

## A Challenge for Therapy against COVID-19 in the World

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The Covid-19 pandemic is an emerging infectious disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, who appeared on November 17, 2019 in the city of Wuhan and spreads throughout the world. This health emergency, already responsible for many deaths, leads to the need for confinement, in order to avoid or minimize human-to-human transmission.

However scientific research is currently being carried out in order to find a treatment as soon as possible. The international essay set up by the World Health Organization, called "Solidarity" is being carried out. 3,200 participants are recruited in 8 countries (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Germany and Spain) and divided into five groups: the first group receiving the classic care, without experimental molecule, the second group using remdesivir, an antiviral unsuccessfully developed during the Ebola epidemic in 2014; the third group is treated with a combination of two antivirals, lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra), used against HIV, the fourth group takes up this association by adding interferon beta, molecules of the immune system and the fifth group was added to test the hydroxy-chloroquine before or after the oxygenation. This study is being conducted according to the protocol chosen by the World Health Organization and does not include a double blind. In other words, the patient knows that he is taking a real drug, which can induce placebo effects and reduce the statistical significance of the results.

In France, Pr Didier Raoult was the first to propose the use of chloroquine against this disease. His clinical trail show the efficacy of chloroquine combined with an antibiotic to treat patients affected by Covid-19. Although the research has some limitations, the results show encouraging signs of recovery for most patients. He says: chloroquine is mainly effective in the first infectious stage of the disease, and therefore the risks of spread of the virus.

In Australia, a treatment for intestinal worms knows as Ivermectin is being studied. A team of Australian scientists has carried out a laboratory test which have shown very promising results against COVID-19.



**Figure 1**

Although no African country was chosen to take part in the solidarity trial set up by the world health organization. Many African scientists are looking for a treatment against the COVID pandemic 19.

In Benin, the researcher, Dr Valentin AGON has carried out clinical trials showing satisfaisants results: Apivirine known under the name API-COVID 19 is a phytomedicine which presents an antiviral action.

In his words “research is not white, neither Japanese, nor Chinese “ he invites all African countries and the international community to this medical evidence and is ready to ensure free distribution for all requesting countries.



Figure 2

In Ivory Coast, under the basis of misconceptions, many people have started to use Neem leaves or *Azadirachta indica* to treat Coronavirus, thinking that, chloroquine comes from these famous leaves.

According to experts, this tree contains several active constituents and has not shown any efficacy against the coronavirus.

In Asia, Chinese experts share their treatment experiences with Cambodian medical establishments.

According to clinical observation, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has proven to be effective in the treatment of more than 90% of all confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The Chinese Ministry of Health has recommended the use of a drug based on bear bile, goat horn powder and plant extracts, known as “Tan Re Qing” produced by the Kaibao laboratory in Shanghai. It is used in the treatment of patients victims of Covid-19, this recommendation reopens the controversy on the preservation of wild animals.



Figure 3

In the USA, Sanofi and its American partner Regeneron will also test their drug Kevzara in the treatment of Covid-19. Indicated in rheumatoid arthritis, this product could reduce the pulmonary inflammatory reaction in patients with Covid-19.

The vaccine race continues to fight Covid-19. The French pharmaceutical group Sanofi and the American biotech Translate Bio will cooperate for the development of a new candidate vaccine against the coronavirus.

Despite the controversy and the diversity of treatments in progress, international scientific solidarity is more than necessary to deal with this COVID-19 pandemic because the lives of many patients, especially the weakest, such as the elderly, people suffering from pathologies respiratory, immunocompromised people are waiting.

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