

repurposed drugs are important in order to have an efficient target concentration as the drugs were implemented for different treatment paradigms.³³

Table 1: Table illustrates the mechanism of various drug therapies and reasons for the repurposing of the drug.

Vaccines: The Bharat Biotech, the countries pandemic vaccine leaders are collaborating with virologist at the university of Wisconsin –Madison and the vaccine company FluGen, for the project of developing vaccine against corona. They are in a process of developing an intranasal vaccine for COVID 19 called CoroFlu. CoroFlu is in the animal testing phase in the US, and is expected to move to human trials in the next three months. The intranasal route is selected as flu, RSV and corona enter through the naso-region, and hence produce mucosal immunity when given by nasal drop (just one drop is easy to be injected to the nasal route). Bharat biotech has commercialised 16 vaccines including the one developed against the H1N1 flu that caused the pandemic in 2009. Kawaokas lab will insert gene sequence from SARS-CoV-2 which cause COVID 19 into M2SR (which is a self-limiting version that induces immunity response against the flu). So that the new vaccine will induce immunity against the coronavirus.⁶⁸ Codagenix (CDX-005) from Serum Institute of India manufactures intranasal live attenuated vaccine candidate for SARS-CoV-2 which are expected to be more efficient and patient friendly. As the virus mechanism remains uncertain, it is extremely critical to develop first generation vaccine within short period of time. As prevention is better than cure the immunization programmes is far better for the future perspective. At present there are challenges developing a successful vaccine, but the future may be beneficial enough to tackle the changing strains of coronaviruses. As a matter of moment scientists' tie-up to produce appropriate immune response to terminate the pandemic. There are several concerns, related to the vaccine development which includes reduced small sample size studies, estimation of safety profiles for elderly or minorities and vulnerable groups. Thus, it is difficult to evaluate the efficacy or generalise results as current trials have large gaps in the types of people being enrolled in phase III trials of vaccine development in different countries. It is therefore important to have large scale surveillance trials so that vaccine provides long term safety and prevents infection. Resistance to antivirals are the new emerging challenge in the raising pandemic. The regulatory authority of each country may provide emergency use authorization of vaccines or drugs before the formal approval to just tackle the spread of infection for the moment and monitor their utilization in severely ill patients.⁶⁹ Despite of the burst of coronavirus being sudden there are many pharmaceutical companies trying hard for the isolation, identification, and management of the Covid -19 and it might take another 10 years for composing an effective vaccine.⁷⁰

Table 2: Vaccines under phase 3 clinical trial for SARS-CoV-2 infections

CONCLUSION

There have been no effective antiviral therapies or vaccines approved so far for SARS-CoV-2. Vaccines for pandemic infections require rapid development and high production capacity. Many of the vaccine candidates are under developmental phase with a good number in clinical trial phase. An appropriate therapy requires the identification of surface structure of spike glycoproteins for the development of antiviral drug that still has multiple challenges. Clinical

trials have been initiated in different countries to develop effective treatment options, but this may take several years to trace out a reliable treatment therapy for patients. Larger sample size studies are needed to investigate the effects of antiviral therapies for COVID infections leading to a better endpoint. Currently many clinical studies have been reported worldwide and several drugs are repurposed to tackle the new health emergency of COVID-19. But there are no sufficient data to suggest the treatment eradication of COVID -19 as there is lack in comparative studies. Wide population of patients involved RCT opens the era for evaluating and reassuring the efficacy of drug repurposed for COVID-19. It is early to predict the safety and efficacy of drugs repurposed as they might have an alarming side effect in the future trials. As there is no pre-existing immunity against the new virus the exploration of intranasal delivery techniques with mucosal immunity may be an eye opener. It is also important to acknowledge that there are so far no proven data supporting the standard use of any of these agents for COVID-19.

