus which was later designated as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV- 2) and defined as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Firstly, on 29th December, 4 cases were reported from Seafood wholesale market in Wuhan, a central city in China [7]. After investigation, the local Center for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed additional patients connected with a similar market and reported on 30 December 2019 to China CDC [7]. World Health Organization (WHO) was enlightened about the cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology on the next day by China CDC [8], and a level 2 emergency response was launched by China CDC on 6 January 2020 [9]. Until 7 January 2020, the causative factor was not recognized; Chinese authorities isolated a new type of coronavirus [8], and on 10 January 2020, the sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 genome was first shared by China [10]. The development of molecular diagnostic methods for the isolation and identification of SARS-CoV-2 facilitated the confirmation of the infected patients. As of 21 January, 270 cases were confirmed from Wuhan [8].

Wuhan, a central city in China, underwent lockdown on 23 January 2020, warning people worldwide about an emerging novel coronavirus, which poses a major threat to public health [8]. The entire china was taken by the storm of 2019 novel Coronavirus, which crossed the borders of China to reach across the globe immediately, hitting the worldwide score of 2,544,792 confirmed cases and 175,694 deaths, reported as per World Health Organization (WHO) Situation Report– 94 of 23rd of April 2020 [11].

SARS-COV-2 - THE PATHOGEN CHARACTERISTICS

SARS-CoV-2 –virion looks like a spherical shape when observed by transmission electron microscopy imaging, with pleomorphism [12]. SARS- CoV-2 morphology was consistent with the Coronaviridae family with a genome enveloped in protein, with 38% G+C content consisting of six major open reading frames (ORFs) encoding non-structure proteins and structural proteins including spike glycoprotein, small envelope protein, matrix protein, and nucleocapsid protein and other accessory genes [13]. The genome sequences of coronavirus

isolated from different patients showed conservation, suggesting that the virus evolves recently [14]. S glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2 helps in binding host cell receptors, angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), which is a critical step for virus entry. Etiologies evolve with the interactions of host proteins with the proteins of the virus, leading to infection susceptibility and progression.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TRANSMISSION

The dissemination of SARS-CoV-2 from human to human occurs in people who are personally in contact with patients or incubation carriers, mainly between family members, relatives, and friends [15]. In contrast, the transmission in health care workers in hospital-acquired infection in the case of SARS-CoV is 33–42% and 62–79% in the case of MERS [16]. But the main route of SARS-CoV-2 transmission was found to be immediate exposure with host animals or wild animals.

However, the origin and dissemination routine of SARS-CoV-2 remain difficult to track down. The respiratory tract is the major source of COVID-19 spreading by droplets, respiratory secretions, and direct contact. Also, the transmission of the virus was found to be multiple as SARS-CoV-2 was isolated from fecal swabs and blood. The patients with COVID-19 infection showed specific similar symptoms, such as fever (88.7%), malaise, cough (67.8%), sputum production (33.4%), sore throat (13.9%), headache (13.6%), and shortness of breath (18.6%) with 1-14 days of incubation but few patients presented Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), respiratory failure, multiple organ failure, and even death [17, 18]. Gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea (3.8%) and vomiting (5.0%) were exhibited in few numbers of patients. The dominant symptoms were fever and cough, whereas gastrointestinal symptoms and upper respiratory symptoms were rare.

As the severity of illness in critically ill patients increases, the fatality rate also increases and can reach up to 49%. Unfortunately, no definite curative alternatives are accessible; only protective means can be put in an application instantly [19]. COVID-19 has an elevated figure of asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers, due to which there is a higher level of transmissibility compared to SARS and MERS [20].

In China, a study published by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) reported a case fatality rate of 2.3% for SARS CoV-2 [21] which is significantly lower than that of SARS (9.5%) and MERS (34.4%) [9].

Transmission of the virus from human to human is mainly through respiratory tract droplets expelled out from an infected person's cough or sneeze and are

The Chronicles of Coronavirus: A Chinese King Who Conquered the Entire World

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Abstract: Coronaviruses cause infections in birds and rodents, but these viruses have been able to infect the human in the last few decades. The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003 and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2008 revealed the lethality of coronaviruses, as these viruses cross the species barrier and infect humans. An epidemic of novel Coronavirus that emerged in province Hubei, of which Wuhan was the epicenter, linked the number of cases with pneumonia-like symptoms to the seafood market in Wuhan, China. The human epithelial cells were used for the isolation of novel coronavirus that was diagnosed through the use of unbiased sequencing, later named nCoV-2019. Based on the information, there was evidence of transmission in humans that occurred because of close contact from the middle of December 2019. In recent times, the infection has been identified in other countries around the world, infecting millions of people. This review aims to assess the latest information regarding COVID-19 and compares it with previous knowledge reported regarding it. Most progress has been made on COVID-19, highlighting the specific structural requirements for its functions in the nCoV-19 life cycle and the mechanism behind its pathogenesis.

Keywords: COVID-19, Diagnostics, MERS, NCoV-19, NS Proteins, Pathogenesis, SARS, SARS-CoV-2, The Structure of SARS-CoV-2, Transmission.

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Jean-Marc Sabatier (Ed.)

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INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses include RNA viruses of veterinary and medical concern. All coronaviruses are characterized by spherically enveloped particles with prominent surface projections, resembling the Corona of Sun (Fig. 1). Coronaviruses belong to order Nidovirales of the family Coronaviridae, subfamily Coronavirinae. These viruses are single-stranded positive-sense RNA viruses with genome size varying from 26 to 32 kilobases that make them the viruses with the largest genome among RNA viruses [1]. Based on the antigenic and genetic criteria, Coronaviruses have been organized into four groups: Alpha Coronavirus includes; FECV (Feline Enteric Coronavirus), PRCoV (Porcine Respiratory Coronavirus), Feline (FCoV), Porcine TGEV (Transmissible Gastro- Enteritis Virus), FIPV (Feline Infectious Peritonitis Virus), Porcine PEDV (Epidemic Diarrhea Virus), Canine CCoV, HCoV-229E, HCoVNL63 and Bat Coronaviruses, Beta Coronavirus include; HCoV-HKU1, MERS-CoV, HCoV-OC43, SARS-CoV, Murine coronavirus (MHV) and Bovine Coronavirus (BCoV), Gamma Coronaviruses like Infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) are specific to birds except for Beluga whale Coronavirus while Delta Coronaviruses were created in 2012 by the regrouping of various human Coronaviruses HKU11, HKU12, HKU13 and animal viruses (Fig. 2) [2, 3].

