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RESEARCH ARTICLE

COVID-19 – WHAT ABOUT ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS? IS THERE AN EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR FIGHTING THE CORONA VIRUS?

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ABSTRACT

Swift and virulent, the CORONA VIRUS continues to sweep across the globe causing the deadly infectious COVID-19 disease with such a violent and calculated force that the world struggles to find ways to understand, control, combat or even intercept this new virus. The world is gripped in fear! *The word coronavirus refers to the family of viruses that cause respiratory infections that it belongs to and COVID-19 is the official name for the disease it causes.*¹ At this point Stanford University has announced that the Corona virus may be up to 85 times more infectious than being reported.² As scientists and healthcare workers contemplate the negative impact and deadly pathological aspects of this disease the goal of finding a viable treatment option becomes increasingly important for a disease that presently has no known cure. Right now several options are being investigated in laboratories worldwide to help pharmaceutical companies develop treatments and vaccinations, but development of these involves accurate research and timely trials that will prevent immediate availability. So what about the alternative options? There are actually unique and effective alternative phytochemical medicinals that can treat viruses including the Corona virus and others like SARS and H1N1. But overall it is known that in the west the general public is not encouraged to consider alternative medicine as a first-option, especially for treating a global pandemic condition like this! Although alternative methods are just as viable scientifically and have been proven effective for treatment of symptoms experienced with the COVID-19 – the public may be too afraid to contemplate this right now. But, what if these options work? As a doctor, parent and world citizen, I would truly appreciate any type of a feasible treatment defense against this pandemic - I feel that it would be crucially valuable to me, my family, my community, and ultimately to the world. So far though, knowledge of an alternative option like this for COVID-19 has eluded mainstream officials and the mainstream media has not even mentioned the topic. PubMed ONLY has one listing³ and more content can be found about alternative options on YouTube than from a western medical doctor in a hospital setting, but In the east the situation is very different. In China, alternative and mainstream medicine reside side-by-side in the same hospitals, alternative medicines were and still are being utilized to treat the virus and this has helped many of their patients recover and control the deadly symptoms of the virus. In the USA however, alternative medicine is not considered mainstream and at the time of an outbreak it may not even considered a relevant or safe option because it is not thought to be truly medicinal or effective enough for treating extreme conditions like COVID-19. The fact is, studies show that there are several safe, effective alternative treatment options for COVID-19 that work.

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INTRODUCTION

In China, alternative medical experts have actually already started treating COVID-19 patients with alternative medicinals; this is a big surprise to the western world. On Jan. 31, China published an article about the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (SIMM) who work under the Chinese Academy of Sciences). They were featured because Wuhan Institute of Virology discovered that the Shuang Huang Lian oral liquid traditional formula could actually be used to "inhibit" the 2019-nCoV⁴.

The Shuang Huang Lian oral liquid is a preventative formulation made from a blend of honeysuckle, Chinese skullcap and forsythia. This formula functions as an antiviral, antibacterial and repowers the immune system; so that it helps relieve the flu-like symptoms of fever and cough and it improves a decreased immune response and eliminates sore throat – these are some of the main symptoms that most COVID-19 patients experience. This is not the only option in alternative medicines either. Dr. Wen Wei Xie, a well known TCM lung specialist and oncologist is having success treating COVID-19 patients with a formulation called VS-C⁵.



VS-C is a Chinese herb product that has the function of an anti-virus, it helps improve immunity, and It can fight against COVID-. In the Chinese government healthcare system patients have the right to choose traditional treatments, these options are right in the same hospital setting as conventional western medicine – even in the case of the Coronavirus. Recently announcing an ancient TCM formulation linked to being able to treat COVID-10 actually caused a frenzied panic in China both online and in pharmacies all over the country as the formula sold out in days - just like face masks and toilet paper in the USA. Even with such a strong reputation for its preventative properties, and the fact that it is being utilized by experts successfully in a hospital setting presently to treat COVID-19, ultimately this formula is still being met with skepticism – which could be based solely on the fact that the formula is “alternative.” SIMM responded by releasing information in a statement on Feb. 1 verifying the Scientific Xinhua report, and informing all that conclusive claims were based on laboratory studies using the formula on COVID-19. A western hospital fights against the Corona virus

Photo credit: bing.com



BACK IN THE WESTERN WORLD

Meanwhile back in the western world there is no official cure or treatment for the Corona virus as of April 17, 2019, but instead 2.18 million are infected and 147,000 have died worldwide, so there is still a need to find a cure – but not matter how effective, alternative medicine has still not been acknowledged or even been made available. With possibly effective alternative medical treatment options, what is the west waiting for? We western alternative experts are well equipped and ready to jump in and assist with a powerful wave of healing and prevention through our arsenal of scientifically

backed therapeutic options, but so far, there has been no call for this type of collaborative effort or mention of alternative therapies in USA. So what can be done to expedite the acceptance process so that alternative COVID-19 treatments can be explored, accepted and made available? Adequate studies and research will have to be performed but several have already been completed.