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Table 1: Table illustrates the mechanism of various drug therapies and reasons for the repurposing of the drug.

| S. No | Drug name | Mode of action | Drug target on SARS-CoV-2 | Factors for the repurposing of the drug (indications) | Plausible adverse effects ⁶²⁻⁶⁷ | Reference |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine | They create an acidic endosomal pH that inhibits viral fusion with host cell receptors. | Interrupts the endosomal pathway and prevents viral entry and fusion with the host ACE2 receptors. | Antimalarial agent also used for the treatment of autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis. Their immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory and antiviral <i>in vitro</i> activities may have a role in viral pneumonia-like symptoms treatment of COVID-19. | Cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, macular retinopathy | 50,51 |
| 2 | Darunavir/Atazanavir/Cobicistat | Inhibits viral protease | Viral proteins | Anti-HIV agents used in SARS-CoV infections. | Gastrointestinal disorders, hypersensitivity reactions | 50 |

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|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 3 | Lopinavir/Ritonavir | Viral protease inhibitor | Viral proteins | They are found effective in SARS and MERS-CoV. The combination inhibits viral replication and cleaves new virions in HIV. | Gastrointestinal disorders, glucose intolerance, hyperlipidemia, hepatotoxicity, icterus, retinal toxicity | 51 |
| 4 | Tocilizumab | Inhibits interleukin and cytokine proliferation | IL-6 | Monoclonal antibodies effective in rheumatoid arthritis, cytokine release storm. | Hypersensitivity reactions | 50 |
| 5 | Remdesivir | Nucleotide inhibitors | RNA-dependent RNA-polymerase | Studies showed potential for SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV and Ebola viruses. | Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome, septic shock, hypotension and acute kidney injury | 52,53 |
| 6 | Umefenovir | Inhibits membrane fusion | Viral and host cellular membranes | Approved for influenza, HIV. Currently in phase IV trials for pneumonia associated COVID 19 infections. | Gastrointestinal adverse effects, raised transaminase levels, weight loss, hair loss | 50,51 |
| 7 | Favipiravir | Inhibits RNA polymerase | RNA dependent RNA polymerase | studies show antiviral activity against the Ebolavirus, Lassa fever, and influenza. Trials conducted on coronavirus associated pneumonia-like fever | Teratogenicity | 50,51 |
| 8 | Camostatmesylate | They prevent the viral entry and fusion | TMPRS S2 proteins. (protease) | They regulate the cytokine expressions and | No reported adverse effects, monitor for common events like elevated peripheral blood eosinophilia, rash | 50,54 |

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|----|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| | | with TMPRSS 2 proteins on host cell surfaces. | inhibitors) | inflammatory responses in chronic pancreatic fibrosis. <i>In vitro</i> studies show effective blockage of SARS-CoV-2 entry. | | |
| 9 | Teicoplanin | Inhibits viral entry | Viral S proteins | Efficient against Ebola virus, HIV, MERS-CoV, and SARS-CoV infections. | Common adverse effects are rashes, ototoxicity | 55,56 |
| 10 | Oseltamivir | Inhibits viral replication | Viral polymerase and protease inhibitor | Antiviral agents used in HIV and HCV treatments. | Neuropsychiatric adverse events | 56 |
| 11 | Statins | Immuno-modulatory effects, anti-inflammatory, and lipid-lowering agents | Inflammatory symptoms | They are mostly employed in patients with comorbid conditions. They reduce the host cell lung injury caused by COVID-19 infections. | Muscle related symptoms. | 56 |
| 12 | Angiotensin receptor blockers+zinc supplements | Reduce the viral multiplication and spread | ACE-2 receptors | Animal studies in mice show improved survival rates and reduce flu-like symptoms. | No reportable effects, commonly include headache, vomiting, diarrhea | 45 |
| 13 | Sofosbuvir | Inhibits viral polymerase | RNA dependent RNA polymerase | Clinically effective against anti-HCV, Zika viruses. | Pulmonary arterial hypertension | 57 |
| 14 | Ribavirin | They are nucleotide inhibitors. | Inhibits viral RNA-dependent RNA- | <i>In vitro</i> studies show antiviral activity | Haemolytic anemia, teratogenic | 57 |