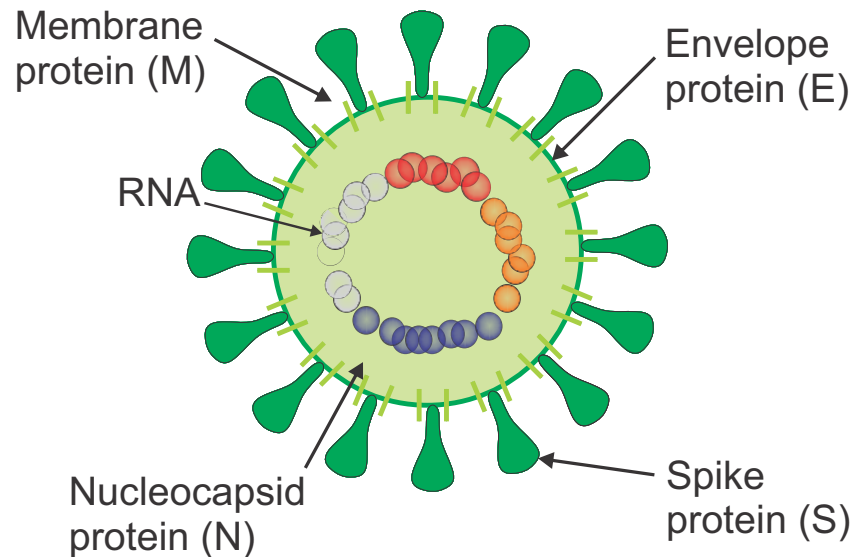


Fig. (1). Structural proteins of Coronavirus.

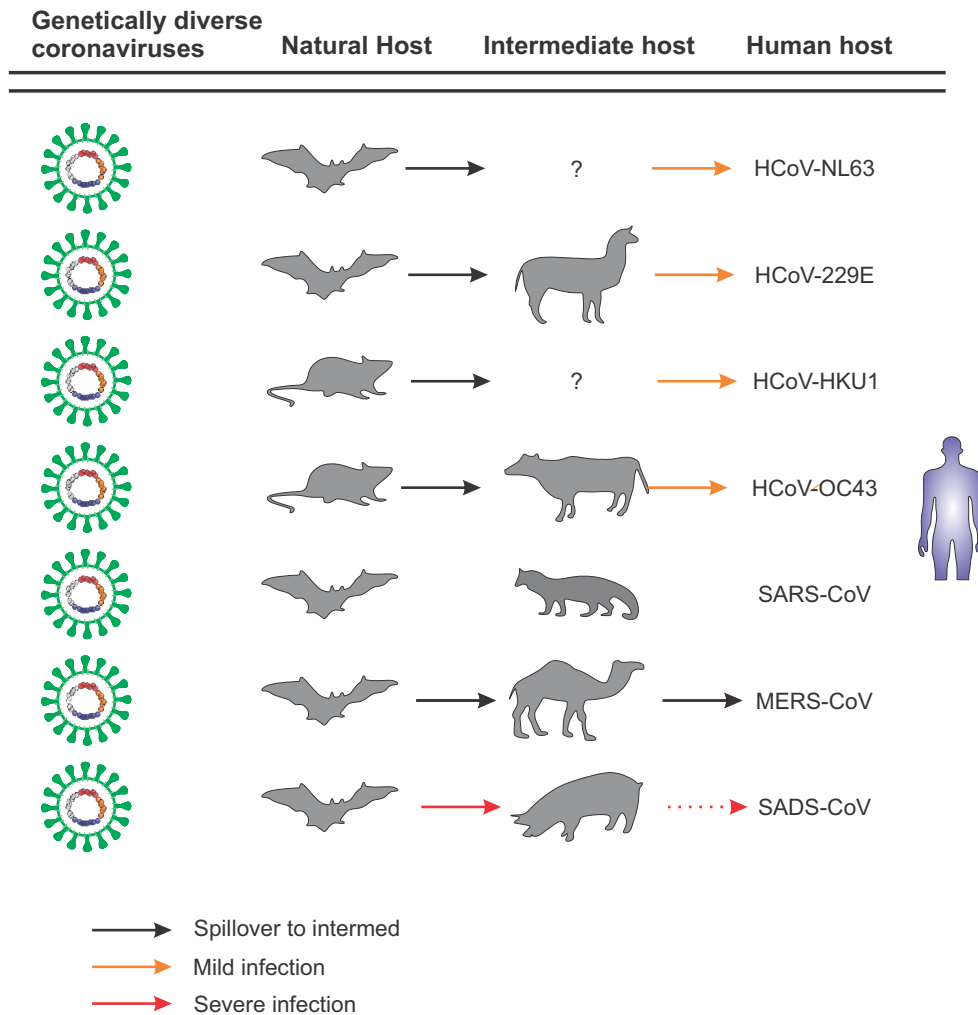


Fig. (2). Animal origins of human Coronaviruses.

Primarily, coronaviruses were thought to be enzootic infections causing disease in animals and birds only, but some viruses have crossed the species barrier of humans and animals, proceeding to establish zoonotic diseases in humans. These viruses may lead to upper respiratory tract infections that mimic a common cold, such as lower respiratory tract infections such as influenza, bronchitis and extreme acute air syndromes. These symptoms are similar in all types of coronaviruses the viruses affecting the respiratory tract [1]. The symptoms specific to COVID-19 are fever, dyspnea, cough, fatigue and less frequent gastrointestinal and anosmia [4].

Traditional Medicine as Natural Remedy in ARDS & COVID-19 Through Interleukins

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Abstract: SARS-Corona-Virus-2 related disease (COVID-19) is a 2019 outbreak and was declared as a pandemic by WHO in March 2020. The high mortality rate in humans with SARS-CoV-2 has been attributed to its effects on major organs and primarily on the lungs. Therefore, it is extremely imperative to identify effective strategies for the prevention and treatment that can cease or reverse the inflammatory process associated with acute lung injury, ARDS, and multi-organ failure in COVID-19 patients. Inflammation to lungs through cytokine storm [also known as cytokine release syndrome (CRS)] is mediated through many cytokines, and IL-17 is one amongst them. We have experimentally demonstrated IL-17 responses in autoimmune/inflammatory disorders through *Boerhavia erecta* L *in vitro* and *in vivo* models recently, and further, propose this herbal medicine in this review chapter as a potential treatment option for mild to moderate acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) in COVID-19 patients.

