

Editorial – Covid-19 Outbreak

An outbreak that started in Wuhan, China spread rapidly across all continents. Caused by SARS-CoV-2, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) has become the most important issue in the scientific area due to its high rate of mortality. Competing with time, research centers, institutes, and universities around the world have set to work to develop new projects. As of May 2020, no vaccine has been currently licensed for SARS-CoV-2, but as the studies make progress rapidly, the number of articles on scientific platforms is increasing by each day.

There is an urgent need for treatment strategies to stop the epidemic. Since drug development studies take many years, drug repurposing studies are being conducted for the drugs used in previous SARS and MERS outbreaks. Besides the antiviral agents, many other candidates are also under investigation.

In months, we have understood that the pathology of the disease is complicated. Since there is no pharmacological treatment specific to the disease, being one of the old but effective methods, passive immunization has been approved by the FDA only for critically ill patients. It is well-established from a variety of studies that the human convalescent plasma is an option that had been used safely in previous H1N1, SARS, MERS, and Ebola outbreaks. Despite the lack of clarity on the neutralizing antibody titer of convalescent plasma and the protectiveness of the antibodies, it has been considered as an emergency use until a disease-specific treatment or vaccine is developed.

To share the up-to-date information about Covid-19, many scientific platforms opened all their published and pre-print articles to users for free. In Turkey, Middle East Technical University and TUBITAK have created a web portal where all the current data including clinical trials are accessible. Surmounting a crisis requires the engagement of all fields including healthcare professionals, authorities, patients, and researchers. Therefore, we need reliable research and comprehensive action plans.

Under all these extraordinary circumstances, we have recently published the new issue of our journal: Aurum Journal of Health Sciences. In this issue, we present two research articles and three reviews additional to a *letter to editor*. We would like to thank all the esteemed writers and reviewers contributing to the issue. Stay safe.

Gaye Hafez, PhD
Editor-in-Chief
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0837-634X>

Links:

<https://carnap.ai/>

<https://covid19.tubitak.gov.tr/>