STUDIES AND RESULTS

So far, 23 provinces in China issued TCM medicinal preventative programs specifically designed for treating their COVID-19 patients, so what about the west? The USA can carefully follow their lead, and let Alternative Medicine experts help them implement a new treatment system that supports patients utilizing Traditional methods, but they haven't. Scientific Studies are important when developing new medical treatments; here are studies documenting the impact of alternative medicines on COVID-19. In one study⁶ Luo et. al swiftly put in-place scientific backing regarding the medicinals already in place and available for use on COVID-19. Additionally, there were 3 previous studies done utilizing TCM for preventative purposes with other viruses that cause SARS and 4 studies were done for the H1N1 influenza. In these studies,⁷ none of the participants who took TCM contracted SARS – so in these 3 studies the TCM offered total protection, and in application with H1N1 the infection rate in the TCM group was significantly lower than the group exposed to the influenza that did not take the TCM medicinals. (relative risk 0.36, 95% confidence interval 0.24-0.52; n=4). Based on ancient and modern records, coupled both with valuable human evidence of successful prevention in both the SARS and H1N1 influenza prevention, these Chinese herbal formulas could be the strong alternative treatments for prevention of COVID-19 in high-risk population. Even with those 2 very serious influenza virus strains this alternative medicine has already been proven scientifically to be effective, so application of a formula on COVID-19 is logical. Although it is new for the west, the use of TCM as a preventative measure for an epidemic like this involving a highly infectious disease can be traced far back into ancient Chinese history in Huangdi's Internal Classic - Huang Di Nei Jing;⁸ where the use of TCM medicinals to fight epidemic illness utilizing specific formulas, is documented.



THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

According to He Gongxin,⁹ “People are starting to go to TCM because there’s no Western drug available yet.” He Gongxin is the former chief representative of the Shanghai Gilead Sciences Inc office., whose NUC inhibitor, Remdesivir, is in a

phase III trial in China. So there is competition in the east to find a treatment . In another article dated Feb. 3, Xinhua explains that eight of his patients infected with Coronavirus 2019-nCoV were treated and “cured with TCM or a (CAM) combination of TCM and Western medicine in Jinyintan Hospital in Wuhan which is located at the epicenter of the Corona virus outbreak.” In fact, the first batch of COVID-19 patients treated and cured were treated by integrating TCM medicine into their western treatment system – these patients recovered and 6 had been in very critical condition.

CORONAVIRUS DISCUSSION

East and West: Just as in the east, to help establish alternative medicine acceptance and success in the west, further studies will need to be done to scientifically confirm the potential efficacy of these TCM formulas on patients.

Alternative covid-19 treatment options: If there is actually an alternative option that can specifically impact this virus or alleviate the symptoms associated with it, then this treatment system, although alternative, should be shared with the population to help them ultimately survive this. But what if that alternative treatment is natural, yet still scientifically proven? Will it still be considered be effective, accepted or even be allowed into the western medical healthcare system? This will be very difficult. How many suffering from COVID-19 would want to know about a natural treatment anyway? Actually, both the sick and the cautious who don't want to get sick would. It seems apparent that a viable alternative treatment option should be logically welcomed - but what if viable options are just being systematically ignored, discredited or waylaid just because they're considered “alternative”?

Alternatives aren't even being discussed, in fact with this type of emergency situation the narrative needs to be one of acceptance. It is obvious what we as a human race shouldn't have to lose thousands of lives when there may be an alternative. The pressure is mounting. Hundreds of hours of streaming news, round table talks, and expert panel discussions advising leaders as they are being repeatedly reprimanded for their slow and botched response to this pandemic. Sharing unreliable information, and moving forward with illogical actions and reactions to the situation, reveals that normal protocol and strategies associated to this chaotic situation are not enough now – we need alternatives. The race of grasping at any type of pharmaceutical medicine that may treat a virus, has caused the public to grasp as straws, even when the information was incorrect – is this approach a better way just because the medications being promoted are pharmaceutical in origin?. Could it be that in the west the medical community feels that alternative treatments and therapies are not successful, safe or even powerful enough scientifically to fight something like the COVID-19? If you or anyone believes this...Think again!. Alternative medicinals are powerful and Alternative Medical experts are skilled and extensively trained to utilize them independently or in collaboration with western medicine to swiftly impact a disease and cure a patient. Identifying a disease and interacting with it through its specific symptoms helps experts apply TCM principles when identifying the manifesting pattern or syndrome and then applying individualized and personalized treatments of safe and effective TCM medicinals, therapies and modalities - with this approach TCM is strategically effective. Alternative medicine has not always had the support it deserves, especially in the western world. But now with the Corona virus killing so many people all options need to be looked into as we go towards trying to open the world back up and returning to our normal lives. In some cases, treatment options allow patients with

moderate symptoms to manage their own condition, but with no cure available at this time, should patients literally sit and wait to succumb to this illness or should they try to grasp viable alternative options?

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 continues to kill and it is imperative that we consider all alternative medical treatment options when considering developing a successful treatment system for the containing the Corona virus. In a situation like this where western medical experts have no cure, suffer from equipment shortages and their conventional options are not thoroughly effective it is then that safe and effective Alternatives should be utilized by the medical community. It is in this that way that we can impact the overall outcome of the COVID – 19 mortality and recovery statistics positively. So, let's approach Corona virus treatment alternatives with transparency for controlling COVID-19 symptoms. This approach could actually provide a great treatment option for patients suffering and it could assist in preventing further outbreak and help lessen the impact of the 2nd wave of this pandemic. Supporting and establishing a “COVID-19 Alternative Therapy” properly and integrating it into the western medical system will take both coordinated action and strategic precision from the government and all in the medical community - that along with quicker acceptance of valuable treatment alternatives, could immediately help lift the levels of overall treatment success now in the pandemic. So let's consolidate our approach to overcome the Corona virus in the best ways possible – We are going to have to fight smarter to win.

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