Keywords: ARDS, Autoimmune, *Boerhavia erecta* L, COVID-19, CRS, Cytokine, Inflammation, Interleukins, Mortality, Prevention, Traditional.

INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 is the strain of coronavirus that is responsible for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [1]. This is also referred to as 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) or human coronavirus 2019 (HCoV-19), the pulmonary infection a principle reason for the COVID-19 disease. Approximately 1/3rd of infected patients develop mild pulmonary inflammation in severity, resulting in acute lung injury that finally leads to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) over 14 days [2]. As of 22 November 2020, the global disease burden (Johns Hopkins University - <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>) estimate is over 58.64 million infections and almost 1,388,068 deaths worldwide.

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The primary direct reason for the transmission was presumed to occur initially *via* coughs and sneezes within a range of about 6 ft. and few recent studies confirmed that COVID-19 may be airborne. Whereas, indirect transmission through contaminated surfaces could be another plausible cause of this debilitating disease. One has to take all precautions to avoid the group transmission of an infectious disease.

SARS-CoV-2 causes greater risk in geriatric patients having evidence of comorbid conditions such as heart, liver and, kidney diseases and often die of their original comorbidities and this has triggered a need for alternative treatments that can stop any untoward outcomes [3]. Therefore, while treating pneumonia, importance has to be given for the treatment of any underlying diseases of the individual. SARS-CoV-2 causes damage to the lungs and other major organs, including blood and the immune system [4]. Eventually, patients succumb to multiple organ failure, shock, ARDS, heart, and renal failures [5]. The major reasons for such infection could be due to be pneumonia, characterized by bilateral infiltrates in addition to cough and fever. However, it has become extremely difficult for clinicians to differentiate it from other viral respiratory illnesses due to a lack of common clinical features [6]. Many patients had experienced symptoms of the disease in a lighter tone, but only a few patients experienced quick progression of their clinical symptoms over a week to 10 days. In the majority of the cases, lower zone consolidation of bilateral lobes of lungs was found maximum at 10-12 days from onset of symptoms. All such viral pneumonia symptoms like fever, fatigue, dry cough, and lymphopenia share common radiological features of COVID-19 [7]. Acute lung injury induced by both capillary leak of endothelial cells and cytokine storm was found to be the key elements in the immuno-pathology of ARDS and MODS (Multiple Organ Dysfunction Syndrome) associated with various forms of COVID-19 [8].

COVID-19 - GLOBAL CHALLENGES

COVID-19, since its outbreak during December 2019, has proved to be the most deleterious pandemic threat across the globe. Now it has emerged as a formidable task for the scientists to find a way out for the COVID-19. The major possible reason could be the COVID-19 virus's ability to replicate at a greater frequency. This results in new positive strands and multiplication of the viral progeny cells in the human cells. Recently, the biggest challenge for the researchers is that SARS-CoV-2 is found to have a high risk of mutation and therefore switches to a different form. This has caused a great challenge in developing the curative process (American Society for Microbiology, 2020). It has been established by a few researchers that SARS-CoV-2 has two types of strains, the 'L' and 'S' strains. Amongst these, the common L strain could have emerged from the S strain which

has a higher rate of infection in a short period and responsible for its fast replication rate inside the human host cell. By and large, this has become a huge challenge for the precise analysis and develop therapies in the short time available. It also exhibits a high rate of mutagenesis, and this made a difficult task for the scientists to analyze its genomic sequence and interaction with host cells [9]. Recent Global Financial Stability Report shows that the COVID pandemic has left a huge impact on the world's financial system, and if the crisis is not addressed immediately, it could affect global financial stability. Many large and small markets have seen declines of 30% or more since 2009. Many stress factors have also emerged in major funding markets, this includes both the global and Indian markets and seems to have repercussions for at least another 2 to 3 years.

PATHOLOGY OF ARDS (ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME) OR ALI (ACUTE LUNG INJURY)

ARDS is considered a severe form of acute lung injury (ALI). It generally surfaces when fluid fills up air sacs in the lungs which leads to a decrease in the amount of oxygen or elevated levels of carbon dioxide in the blood circulation. Thus ARDS deprives the major organs of sufficient oxygen supply eventually leading to organ failure. The most common symptoms of ARDS are muscle fatigue, difficulty in breathing (dyspnea, fever), discolored skin or nails, and CNS disorders. Such symptoms are largely caused by inhaling toxic chemicals or developing a severe infection such as pneumonia or overdosing on sedatives or tricyclic antidepressants, *etc.*

The Prima facie of ARDS treatment is to supply adequate amount of oxygen to prevent MODS by administering oxygen through invasive or non-invasive mechanical ventilators that supply air or oxygen *ad libitum* into the lungs. Secondly, fluid balance is another ARDS treatment method that involves adequate fluid intake and it helps in many cases. Large amounts of fluid in the body can cause fluid accumulation in the alveoli (air sac). However, on the other way around even extremely low quantities of fluids also can strain the major organs. Thus, patients with ARDS are prescribed medications to counter any adverse effects, which include analgesics to relieve pain, antibiotics for the infection, blood thinners to prevent disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). Further, the exudative (acute) phase that lasts 1 - 7 days involves inflammation through neutrophils that damage the alveolar epithelium, this increases its permeability and causes intra-alveolar hemorrhage and edema; this edema which is rich in proteins communicates with alveolar surfactants, thereby pulmonary compliance is minimized.

