



Conference Abstract

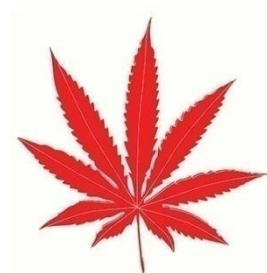
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A Response to COVID-19

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Faculty of Pharmacy For Girls - Al Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.



Corresponding author:

Nisreen Okba Viro-science
Department, Erasmus Medical
Center, Rotterdam, 3015CN the
Netherlands
E: n.okba@erasmusmc.nl

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Conference Abstract

PROTECTIVE POTENTIAL OF SARS-COV -2 NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODIES

Nisreen Okba

Viro-science Department, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, 3015CN the Netherlands

ABSTRACT

The emergence of the novel human coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in Wuhan, China has caused a pandemic of respiratory disease (COVID-19). Effective clinical intervention strategies for COVID-19 are urgently needed. Although several clinical trials have evaluated the use of convalescent plasma containing virus-neutralizing antibodies, the effectiveness has not been proven. We show that hamsters treated with a high dose of human convalescent plasma or a monoclonal antibody were protected against weight loss showing reduced pneumonia and pulmonary virus replication compared to control animals. However, a ten-fold lower dose of convalescent plasma showed no protective effect. Thus, variable and relatively low levels of virus neutralizing antibodies in convalescent plasma may limit their use for effective antiviral therapy, favouring concentrated, purified (monoclonal) antibodies.

Speaker's Biography

Dr. Okba is a postdoctoral researcher at the Viro-science Department, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Her research is focused on understanding immune responses to Coronaviruses aiming at the development of diagnostics and countermeasures including monoclonal antibodies and vaccines. She has developed MERS-COV-specific protective antibodies and protein-based vaccines; and has been involved in clinical trials for a MERS-COV vaccine. Recently, she has been involved in the development of antibody-based assays and therapeutic monoclonal antibodies for SARS-CoV-2 the causative agent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional information is available
at the end of the article.

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