

Social doldrums and COVID-19 vaccines race

TAIMOOR HASSAN^{1,2}, XIAOJIA HUANG³,

¹Lecturer, The Department of Health Professional Technologies, The University of Lahore.

²Post-graduate Scholar, School of Pharmacy & School of Medicine, Changzhou University, Jiangsu, China

³Associate professor, School of Pharmacy & School of Medicine, Changzhou University, Jiangsu, China

Correspondence to Taimoor Hassan, E-mail ID, taimoorhassan408.th@gmail.com, Cell: 0321-9400508

To the Editor,

As of the July 2nd 2021, a plethora of COVID-19 cases 182 million reported worldwide, and 3.95 million deaths are recorded. Since, the eruption of this outbreak, the worldwide lockdowns and easing is in chaos¹. It is matter of time that now we must back to social life only with the development of a proper vaccine. Globally, all the governments; health practitioners are working hard to control this pandemic by experimenting number of techniques and preventive methods¹.

Some countries are considered as more successful, while others remained unsuccessful in providing safety to their nationals and rolling out the economic activities. China is leading world in this race. Multiple methods such as; quarantine, self-isolation, testing, treatments, keeping a social distance, washing hands and face, proper sanitization are the methods and techniques are being used for far to combat this pandemic.² Up-till December 2020, the treatment for COVID-19 comprised of Anti-flu Avigan, dexamethasone, remdesivir, asthma steroids. Critically dependent patients were being kept under intensive care units. While discussing the historical background, the world saw that when SARS-cov-1 was emerged, no any vaccine developed at that time as the pandemic stopped by its own. Sinovac, a Chinese pharmaceutical company was the only one company which performed the Phase-1 clinical trials for SARS outbreak in 2002-2003, as the pandemic disappeared the company closed its further research and the matter left un-attended³. In this new pandemic the same pharmaceutical company used its previous data to make vaccine for COVID-19, as it has similarities with the previous one⁴.

The Russians claimed that they were developing the 'Sputnik V' vaccine since past 20 years for other viruses such as Ebola, zika and Congo. The concept of Russian Pharmaceutical Gamaleya is quite identical to the Coronavirus prototype vaccine of CanSino (A Chinese based pharmaceutical company). As we could see that the race for vaccine development has started⁵. Many other countries participated in this race, In December 2020, a US based pharmaceutical Pfizer's joint-venture with

'BioNTech' introduced their very first COVID-19 vaccine after the approval from Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use against SARS-COV-2 in USA and abroad only for people aged 16 or above. Oxford university students developed a vaccine named 'AstraZeneca' for COVID-19 virus and it has also been approved in United Kingdom for emergency use. In February 2021, World Health Organization approved AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine for use⁴. Globally, it has sent millions of its doses to the developing countries so that they could combat this global pandemic.

'Moderna' is also US-based COVID-19 vaccine which also showed good efficacy⁵. 'Johnson & Johnson' is another US-based pharmaceutical company which is also taking part in this race. Right after that, 'Sino-Pharm, Sino-vac, Can-Sino' are Chinese made vaccines against novel coronavirus. Sino-Pharm vaccine has been approved by various countries such as Pakistan, UAE, Chile, Brazil, Turkey, Hungary and many African states. Till now, almost all the vaccines have distributed globally to contain another setback which might be caused by novel coronavirus¹.

Conflict of interest: Nil

Ethical Approval: Not required

REFERENCES

1. Zerhouni E. GAVI, the vaccine alliance. Cell. 2019;179(1):13-7.
2. Organization WH. COVAX: Working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. accessed November. 2020;4.
3. Organization WH. 172 countries and multiple candidate vaccines engaged in COVID-19 vaccine global access facility. World Health Organization. 2020;24.
4. Krause P, Fleming TR, Longini I, Henao-Restrepo AM, Peto R, Dean N, et al. COVID-19 vaccine trials should seek worthwhile efficacy. The Lancet. 2020;396(10253):741-3.
5. Kimble C, Coustasse A, Maxik K. Considerations on the distribution and administration of the new COVID-19 vaccines. International Journal of Healthcare Management. 2021:1-5.