Molecular Pathogenesis of Human Coronaviruses of 21st Century

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Abstract: Coronaviruses affect both humans and animals, causing respiratory, enteric, hepatic, and neurological diseases. Until the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) in 2002, coronaviruses were known to cause very mild infections in humans. However, the ongoing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that emerged in December 2019 from Wuhan, Hubei province, China, is several folds critical than the disease caused by its predecessors, SARS and MERS coronaviruses of 2002 and 2012, respectively. The evidence shows that all the human coronaviruses of this century, including the ongoing pandemic SARS-CoV-2, were the result of zoonosis, crossing the animal species barrier, causing high morbidity and mortality in the human population. A large number of studies have provided an understanding of earlier SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV induced pathogenesis and host immune response. Immunopathogenesis of current SARS-CoV-2 has also been reported to a significant extent since its emergence. It is evident from the studies reported to date that all the above three human coronaviruses share similarities with respect to clinical symptoms caused, pathological conditions induced, and host immune response that leads to the disease progression to a larger extent. However, certain pathological features associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection are distinct and fatal from the features caused by the other two human coronaviruses. This chapter focuses on the studies related to immune response, molecular pathogenesis of all three human coronaviruses with an emphasis on SARS-CoV-2 and the immune evasion strategies stimulated by individual viral proteins and their driven mechanisms.

Keywords: ACE2, ARDS, COVID-19, Immune Evasion, Immune Response, MERS, Pathogenesis, Pneumonia, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2.

INTRODUCTION

An outbreak of pneumonia ,a new public health crisis threatening the world,

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emerged towards the end of December 2019 from Wuhan, Hubei province, China spreading across the globe. The pathogen-associated with pneumonia was identified as an unfamiliar coronavirus of zoonotic origin and was marked as 2019-nCoV by the World Health Organization (WHO). Since its sequence had shown genetic relatedness with SARS-CoV of 2002 and Bat SARS-like coronaviruses, it was renamed by the Coronaviridae Study Group (CSG) of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) as SARS-CoV-2 [1]. Later, on February 11, 2020, the disease was given the official name COVID-19. Globally, there have been more than 50 million confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 and more than 1.2 million deaths in 219 countries reported by the WHO, as of 9th November, 2020. In the 21st century, two human coronaviruses have caused outbreaks of pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) CoV of 2002 affecting 8096 persons with 774 deaths in 29 countries [2], and the middle east respiratory syndrome (MERS) CoV emerged in Arabian Peninsula in 2012 with more than 2510 cases with 866 deaths in 27 countries as per the report of WHO, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Egypt. The ongoing SARS-CoV-2 associated mortality is lower than that of SARS and MERS, but the number of persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 is massive compared to the former two human coronaviral infections taken together. The transmission rate of SARS-CoV-2 is also much higher and has been spread to almost all the parts of the world, but the frequency of spread is reported to be different among the countries [3].

SARS-CoV-2 is so far the 7th member of the Coronaviridae family infecting humans. All the three human coronaviruses of this century are zoonotic in nature, triggering high morbidity and mortality in human populations [4 - 6]. SARS and MERS-CoVs originated from bats crossing the animal species barrier to infect humans through different intermediate hosts. The intermediate host for SARS-CoV is suspected to be the palm civets, whereas MERS-CoV was transmitted through the dromedary camels [7, 8]. However, the intermediate host for SARS-CoV-2 is still not known; whether this virus infected humans *via* direct transmission from a bat or through any transitional host is also not clear. Re-investigation of the published data, the genomic and evolutionary pieces of evidence have shown 91.02% sequence identity between Pangolin-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 and 90.55% with Bat-CoV RaTG13 [9], indicating the Pangolin origin of SARS-CoV-2. However, it needs to be substantiated with other pieces of evidence. Irrespective of its original source, the most probable hypothesis is that SARS-CoV-2 entered an insignificant number of humans, likely from an infected animal, and from there, the virus attained the ability to infect humans and spread through human-to-human transmission before the group of patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 was recognized [10]. Comprehensive sequence analysis and comparative study in conjunction with the relative synonymous codon usage

(RSCU) bias among different animal species based on the SARS-CoV-2 sequence suggest that the emergence of novel coronavirus could be the result of recombination between bat coronavirus and a coronavirus of unknown-origin [11]. The possible recombination that might have taken place within the viral spike glycoprotein resulted in the emergence of a highly pathogenic and virulent strain than the former two human coronaviruses. Coronaviruses are empowered with potent immune-evasion mechanisms that have the ability to target multiple aspects of innate immunity. SARS-CoV-2 initiates extensive production of cytokines, reduces the interferon responses, and suppresses the viral antigen presentation on both MHC class I and class II molecules [12].

Pathogenesis is the process through which a disease develops. Viral pathogenesis generally develops in two ways: cellular pathogenesis, *i.e.*, direct damage caused to the cell by the virus, and immune pathogenesis, *i.e.*, global damage caused due to increased host immune response to the infection. Most respiratory viruses trigger a critical immune pathogenic response with relatively minimal cellular damage. Pathogenesis begins with the entry of the virus into the host through its interaction with a cell surface receptor, followed by replication, production of progeny particles, and then dissemination to different target organs. Some infections are undetectable as the body's anti-viral immune defenses eliminate the virus before the onset of the disease. However, highly pathogenic viruses have self-engineered strategies to overcome these host defense mechanisms. The interaction of virulence factors with key host molecules determines the ability of the virus in the successful establishment of the infection and the disease severity [13]. The purpose of this chapter is to compare the molecular pathogenesis of the three human coronaviruses, SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2, by discussing the following components: (1) the differences in their proteomes contributing to pathogenesis and comparison of the subtypes based on their virulence, (2) viral entry, tissue tropism, infection, transmission, (3) molecular pathogenesis, (4) immune response elicited and (5) immune evasion mechanisms and their involvement in the viral life cycle/disease process.

COMPARISON OF ALL THREE HUMAN CORONAVIRUSES

Proteome Comparison

The Coronaviridae family members are enveloped viruses with the largest positive-sense single-stranded RNA genome of about 25 - 30 kb. They have multiple open reading frames (ORFs) encoding for structural and non-structural proteins. The non-structural proteins, Nsp1 to 16 are produced from the proteolytic processing of ORF1a/ORF1ab polyprotein, which is the common mechanism in all three CoVs. Comparative analysis of SARS-CoV-2 proteome

CHAPTER 8**COVID-19, Mental Health and Neuropathophysiology of Pain Related to Temporomandibular Disorder****Karen Dantur Batista Chaves¹ and Maria Cristina Munerato^{1,*}**¹ *Conservative Dentistry Department, Dentistry School, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil*

Abstract: Temporomandibular disorders (TMDs) are a group of disorders related to pain and dysfunction that affect the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) and the masticatory system. TMD patients often suffer from orofacial pain and have symptoms that are less specific, including ear pain and ear fullness, tinnitus, dizziness, neck pain, and headache. Thus, individuals with TMD and orofacial pain deserve special attention, since neurological events such as headache, tinnitus, and muscle pain, which are present in these conditions, can also be found in cases of COVID-19. In addition, mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression, are more common in patients with TMD than in the general population. Consequently, individuals with psychological disabilities, such as TMD patients, may have their pain perpetuated as a result. COVID-19 is not only affecting physical health — it has brought direct and indirect psychological and social consequences that can influence mental health both during the pandemic and in the future. Therefore, it is believed that psychological factors in connection with the pandemic may lead to a great risk of developing, worsening, and prolonging TMD, since these factors can lead to autonomic responses that result in sleep disorders. This chapter will address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of TMD patients, focusing on brain changes involving the trigeminal pathway and maladaptive changes in the default mode network (DMN).