| | | | polymerase (RdRp) enzymes | against viral RdRp | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 15 | Ribavirin+ Interferon α 2b | Nucleotide inhibitor+ immunomodulators | Viral genome | This combination therapy shows effectiveness in RSV, HCV, and SARS-CoV. They possess antiviral and immunomodulatory effects that can be repurposed. | Neuropsychiatric effects | 58 |
| 16 | Telbivudine | Inhibits Viral polymerase | Viral protein-M ^{pro} | Nucleoside analogs effective in hepatitis B virus | No reported effects, commonly include headache, liver problems, allergic reactions | 58 |
| 17 | Chlorpromazine | Inhibits viral fusion | Spike proteins, inhibition of clathrin-mediated endocytosis | Dopamine and adrenergic antagonists used against SARS, MERS and Ebola entry | No reported data, monitor for hypersensitivity, risk of glaucoma, urinary retention, agranulocytosis, allergy.- NCT04366739 | 59 |
| 18 | Nitazoxanide | Inhibits viral entry | Haemagglutinin (HA) expressions | Useful as anti-helminthic, production of interferons and inhibits in vitro MERS-CoV infections | Pruritis, hair loss, allergic skin reactions | 60 |
| 19 | Ivermectin | Inhibits nuclear transport of viral and host proteins. | IMP α / β 1 transporter of RNA viruses. | The antiparasitic agent is effective against the Zikavirus, pseudorabies virus. | Neurological adverse events | 61 |

Table 2: Vaccines under phase 3 clinical trial for SARS-CoV-2 infections

| SL.No | DEVELOPER | VACCINE | TYPE OF VACCINE | PHASE 3 OF CLINICAL TRIAL ⁷¹⁻⁷⁵ | FUTURE OUTCOMES |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | ModernaTX, Inc- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease | mRNA-1273 | Genetic vaccine (Lipid nanoparticle encapsulated-mRNA based vaccine)mRNA-1273 against SARS-CoV-2 targets the S spike proteins | Began on July 27 th 2020 – NCT04470427 | Scientists all around the world are in high-pressure to find a potential treatment and vaccine to crack down the COVID -19 pandemic. Vaccines have the capacity to train the immune system to recognize and attack the virus when they encounter the host cells. Vaccines provide permanent cure and rapid targeted drug delivery. The major factors considered are the strength of antigens, vaccine delivery system and route of vaccination. The production of adequate amount of neutralising antibodies and periods of long term protection by vaccines is necessary to block viral pathogens. There can be adverse effects even in case of vaccine administration hence proper clinical phase trials with small animals |
| 2. | CanSino Biologics Inc/Beijing Institute of Biotechnology(approved for limited use in China) | Ad5-nCoV | Recombinant viral vectored vaccine Ad type 5/non replicating viral vaccine | Began on September 15 th 2020 - NCT04526990 | |
| 3. | Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology(approval for early use in Russia) | Gam-Covid-Vac | Viral vectored vaccine Adenobased Gam-COVID-Vac/non replicating viral vector | Began on September 28 th 2020- NCT04564716 | |
| 4. | Jhonson&Jhonson(Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre in Boston) | Vaccines made with(Ad26.COVS.2) AdVac ^R technology | Viral vectored vaccine- Ad26(ENSEMBLE trial) | Began on September 7 th 2020- NCT04505722 | |
| 5. | Novavax/Emergent Biosolutions | NVX-CoV2373 | Protein based vaccine(VLP recombinant sub unit,full length S trimer/nanoparticle with matrix M1 (S-glycoprotein helps in binding to ACE-2 receptor and generate antibody against epitopes. | Began on September 28 th 2020- NCT04583995 | |
| 6. | Sinopharm-Wuhan Institute of Biological Products(approved for limited use in UAE) | Covid-19 vaccine | Inactivated/live attenuated coronavirus vaccine(after passage/inactivation virus lose virulence) | Began on July 16 th 2020- NCT04510207 | |
| 7. | SinovacBiotech,Butantan Institute(approval for limited use in China) | CoronaVac/Picovac | Inactivated/live attenuated coronavirus vaccine(after passage/inactivation virus lose virulence) | Began on July 21 st 2020- NCT04456595 | |
| 8. | Bharat Biotech International Limited(Indian council of medical research &National Institute of Virology) | Covaxin(BBV152A,B,C) | Inactivated/live attenuated coronavirus vaccine(after passage/inactivation virus lose virulence) | Began on October 3 rd 2020(Phase1,2 - NCT04471519) | |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9. | Laboratorio Phoenix S.A.(Beijing institute of biological products) | Covid-19 vaccine | Inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine | Began on September 16th 2020- NCT04560881 | and non human primates are mandatory prior to human trials. The use of adjuvants can intercept the side effects to an utmost level. Of this intranasal route stimulates both cellular and humoral immunity and promises a higher level of protection so far in clinical studies. However the safety and efficacy profiles are crucial factors that determines the success of an ideal vaccine development. ⁷⁶ -78 |
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