

COVID 19 – A Viewpoint

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Abstract

Pandemics are known to have occurred previously however, recent incidences of frequent outbreaks have highlighted the increasing emergence of transmission of viral diseases from animals to humans. The evolution of corona virus and possible role of animal reservoirs and vectors in the disease transmission is not completely known. The viral jump from animal reservoirs to humans is very intriguing and speculative and not well understood till date and environment can be assumed to have played a very important role. A great deal of research that is ongoing in the laboratories is still far away from giving definite answers about the causative agent and possible treatment options that can effectively control the disease. Corona virus is understood to be specific to ACE2 that are found abundantly in lung epithelial cells and enterocytes of the small intestine. Prevention and treatment options can be effectively developed only when the genetic changes that impact the degree of pathogenicity of the virus are well understood. Treatment options include use of indigenous herbal remedies or drugs for respiratory diseases.

Keywords: COVID19, Pandemic, Epidemiology, Infectious, Transmission

Introduction

The pandemic Corona Virus Disease (COVID 19) that is currently sweeping the world is unprecedented and is shrouded in mystery in several aspects – origin, mode of transmission from animals to humans, pathogenicity, and the most intriguing of all is how to control it. World has witnessed some of the deadly epidemics in the recent past – Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), all of these however have been less disruptive and less fatal in that they were confined to specific regions with low mortality and morbidity rates when compared to COVID19.

A great deal of research that is ongoing in the laboratories is still far away from giving definite answers about the causative agent and possible treatment options that can effectively control the disease. The measures that are employed to halt the infectious transmission are based upon some of the known methods, such as previous experiences with Spanish Flu of 1918 and treatment strategies have been those that are typically followed for treating respiratory diseases.

Despite several approaches being engaged, there are significant gaps in understanding the epidemiology of the virus, disease transmission rate, variable disease symptoms in the populations, and developing efficient and effective mitigating strategies.

Significance of the Pandemic

A pandemic is defined as “an epidemic occurring over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries, and usually affecting a large number of people” [4]. Pandemics are known to have occurred previously however, recent incidences of frequent outbreaks has highlighted the increasing emergence of transmission of viral diseases from animals to humans and is commonly referred to as zoonosis. Global outbreaks are known to cause