Keywords: Anxiety, Coronavirus, COVID-19, Default mode network, Depression, Headache, Mental health, Post-traumatic stress disorder, Psychological factors, Sleep bruxism, Spinal trigeminal nucleus, Temporomandibular joint disorders, Tinnitus, TMD pain, Trigeminal system.

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INTRODUCTION

Temporomandibular disorder (TMD) is a collective term that involves changes in the temporomandibular joints (TMJ), the masticatory muscles, and the associated tissues [1 - 7], and it is one of the most common chronic orofacial pain syndromes that affect the masticatory system [1]. The etiology is considered multifactorial, since one or more factors may be related to predisposition, initiation, or perpetuation of TMD [2]. There is integration of physical and psychosocial factors [8], and patients with TMD and orofacial pain have a higher prevalence of stressors compared to individuals with no TMD and orofacial pain [9]. Several surveys indicate that TMD is related to mental health conditions [3, 10 - 21], especially anxiety and depression [17, 24]. Post-traumatic stress disorders have also been reported as a contributing factor to TMDs and orofacial pain [14, 15, 21, 25].

The most common signs and symptoms of TMD are orofacial pain, changes in jaw movements, and joint noise [5]. Symptoms that are less specific, such as ear pain, ear fullness, tinnitus, headache, and dizziness may also be present [22]. Some headache conditions may exist in overlap with some painful TMDs, making the diagnosis process more difficult [23]. This overlap suggests a clinical association between these diseases and a possible common pathogenesis of pain for them [26 - 30].

Bruxism has been identified as one of the main factors related to TMD [31], and, although its etiology is not well defined, studies have revealed a connection between bruxism and certain personality traits and psychosocial factors [32 - 35]. Bruxism is a muscular disorder, characterized by the grinding or clenching of the teeth, which can occur during the day (awake bruxism) or during sleep [36 - 43], with prevalence among adults ranging from 9 to 31% [44, 45]. Studies have assessed brain activity during bruxism in patients with TMD, showing decreased neural activation in cerebral areas related to motor and cognitive functions, and abnormalities in DMN during teeth clenching [46 - 48]. Such abnormalities have also been linked to pain rumination [49], post-traumatic stress [50, 51], TMD symptoms (such as tinnitus) [52], and psychological situations (such as fear and anxiety) [53, 54]. Since neurological symptoms such as tinnitus and headache may be present in patients with COVID-19 [55 - 59], patients with TMD and orofacial pain may experience increased stress for believing they are infected, and psychological factors associated with the pandemic can worsen bruxism and pre-existing TMD [60]. Additionally, after the pandemic, the signs and symptoms of pain may be similar to those of post-traumatic stress disorder or syndrome, as well as pain rumination may be present, given the central alterations established [49].

COVID-19 is a new pandemic, which started in late 2019, caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2 [61 - 63]. However, due to its recent nature, information about this disease is still scarce. The relation between COVID-19, mental diseases, and TMD-related neuropathophysiology of pain should be comprehended, so that specialists can better handle cases of orofacial pain and TMD during and after the pandemic.

TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDER AND OROFACIAL PAIN MECHANISMS

TMDs are defined as a set of musculoskeletal and neuromuscular changes that include numerous anatomical structures in the face and head, which is why diagnosis is complex [1 - 7, 64, 65]. On top of that, the orofacial region has special emotional and psychological significance, given its importance for functions such as drinking, eating, speaking, expressing emotions, and other sensory functions, such as taste and smell [66]. These are highly prevalent conditions worldwide, affecting more women than men [64, 67]. Although these conditions are observed mainly among young adults, surveys have indicated that children and adolescents are also affected [3, 68, 69]. Among the structures involved in TMDs and orofacial pain are TMJs, muscles, ligaments, teeth, periodontium, and all related tissues [5 - 7]. Failure in any of these structures leads to an imbalance of the whole set. TMD can be classified as articular, muscular, or associated with both structures, and the main signs and symptoms are muscular and articular pain, functional limitations, and joint sounds [1].

In 1992, the Research Diagnostic Criteria for Temporomandibular Disorders (RDC/TMD) was published — a tool to be used primarily in research and that provided a systematic assessment made up of standardized clinical examination and questionnaires. This tool follows the biopsychosocial model of TMD assessment and classification, consisting of Axis I (physical diagnoses) and Axis II (psychosocial aspects). The inclusion of psychosocial assessments represented a great evolution, as it raised the discussion about the role of these aspects in TMD-related pain, expanding this view to clinical approaches to control such conditions [70, 71]. RDC/TMD has been used in numerous surveys worldwide, as it has been translated into several languages and, over the years, has undergone an extensive accreditation and updating process [72 - 77]. In 2014, the Diagnostic Criteria for Temporomandibular Disorders (DC/TMD), an update of RDC/TMD, was published [78]. It also has two axes and its distinguishing feature is that it can be used clinically in addition to research. Axis I is made up of diagnoses of muscular and articular TMD, and TMD-related headache, while Axis II incorporated new confirmed instruments to assess behavior in cases of pain, psychological state, and psychosocial functioning [79, 80]. These tools have been widely used and have

