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# 1 The emergence of a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), their biology and therapeutic 2 2 options

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### Abstract

The new decade of the 21st century (2020) started with the emergence of novel 14 coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 that caused an epidemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-15 16 19) in Wuhan, China. It is the third highly pathogenic and transmissible coronavirus after severe 17 acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome 18 coronavirus (MERS-CoV) emerged in humans. The source of origin, transmission to humans and 19 mechanisms associated with the pathogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 are not clear yet, however, its 20 resemblance with SARS-CoV and several other bat coronaviruses was recently confirmed 21 through genome sequencing related studies. The development of therapeutic strategies is 22 necessary in order to prevent further epidemics and cure infected people. In this Review, we 23 summarize current information about the emergence, origin, diversity, and epidemiology of three 24 pathogenic coronaviruses with a specific focus on the current outbreak in Wuhan, China. 25 Furthermore, we discuss the clinical features and potential therapeutic options that may be 26 effective against SARS-CoV-2.

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KEY WORS: Novel coronavirus; Outbreak; Therapeutics

29 Coronaviruses are enveloped, positive-sense single-stranded RNA viruses with a 30 nucleocapsid of helical symmetry (1). Coronaviruses have widely been known to cause 31 respiratory and intestinal infections in humans after the outbreak of "severe acute respiratory 32 syndrome (SARS)" in Guangdong, China (2, 3). SARS was caused by SARS-CoV during 2002 33 and 2003, emerged in a market where civets were sold out (2, 3). Only a decade later, the world 34 witnessed another outbreak of "Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)" caused by MERS-35 CoV in the Middle East (4, 5). While the researchers were still investigating the underlying mechanisms of pathogenicity and developing effective therapeutic strategies against MERS, the 36 37 world witnessed the deadliest outbreak of COVID-19 (6). The causative coronavirus of this 38 outbreak was named SARS-CoV-2 due to its resemblance to SARS-CoV (7-9). The SARS-CoV 39 infects ciliated bronchial epithelial cells and type-II pneumocytes through angiotensin-converting 40 enzyme 2 (ACE2) as receptor (2, 10). MERS infects unciliated bronchial epithelial cells and 41 type-II pneumocytes by using dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP4) also known as CD26, as a receptor (2, 11). The mechanisms associated with the infectiousness of SARS-CoV-2 is not clear, 42 43 however, structural analysis suggests it is likely entering human cells through the ACE2 receptor 44 (12). This newly emerged virus has much more similarity with SARS-CoV than MERS-CoV, 45 thus both SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 may cause pathogenesis through similar mechanisms. The transmission of SARS-CoV to humans was reported from market civets, while that of 46 47 MERS- CoV was from dromedary camels (13, 14). Similarly, the newly emerged SARS-CoV-2 48 also transmitted to humans form the markets where wild animals were sold out (8). However, the 49 zoonotic source of its transmission is not clear yet. According to the previous reports, the 50 aforementioned three coronaviruses are thought to have originated in bats (2, 11, 15, 16).

51 Since the first epidemic of SARS, the pathogenic coronaviruses have harmed thousands 52 of people worldwide (1, 17). Considering the adverse outcomes of the current COVID-19 53 epidemic, developing effective therapeutic strategies is necessary to cope with the lack of 54 effective drugs, high mortality rate and the potential of the virus to cause further epidemics. In 55 this Review, we focus on the origin, evolution, and pathogenicity of SARS- CoV, MERS- CoV, 56 and SARS-CoV-2. We also discuss the therapeutic options for SARS-CoV-2, due to its 57 importance in the current scenario of COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, China. This review will be Journal of Clinica

useful in terms of preparation against future spillover and pathogenic infections with novelcoronaviruses in humans.

## 60 Diversity and origin of highly pathogenic coronaviruses

61 Coronaviruses are members of the subfamily "Coronavirinae" (family; Coronaviridae, 62 order; Nidovirales) that contains four genera alpha-coronavirus, beta-coronavirus, gamma-63 coronavirus and delta-coronavirus (2). Gamma and delta coronaviruses generally infect birds, 64 although some of them can cause infection in mammals. Whereas, alpha and beta coronaviruses 65 are known to harm humans and animals. The SARS-CoV (beta coronavirus), 229E (alpha 66 coronavirus), HKU1 (beta coronavirus), NL63 (alpha coronavirus), OC43 (beta coronavirus) and 67 MERS-CoV (beta coronavirus) can cause infectiousness in humans (2). However, beta-68 coronaviruses are the most important group as this group contains the highly pathogenic viruses 69 in humans including SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV and SARS- CoV (2, 18, 19). The highly 70 pathogenic MERS and SARS coronaviruses originated form bats (2, 18, 19), however, the origin of the newly emerged SARS-CoV-2 is debatable. Investigations revealed that the detected 71 72 SARS-CoV strains in market civets (20, 21), were transmitted from horseshoe bats (22). These viruses were found phylogenetically related to SARS-CoV in bats from China, Europe, Southeast 73 74 Asia and Africa (2, 22, 23). In addition, the genome sequences of SARS-CoV isolated from 75 humans were very much similar to those in bats (21). However, some variations were found 76 among the s gene and orf gene, which encode the binding and fusion proteins, and dispensable 77 protein for replication respectively (2, 23). Nevertheless, clade2 of s region (22, 24), orf8 (23) 78 and orf3b in SARS-CoV from bats contain major variations if compared with SARS-CoV from 79 humans (23).

