

Aims and Scope

Aurum Journal of Health Sciences (AJHS – A. J. Health Sci.) is an international open access platform for basic, applied, theoretical and clinical studies in health sciences. AJHS publishes double blind peer-reviewed research articles, short reports, case reports, invited reviews and letters to the editor. AJHS is published tri-annually both in printed and electronic version. AJHS is a multidisciplinary journal on health sciences and accepts manuscripts on dental, medical, health services and pharmaceutical studies. The manuscripts linking different disciplines of health sciences will be given a priority in the journal.

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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

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

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

In December 2020, when a pneumonia outbreak with an uncertain etiology started in Wuhan, China, the world was unaware of the global crisis becoming shortly. The pathogen was identified from throat swab samples obtained by the Chinese Centre of Disease Control and Prevention on January 7, 2020 and named as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Later on, the World Health Organization (WHO) named the disease as COVID-19 (referred to CORona Virus Disease-2019). Most of the infected patients presented mild symptoms like fever, dry cough, sore throat, whereas some cases developed fatal complications such as severe pneumonia, pulmonary oedema and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The transmission routes of COVID-19 include direct transmissions such as sneeze, cough, and inhalation of droplets, and also contact transmission via contact with surfaces and then passed on with hands coming in contact with oral, eye, and nasal mucous membranes. COVID-19 can also be transmitted directly or indirectly by saliva, semen and by the fecal/oral route.

Considering the transmission routes and aerosol generating nature of most of the dental procedures, it is very clear that dentists are among the highest risk categories for transmission of the virus. Dental hospitals and practices carry high risk not only due to the fact typical treatment generates aerosols and airborne microorganisms can remain suspended in the air for an extended period, but also frequent and direct contact with blood, saliva and using of sharp instruments. In accordance with the instructions of Ministry of Health, dentists are providing treatment only for emergency cases. In this aspect, the role of dentists in the time of pandemic seems to be limited to prevention of spread, however, as a clinician and a researcher, I would like to emphasize other aspects of the issue. As dentists, we are very well-educated in order to prevent cross infection, however we cannot deny the growing body of evidence hour by hour regarding clinical symptoms, transmission routes and treatment protocols of Covid-19. It is our main responsibility to follow recent information and adapt our clinical practices. This adaptation consists not only prevention protocols but also possible modifications of the medication regimes prescribed in the treatment protocols, and, being able to evaluate the oral manifestations of the disease.

In spite of the fact that, with the great effort of many researchers from different parts of the world, the blurry image of Covid-19 gets clearer every single day, only limited numbers of manuscripts were published in dental journals. There is a need for research not only to set prevention protocols for dental settings, but also to enhance the knowledge of dentists about the oral manifestations of the infection. Although, peer review process can take time, our aim should be giving the priority to novel coronavirus related articles and provide recent and best data available for the readers.

As it is frequently said these days, we are all in this together...

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