SUBJECT INDEX

A

- Abnormalities 169, 192
 cardiac-related 169
- Acid(s) 16, 64, 70, 86
 Betulinic 86
 blood uric 16
 coumaric 70
 phenolic 70
 salicylic 64
- Actinomycin 86
- Activity 2, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 42, 66,
 67, 70, 71, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 147,
 158, 169, 122, 200
 anti-coronavirus 81, 83, 86
 anti-inflammatory 18
 broad anti-alphavirus 20
 cardiovascular 169
 furin enzyme 8
 helicase 16, 158
 inhibited cleavage 70
 sympathetic 200
 therapeutic 147
 viroporin 2
- Acute 17, 54, 99, 127, 134, 135, 136, 137,
 138, 140, 145, 147, 148, 165, 167, 168,
 169, 170, 171
 cerebrovascular disease 170
 gastritis 17
 kidney injury (AKI) 165, 169
 respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) 54,
 99, 127, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140,
 145, 147, 148, 165, 167, 168, 171
 tubular necrosis (ATN) 169
- Adeno-associated virus (AAV) 178
- Aerosols 40, 42, 103, 112
 infectious 40
 microbial 112
 virus-laden 42
- Agents 8, 11, 19, 21, 42, 68, 130, 148
 therapeutic 11, 19, 130
 traditional chemotherapeutic 42
- Airborne 55,
 disease 55
 infection isolation rooms (AIIRs) 55
- Alanine 11, 169
 aminotransferase 169
 metabolite 11
- Aldehyde oxidase 16
- Alkaline phosphatase 10
- American industrial hygiene association
 (AIHA) 40
- Analysis 110, 160
 phylogenetic network 160
 population genetics 160
 viral metagenomic 110
- Anemia 10, 11, 13
 hemolytic 10, 11
- Angiotensin-converting enzyme 3, 68, 69, 85,
 99, 101, 103, 137, 161, 162
- Anti-HIV Drugs 142
- Anti-inflammatory drugs 142
- Antinociceptive system 201
- Anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody 126
- Anti-SARS-CoV activity 72
- Antiviral activity 5, 9, 10, 12, 18, 19, 63, 65,
 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 80, 83, 85
 broad-spectrum 5, 10
 assay 67
- Antiviral agents 1, 9, 21
 broad-spectrum 21
- Antiviral chemoprophylaxis 37
- Antiviral drugs 1, 2, 3, 65, 141, 142, 178
 broad-spectrum 2
 licensed 1
- ATPase activity 71
- Automatic 55, 194
 vending machine 55
 nervous system 194

B

- Blood oxygen 127
- Body's defense system 138

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Bovine coronavirus (BCoV) 69, 119
 Breathlessness 32, 33
 Bronchitis 120, 146

C

Cathepsins 7, 162
 cellular 162
 endosomal 7
 Cell-based 66, 86
 CPE assay 86
 cytopathic effect 66
 Cellular 3, 7, 10, 19, 171, 172
 damage 171
 Immunity 172
 pathways 19
 phosphatases 10
 proteases 3, 7
 Center for disease control (CDC) 50, 98, 126
 Chinese herbal medicine 66
 Chronic 196, 198
 psychosomatic diseases 198
 TMD-related pain 196
 Clathrin-dependent endocytosis 18
 Clathrin-mediated viral endocytosis 18
Clitoria ternatea 145
 CNS 136, 196
 disorders 136
 dysfunction 196
 Coronaviral cysteine proteases 83
 Coronavirus 64, 67, 85, 166
 anti-transmissible gastroenteritis 85
 ongoing pandemic 166
 pathogenic chicken 67
 transmissible gastroenteritis 64
 Coronavirus 36, 37, 57, 64, 79, 90, 130, 200
 cysteine proteases 79
 infections 36, 64, 130
 outbreak 200
 pandemic 57
 proteases 90
 transmission 37
 vaccines 130

COVID-19 1, 5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21, 38, 44,
 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 69, 90, 104,
 111, 127, 129, 131, 134, 140, 142, 145,
 146, 147, 170, 176, 191, 199, 200
 disease 55, 134, 140
 hospitalized 11
 infection 21, 38, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 170,
 176, 199, 200
 occurrence of 111, 131
 pandemic 1, 17, 56, 104, 129, 191, 199, 200
 proteinase 69
 therapy 145
 target 90
 treating 21, 146
 treatment of 5, 8, 14, 15, 53, 90, 127, 140,
 142
 Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) 134, 137,
 139, 140, 142, 143
 Cytokines 101, 134, 137, 139, 140, 143, 147,
 148, 168, 171, 175, 176
 inflammatory 168
 Cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) 172

D

Damage 10, 35, 129, 135, 136, 137, 138, 143,
 166, 167, 170
 alveolar epithelial 167
 displayed characteristic diffuse alveolar 166
 hepatic 170
 inflamed tissue 138
 skeletal muscles 170
 Diagnosis of COVID-19 14, 103
 Diarrhea 4, 13, 17, 97, 99, 100, 102, 164, 165,
 167, 200
 mild 4
 Disease 127, 135, 140, 145, 155, 177
 cardiac 127
 cardiovascular 140
 kidney 135
 neurological 155, 177
 targeting 145
 Disease progression 15, 100, 137, 155, 169,
 176

Disorders 51, 134, 143, 170, 191, 194, 197,
198, 200, 202
acute cerebrovascular 170
autoimmune 143
autoimmune/inflammatory 134
respiratory 51
Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)
136
Distress 195, 198
psychological 195, 199
DNA and RNA viruses 9
Drugs 3, 11, 32, 35, 142
anti-polymerase 11
immuno-modulating 32
inflammatory 142
therapeutic 35
therapies 3
Drugs targeting 3, 9
entry process 3
viral replication 9
Dual infections 129
Dyslipidemia 4

E

Ebola 18, 19, 128
infection 18
virus 18, 19, 128
Ebola virus 2, 15
disease 2
outbreak 15
Edema 136, 147, 166, 167, 169
pulmonary 147, 167
Effects 8, 9, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 80, 144, 147
anti-inflammatory 147
antiviral 9, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 80, 144
cytopathogenic 67
pathogenic 147
prophylactic 67
symptomatic 144
therapeutic 8, 147
Electron microscopy 103
Encephalitis 178
Encephalopathy 170

Epidemic 33, 64, 105, 119, 179
diarrhea Virus 119
infection 105
outbreak 64
viral 33, 179
Epidemiological observations 41
Euphorbia neriifolia 86