Different strains of MERS-CoV obtained from camels were found similar to those isolated from humans (14, 25, 26), except, genomic variations among S, ORF4b and ORF3 regions (26). Furthermore, genome sequencing-based studies revealed that MERS-CoVs from humans are phylogenetically related to those form bats. They have identical genomic and protein structures except for the S proteins (27). In addition recombinations analysis of genes encoding orf1ab and S revealed that MERS-CoV originated from the exchange of genetic elements between coronaviruses in camels and bats (26, 28).

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87 Although the zoonotic source of SARS-CoV-2 is not confirmed, its genome sequence 88 exhibited close relatedness (88% identity) with two bat-derived SARS-like coronaviruses (bat-89 SL-CoVZC45 and bat-SL-CoVZXC21). Phylogenetic analysis revealed that SARS-CoV-2 was 90 genetically distinct from SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV. However, homology modeling revealed 91 that both SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 had similar receptor-binding domain structures, despite 92 amino acid variation at some key residues. Such as the absence of 8a protein and fluctuation in the 93 number of amino acids in 8b and 3c protein in SARS-CoV2 (29). In contrast, the main protease is 94 highly conserved between SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV with a 96% overall identity (30). These 95 observations suggest that bats are the source of origin, while an animal sold at the Wuhan 96 seafood market might represent an intermediate host facilitating the emergence of the virus in 97 humans (12, 31).

### 98 Epidemiology and clinical features of human coronaviruses

99 After the emergence of SARS-CoV in the Guangdong province of China, it rapidly spread around the globe (2, 3). During November 2002, an epidemic of pneumonia with a high rate of 100 101 transmission to the people, occurred in Guangdong, China (32), followed by subsequent outbreaks in 102 HongKong. In HongKong, a total of 138 people contracted the infection within 2 weeks after the 103 exposure to an infected patient in the general ward of a hospital (1, 32). Overall, SARS-CoV infected 104 8098 people and caused 774 fatalities in 29 different countries by the end of the epidemic (1). Later 105 on, during June 2012 a patient infected by MERS-CoV developed severe pneumonia and died in 106 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (1, 33). Analysis of cluster of nosocomial cases in Jordan during April 2012, 107 confirmed that MERS-CoV caused the outbreak (34). The spread of MERS-CoV continued beyond 108 the Middle East, causing further reports of infected individuals (1, 4). Until 2020, 2468 cases and 851 109 fatalities have been reported globally (35, 36). Again, during December 2019, clusters of patients 110 with atypical pneumonia were reported by local health facilities, in Wuhan, China. On December 31, 111 2019, a rapid response team was dispatched by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and 112 Prevention (China CDC) to conduct an epidemiologic and etiologic investigation (37). The patients 113 were found epidemiologically linked to the wet animal wholesale market and seafood in Wuhan, 114 China. Later on, the infectious agent responsible for this atypical pneumonia was confirmed reported 115 a coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which caused the first fatality during the start of January 2020 (15). 116 During the first two 6 weeks of the outbreak, several cases were reported in more than 37 countries 117 including the USA, Japan, Iran and South Korea (38). The infection rapidly spread all over the globe

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118 from Wuhan, China. Therefore, the Chinese authorities implemented several strategies including 119 massive lockdown in Wuhan and suspension of transport to and from Wuhan to control the spread 120 (17). According to situation report 35, published on the WHO website, SARS-CoV-2 caused 79331 121 confirmed cases and 2618 deaths around the globe. However, COVID-19 caused 77262 confirmed 122 cases and 2595 deaths only inside Mainland China (38). Until February 24, WHO has reported 8 123 deaths in Iran. It is now the second country after Chian, bearing the highest fatalities due to SARS-124 CoV-2 infection. (38). The spread of SARS-CoV-2 in Iran can pose a higher risk of pandemics in the 125 Middle East and South Asian countries. The epidemic growth rate on the basis of data analyzed 126 between December 10 and January 4, was estimated and the basic reproductive number  $(R_0)$ 127 calculated, which was 2.2. It means that each patient has been spreading the infection to 2.2 other 128 individuals (39). The estimated  $R_0$  value for SARS was around 3, however, SARS was successfully 129 controlled by isolation and of patients (39). Moreover, The  $R_0$  for MERS ranged from 0.45 in Saudi 130 Arabia to 8.1 in South Korea (36). Considering the lower  $R_0$  value, the rapid increase in suspected 131 as well confirmed cases with COVID-19 may be inferred with viral transmission through the 132 fecal-oral route and aerosol formation. Moreover, the asymptomatic persons are thought to be 133 potential sources of SARS-CoV-2 infection (40), which may have caused the rapid spread of SARS-134 CoV-2. This asymptomatic spread may be one of the reasons that the control strategy based on the 135 isolation of patients was not fully successful. To overcome these problems a complete quarantine for 136 the general public is necessary. So that all of the infected individuals could develop symptoms 137 without spreading the virus randomly. Thus the direct and indirect contacts of infected individuals 138 can be easily identified and isolated.

