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Editorial

The Urgent Need to Develop Effective Anti-COVID-19 Medications for Treating Late Stage Hospitalized Patients

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Quotation

"What is urgently needed at this point in time are Anti-COVID-19 medications that will close the remaining gap such that it will be possible to successfully treat late stage hospitalized patients COVID-19".

The application of COVID-19 Vaccines based upon Messenger RNA and Viral Vector based technologies have been found to be very effective in the prevention of serious COVID-19 infections [1,2]. Hospitalizations and deaths among individuals who had been vaccinated were significantly lower when compared with unvaccinated patient populations [2].

Among unvaccinated patient populations, monoclonal antibody based therapies had been found to be very effective in the treatment of early onset pre-hospitalization cases of COVID-19 (up to 10 days from the appearance of symptoms [3]. Monoclonal antibody therapy was even found to be effective in cases of post-vaccination breakthrough [3]. Monoclonal antibody based therapies, however, were found to be ineffective against omicron variants of COVID19 [3,4].

More recently, pill based anti-COVID-19 medications have come online (Molnupiravir and Paxlovid). These medications were utilized successfully in unvaccinated patients. The anti-COVID-19 medication Paxlovid manufactured by the Pfizer Corporation, was especially effective in early onset cases of COVID-19 if given up to 5 days from the onset of symptoms [4].

There are several interesting new drugs that are currently being investigated, namely: 1) Shionogi S-217622 (oral protease inhibitor), 2) Enanta EDP-235 (oral protease inhibitor), 3) Pardes'PBI-0451 (oral antiviral), 4) Atea's bemnifosbuvir/AT-527 (nucleoside inhibitor), 5) Aligos's ALG-097431 (protease inhibitor), and 6) Gilead's oral antiviral GS-5245 (nucleoside analogue) [5]. The aforementioned medications are still being investigated.

What is urgently needed at this point in time are Anti-COVID-19 medications that will close the remaining gap such that it will be possible to successfully treat late stage hospitalized patients COVID-19.

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