F

Facemask 47, 48
Facilities 16, 41, 51, 44, 108
health care 108
medical 16, 41
warehouse 108
working 51
Factors 7, 13, 105, 110, 112, 175, 191, 192,
194, 195, 199, 200, 201, 202
psychological 191, 192, 201
psychosocial 192, 199
transcriptional 175
Faecal-oral transmission 97
Feline 119
enteric coronavirus 119
infectious peritonitis virus 119
Fibromyalgia 196
Fibrosis, pulmonary 142, 147

G

Gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT) 103, 170
Garlic oil 68
Gastrointestinal 100, 101, 164, 165
cluster 100
illness 164
malaise 165
Gene silencing 85
Global preparedness monitoring board
(GPMB) 54
Glycoproteins 3, 8, 85, 99
fusogenic 3
of SARS-CoV-2 85, 99
viral envelope 8
Glycyrrhiza glabra 146

H

Healthcare facilities 38, 50, 52
 Health 55, 57, 107
 innovation exchange (HIEX) 55
 issues 57
 mediations 107
 Helicase 81, 158
 Hepatitis 2, 5, 8, 21, 141
 Herbal medicines 80, 64, 134, 143, 146
 traditional Chinese 80
 Human 8, 12, 17, 21, 142, 146, 166, 180
 coronavirus associated diseases 166
 coronavirus outbreaks 180
 immunodeficiency virus (HIV) 8, 17, 21,
 142, 146
 RNA Polymerase 12
 Hypoxemia 101, 165

I

Illness 17, 32, 38, 43, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103,
 128, 135, 145, 147, 170
 inflammatory 147
 non-COVID 38
 viral respiratory 135
 Immune 16, 57, 135, 145, 155, 158, 165, 174,
 175, 178,
 antagonism 16
 defenses 178
 evasion 155, 174, 175
 system 57, 135, 145, 158, 165, 175
 Immunity 66, 129, 130, 140, 143, 147, 157,
 172
 antiviral 172
 cell-mediated 147
 innate 157
 Immunodominant epitope 176
 Infection 5, 15, 20, 32, 35, 38, 42, 46, 52, 68,
 100, 101, 106, 109, 125, 126, 134, 136,
 137, 143, 147, 157, 162, 164, 168, 174,
 175, 177, 178
 acute respiratory 38
 airborne 42

 corona virus 38, 52
 emerging pandemic influenza 15
 enteric 164
 lung 143, 147
 microbial 20
 paucisymptomatic 106
 pulmonary 134
 Infectious 1, 43, 54, 67, 68, 80, 97, 119, 124,
 128, 135
 bronchitis virus (IBV) 67, 68, 80, 97, 119,
 124
 diseases 1, 43, 54, 128, 135
 Inflammatory process 134, 143, 145, 196
 immune-related 145
 Influenza viruses 15, 146
 Insomnia 197, 200
 Interferon 161, 175
 induced transmembrane proteins 161
 stimulated gene (ISG) 175

J

JAKs signaling 18
 JAK-STAT 19, 139
 pathway 19, 139
 signaling pathway 19
 Japanese encephalitis virus 21

K

Kidney failure 121, 167

L

Lactate dehydrogenase 137, 165
 Liver 103, 169
 damage 169
 enzymes 103
 Lopinavir/ritonavir monotherapy 17
 Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) 170
 Lung 54, 101, 129, 137, 139, 145, 147, 172
 damage 129

- disease 101
 fibrosis 139
 injury 101, 137, 145, 147, 172
 ultrasonography 54
- M**
- Macrophage inflammatory protein (MIP) 101, 171
 Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) 194
 Major histocompatibility complex (MHC) 172
 MAVS signaling pathway 176
 Mechanisms 10, 71
 oxidative stress defense 10
 viral release 71
 Medicinal plants 65, 67, 69, 85, 90, 145
 Memory 173
 Mental diseases 193
 Mental health 56, 57, 191, 196, 197, 199, 200
 disorders 191
 problems 200
 Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) 2, 63, 64, 97, 98, 99, 102, 118, 121, 140, 141, 155, 156, 165, 166
 Monocyte chemoattractant protein (MCP) 101, 171
 Monophosphate dehydrogenase 10
 Monotherapy 19
 Multiple 18, 135, 136, 137, 145
 host cell kinases 18
 organ dysfunction syndromes (MODS) 135, 136, 137, 145
- N**
- Nasal congestions 54
 Necrosis 169, 169
 adrenal gland 169
 myofiber 169
 Neurological symptoms 170, 192, 202
- O**
- Open reading frames (ORFs) 98, 157, 160
- P**
- Pain 191, 194, 195, 196
 myofascial 194, 195
 neck 191, 196
 Pancreatitis 17
 Pandemic 33, 38, 39, 52, 53, 104, 105, 128, 129, 191, 192, 199, 200, 201, 202
 coronaviruses 65
 crisis 53
 disease 52
 threat 135
 Papain-like protease (PLP) 3, 63, 71, 80, 159, 163, 174
 Parkinson's disease 20
 Pathway 10, 174
 purine biosynthesis 10
 signal transduction 174
 Pattern recognition receptor (PRR) 176
 Polygonum multiflorum 70
 Polymerases 9, 14, 158
 dependent-RNA 158
 Porcine 65, 67, 68, 70, 72, 81, 85, 119
 epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) 65, 67, 68, 70, 72, 81, 85
 respiratory coronavirus 119
 Post-traumatic stress disorder 191, 192, 195, 197, 198, 201
 Protease 2, 4, 63, 66, 70, 72, 80, 163, 172
 aspartic 172
 Protease inhibitors 4, 16
 Proteinase 16, 145, 159
 Protein(s) 2, 3, 7, 65, 68, 69, 70, 98, 99, 122, 123, 124, 130, 158, 159, 160, 175
 based therapies use growth factors 130
 expression 65
 inhibition 70
 membrane protein 159
 protein interactions 123
 Pulmonary 136, 146
 compliance 136
 injuries 146

