

Can COVID-19 be a Silver Line in the Dark Cloud?

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Editorial

Since the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, it became a global threat in a short period [1]. By mid-November 2021, the disease has taken its toll by infecting over 251 million people and 5 million deaths globally [2]. There is no other disease had influenced human life and economies for centuries of recent history. It has completely changed the perspectives of modern human life and social interactions and completely altered the trajectories of certain aspects of human life. Besides the dramatic improvements in virtual interactions, the disease was a huge challenge for health scientists to find ways to curb the disease.

A race to develop a successful vaccine has resulted in several highly appealing vaccines and the global panic is being mediated. The health threat of SARS-CoV-2 created a momentum to pay exacerbated attention to the harmfulness of the viral infection and find therapeutic interventions to curb the disease. However, it is worth exploring the type of immune responses that can be beneficial in alleviating certain lethal human diseases, especially lymphoma. It is a fact that patients with underlying medical histories of cancer, diabetes, and hypertension had an increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 disease outcomes. The virus is primarily targeting cells in the immune system and causes dramatic depletion of this cell population that demarcates a hallmark of disease prognosis. However, interestingly, a few observations have led to the identification of some beneficial aspects of the infection, such as complete remission of classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (cHL) [3] and Follicular Lymphoma after the infection (FL) [4]. The precise molecular events underlying these rare events are yet to be elucidated. These clinical observations may result due to over-orchestration of immune responses and the virus-induced cell death or more complicated interaction of viral proteins with anticancer molecular targets. There is a lack of clinical studies that have been done to correlate cancer remission and SARS-CoV-2 infection. Only a few in silico interpretations have been done and predicted, SARS-CoV-2 spike protein's receptor binding domain, M protein, and ORF3a can interact and potentially modulate downstream molecular signaling pathways [4]. Furthermore, significant changes in expression patterns of cancer-related genes can be recognized in SARS-CoV-2 patients' gene expression data. This background suggests, there can be a strong therapeutic potential of lethal viral infections such as SARS-CoV-2. Since the SARS-CoV-2 infection and spread is in diminishing trend, it the time to visualize the virus from a different perspective.

Perhaps, deadly SARS-CoV-2 may reside complete answers for lethal diseases such as lymphoma. Can it be a silver line in the dark cloud? It is our responsibility to decipher the beneficial molecular feature for the betterment of humanity.

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