



Letter to the Editor

Possible treatment of “Omicron” in Western and Chinese medicines

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Dear Editor

Recently, there is a COVID-19 mutated variant, B.1.1.529 discovered in South Africa and called “Omicron” according to the World Health organization's suggestion [1]. This is not yet clear whether omicron is more transmissible from person to person. It causes the infection by the presence of spike protein which facilitates a virus' entry into the host cell [2]. Is vaccination suitable for this variant? Up to the present, we have received very little information about the omicron which mainly depends on previous experiences in other COVID-19 variants. Thus, some possible treatments of omicron have been proposed in Western and Chinese medicines.

In western medicine, COVID-19 antibody-drug such as “Sotrovimab” is still effective to fight against the omicron variant [3]. Sotrovimab is a SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing

antibody that targets the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) binding domain (RBD) and locks the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) spike protein for mediating the spike-ACE2 interaction [4]. Anti-viral drugs such as “Remdesivir” are also thought to be effective for the omicron variant [3]. Remdesivir is an inhibitor of the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase which reduces and suppresses the virus replication [5].

Based on the traditional Chinese medicine principles derived from “*Huangdi Neijing*”, COVID-19 belongs to the epidemic, e.g., damp toxins. It consists of external and internal factors regarding the evil of human infectious diseases and lacks the human body's righteousness [6]. Wu et al. reported some Chinese herbal medicines such as “*Realgar*”, “*Cyrtomium Fortunei J. Sm*”, “*Astragali Radix*”, “*Glycyrrhizae Radix*” expel damp toxins and restore vital (internal) energy to enhance an immune system [7]. These Chinese herbal medicines' functions are to alleviate symptoms of COVID-19, reduce the inflammatory process, and prevent deterioration [8].

All of the preliminary information demonstrates that omicron might be treated either with Western or Chinese medicines. However, more works need to be done as well as a clinical trial from stage I to IV in the human body for further investigation.

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