R

- Renin-angiotensin 125, 172
 - aldosterone system (RAAS) 125
 - system (RAS) 172
 - Respiratory 5, 11, 15, 21, 37, 38, 41, 46, 50, 57, 69, 97, 101, 102, 122, 129, 164, 168, 170
 - distress 122, 168
 - droplets, microscopic 41
 - illness 38, 57, 170
 - infections 11, 50, 129
 - protections 46
 - symptoms 37, 38, 97, 101, 102, 164
 - syncytial virus 5, 15, 21, 69
 - Respiratory syndrome 33, 64, 66, 67, 102
 - coronavirus, wild-type severe acute 66
 - virus 67
 - Respiratory tract 99, 121
 - droplets 99
 - infections 121
 - Response 157, 166, 171, 174
 - critical immune pathogenic 157
 - lethal unrestrained systemic inflammatory 171
 - systemic stress 166, 174
 - Reverse transcriptase enzyme 146
 - Rheumatoid arthritis 141, 143
 - Rheum officinale* 70
 - Ribavirin 11
 - efficacy 11
 - nucleoside analogs 11
 - RNA 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 63, 66, 158, 159
 - dependent RNA polymerase 3, 9, 11, 13, 63, 66
 - polymerase (RNAP) 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 63, 66, 158, 159
 - sofosbuvir-terminated 13
 - RT-PCR diagnosis 127
- S**
- Salvia* 65, 67, 83
 - multiorrhiza* 83
 - officinalis* 67
 - Sanguisorba officinalis* 65
 - SARS 11, 70, 155, 160
 - and MERS coronaviruses 155, 160
 - and MERS outbreaks 11
 - CoV, coronaviruses 70
 - SARS-CoV-2 13, 39, 99, 98, 104, 108, 111, 112, 157, 160, 162, 163, 164, 180
 - detecting 111
 - fecal transmissibility 104
 - genomes 13, 98, 111, 112, 160
 - proteome 157
 - RNA 111, 164, 180
 - spike protein 162, 163, 164
 - transmission 39, 99, 104
 - virus and RNA in wastewater 108
 - Scrophularia scorodonia* 85
 - Serine 161, 162
 - transmembrane protease 162
 - Serine protease 7, 103, 141
 - transmembrane 103
 - enzyme 141
 - Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) 2, 3, 4, 17, 63, 64, 66, 97, 98, 99, 118, 121, 155, 156, 172
 - Single-stranded positive-sense RNA virus 122
 - Sleep disorders 191, 200
 - Smoking-related diseases 56
 - Social 37, 39, 45, 51, 52, 53, 57, 107, 200
 - distancing 37, 39, 45, 51, 52, 53, 57, 107, 200
 - media in public health education system 52
 - Spectral confocal microscopy 167
 - Sporadic fevers 179
 - Steroids 129, 141, 200
 - adrenocortical 200
 - Stress 56, 137, 171, 197
 - oxidative 137, 171
 - social 56
 - disorder 197
 - Stressors 192, 195, 198
 - traumatic 195, 198
 - Structural proteins 2, 4, 98, 119, 122, 124, 158, 163
 - of coronavirus 119

Structure activity relationship (SAR) 72, 86
 Surgical masks 41, 47, 57
 Swine testicular (ST) 70
 Symptomatic people 126
 Symptom-less child 103
 Symptoms 32, 33, 38, 45, 54, 97, 99, 100,
 101, 102, 103, 120, 121, 135, 165, 179,
 192, 194, 196, 198
 dominant 99
 gastrointestinal 97, 99, 100, 102, 103, 121,
 165
 suspected COVID-19 45
 viral pneumonia 135
 Syndrome 134, 137, 139, 140, 143, 192
 cytokine release 134, 137, 139, 140, 143
 moderate acute respiratory distress 134
 Systemic lupus erythematosus 141

T

Taxillus chinensis 67
 Telehealth counseling 56
 Temporomandibular joints 192
 Therapeutics 32, 161
 anti-coronaviral 161
 Therapies 6, 10, 11, 32, 63, 127, 130, 136,
 139, 140, 178, 195
 antiviral 127, 140
 combined antiviral 11
 immune 178
 immunosuppression 140
 plasma convalescent 32
 traditional medicinal 63
 Thrombocytopenia 164
 Thrombogenesis 101
 Tissues 169, 178, 179
 mucosal lymphoid 169
 respiratory 178, 179
 Transaminases 16, 165
 Transcriptase 47
 Transcription 2, 18, 85, 158, 172, 174, 175,
 176
 membrane protein 85, 158
 process 158

Transcriptome analysis 169
 Transmission 37, 39, 41, 51, 54, 55, 57, 97,
 99, 118, 126, 127, 161, 164
 aerosol 41
 airborne 41
 Transmission 34, 98, 113
 electron microscopy imaging 98
 of coronaviruses 34
 pathway 113
 Trauma 197, 199
 Treatment 32, 47, 128, 130, 142
 antiviral 47
 prophylactic 130
 symptomatic 32, 128, 130, 142
 Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) 101, 139, 140,
 168

U

Upper respiratory tract (URT) 120, 126, 163,
 164

V

Vaccines 1, 35, 53, 105, 127, 128, 129, 142,
 143, 175, 179
 mRNA-based 129
 Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)
 168
 Vasculopathy 200
 Ventilation 12, 13, 40, 42, 43, 55
 dilution 40, 43
 Ventilation systems 37
 Viral 9, 10, 13, 19, 20, 21, 32, 33, 35, 67, 68,
 90, 123, 127, 130, 141, 148, 163, 174,
 175
 diseases 33, 127, 148
 pandemics 32, 35
 proteases 163
 proteins 67, 123, 174, 175
 replication 9, 10, 13, 19, 21, 68, 90, 130,
 141
 replication machinery 163
 RNA replication 20

- Viral genome 13, 63, 64, 90, 110, 111, 112, 122, 162
 - integrity 13
- Viral infections 1, 2, 3, 19, 21, 39, 66, 67, 80, 141, 142, 144, 145
 - inhibiting 142
 - respiratory 145
- Virus(es) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 37, 43, 67, 97, 106, 110, 111, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 146, 147, 158, 157, 177, 173, 174
 - airborne 37, 43
 - hepatitis 10
 - host cell receptor interactions 3
 - infectious bronchitis 97
 - influenza 2, 4, 20, 146, 147, 177
 - like particles (VLPs) 122, 123, 158
 - life-threatening 9
 - maturation 4, 123
 - nucleocapsid 111
 - respiratory 67, 157
 - treating RNA-based 11
 - vaccinia 19

W

- Wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) 97, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112
- World health organization (WHO) 12, 15, 33, 38, 54, 63, 64, 98, 121, 122, 124, 125, 129, 156, 199

Z

- Zika virus 5



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