ECRONICON OPEN ACCESS

EC PULMONOLOGY AND RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

Letter to Editor

Critiques of the Study of Favipiravir Effect in Reducing of ICU Admission Rates

Seyed Mohammad Reza Hashemian[1]* and Mostafa Norizadehtazehkand[2]

[1]Chronic Respiratory Diseases Research Center, National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NRITLD), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

[2]Faculty of Pharmacy, Bulent Ecevit University, Zonguldak, Turkey

***Corresponding Author:** Seyed Mohammad Reza Hashemian, Chronic Respiratory Diseases Research Center, National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NRITLD), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Received: December 14, 2020; **Published:** December 30, 2020

Keywords: *Covid-19; Favipiravir; ICU*

Dear editor, we are thankful that Dr. Gungor and his colleagues reported a research with the title of "ICU admission rates in Istanbul following the addition of Favipiravir to the National COVID-19 Treatment Protocol" [1] in The Lancet journal.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019 or Sars Cov 2) is a viral infective illness caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. As of Thirteenth October 2020, 38,348,717 cases and 1,090,241 deaths have been reported around the world. There is no approved vaccine or definitive treatment for this disease, but some drugs like Favipiravir are somewhat effective. Favipiravir (Avigan) is a medicine which was approved for influenza in Japan before of Covid-19 [2-4]. Some of research showed that Favipiravir can reduce the viral load and help to patients recover. This research has shown the efficacy of favipiravir against Sars cov 2 because the percentage of patients requiring ICU (Intensive Care Unit) admission were reduced after taking Favipiravir, However, there are some shortcomings about this research.

- We know that noninvasive ventilation is a safe and suitable ventilatory strategy that may avoid the complications of tracheal intubation and ventilation in selected patients with COVID-19-associated respiratory failure. In this research no information has been shared regarding invasive and noninvasive ventilation [5].

- Higher flows of oxygen may be administered using a simple face mask, venturi face mask, or nonrebreather mask (eg, up to 10 to 20 L/minute), but as flow increases, the risk of dispersion also increases, augmenting the contamination of the surrounding environment and staff. In this study, no information was given about the oxygen need of the patients and the amount of oxygenation [6].

- Early recognition of patients requiring ICU admission is a critical step in the management of COVID-19 patients. Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II score and Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score are usually used to evaluation of severity of disease and estimation of mortality in general critical care. In this research the APACHE II score of patients has not been calculated [7].

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Bibliography

1. Güner AE., *et al*. "ICU admission rates in Istanbul following the addition of Favipiravir to the National COVID-19 Treatment Protocol". THE LANCET-D-20-12542.

2. Chen C., *et al*. "Favipiravir versus arbidol for COVID-19: a randomized clinical trial". *Med Rxiv* (2020).

3. Cai Q., *et al*. "Experimental treatment with favipiravir for COVID-19: an open-label control study". *Engineering* (2020).

4. Hashemian SM., *et al*. "Lifesaving combined treatment in a rapidly progressive COVID-19 pneumonia case with extensive lung involvement". *Biomedical and Biotechnology Research Journal (BBRJ)* 4.5 (2020): 93.

5. Sivaloganathan AA., *et al*. "Noninvasive ventilation for COVID-19-associated acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure: experience from a single centre". *British Journal of Anaesthesia* 125.4 (2020): e368-e371.

6. Anesi GL. "Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Critical care and airway management issues. UpToDate. Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc (2020).

7. Zou X., *et al*. "Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II Score as a Predictor of Hospital Mortality in Patients of Coronavirus Disease 2019". *Critical Care Medicine* (2020).

Volume 10 Issue 1 January 2021