139 Clinical features associated with patients infected with SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV and 140 SARS-CoV-2 range from mild respiratory illness to severe acute respiratory disease (1, 17). Both 141 MERS and SARS patients in later stages develop respiratory distress and renal failure (1, 17). 142 Pneumonia appears to be the most frequent manifestation of SARS-CoV-2 infection, 143 characterized primarily by fever, cough, dyspnea, and bilateral infiltrates on chest imaging (17). 144 The period from infection to appearance of symptoms varies. Generally, it is thought to be 14 145 days, however, a research group at Guangzhou Medical University reported the incubation 146 period to be 24 days. In a family cluster of infections, the onset of fever and respiratory 147 symptoms occurred approximately three to six days after presumptive exposure (41).

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149 Diagnostic testing for the SARS-CoV-2 is primarily done in public health laboratories. 150 Delays in testing result from the need for administrative oversight of testing at the national or 151 regional level, as well as the time needed to transport specimens and the high volume of testing 152 needed in some regions. More rapid testing should widely available in days of epidemics. High-153 level testing facilities at the regional hospital and commercial laboratories are needed, in addition 154 to the commercially available tests that have undergone regulatory approval. Several tests have 155 been validated by public health authorities, including those in China, Germany, Thailand, Japan 156 and the United States (WHO, COVID-19, technical guidance, Feb 12, 2020). These tests are 157 reverse-transcriptase PCR tests that use primers and probes designed to detect a variety of targets 158 in the SARS-CoV-2. Although these have been designed and validated, there is currently very 159 limited information available related to the performance of these tests. The sensitivity and 160 specificity of the tests are not widely known, and some of them might detect other coronaviruses 161 such as SARS-CoV. In addition, the utility of different specimen types for detection of the 162 viruses is not known. As a result, testing of multiple specimen types is recommended by some 163 agencies, including the CDC (CDC, guidelines for samples for COVID-19, Feb 11, 2020). The 164 availability of serological tests is unclear, and presumably, such tests are in development. 165 Moreover, the collection and submission of sera from potentially infected patients is 166 recommended by some public health laboratories.

167 The CDC and WHO have both issued recommendations for laboratory safety when 168 testing specimens from patients suspected of being infected with SARS-CoV-2 (WHO, 169 document Laboratory biorisk management for laboratories handling human specimens suspected 170 or confirmed to contain novel coronavirus 2012, Interim recommendations and CDC, guidelines 171 for samples for COVID-19, Feb 11, 2020). Both guidelines recommend that manipulation of 172 potentially infectious specimens should be done in a biosafety cabinet if there is potential for 173 splashes or generation of droplets or aerosols. Viral isolation (culture) should be done only in 174 BL-3 laboratories. Testing in chemistry and hematology laboratories can be done following 175 routine laboratory precautions recommended for such work.

176 Therapeutic options for human coronaviruses

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lournal of Clinical Microbiology 177 Currently no promising antiviral treatment available, however, numerous compounds 178 have been proven effective against SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV but have not been tested widely 179 for newly emerged SARS-CoV-2. Remdesivir and chloroquine were found highly effective in 180 vitro for the control of 2019-nCoV infection (42). Treatment with remdesivir alone or in 181 combination with chloroquine or interferon beta was found effective against COVID-19 182 infection. This strategy has not caused any obvious side effects yet (35, 42, 43). However, more 183 investigations are necessary to confirm the impacts of remdesivir. As coronaviruses share key 184 genomic elements thus, common therapeutic targets can be of greater importance. Therapeutic 185 agents targeting nucleosides, nucleotides, viral nucleic acids and enzymes/proteins involved in 186 the replication and transcription of coronaviruses can be promising strategies to treat coronavirus 187 diseases (1). The surface spike glycoprotein (S) is an important potential target for anti-viral 188 agents, due to its vital role in the interaction between the virus and the cell receptor. S consists of 189 two subunits, S1, the amino-terminal receptor binding subunit, and S2, the carboxy-terminal 190 membrane fusion subunit (44). In addition, Activation of membrane fusion and virus entry 191 requires the cleavage at the junction of S1-S2 (44). Hence, the S1 subunit targeting monoclonal 192 antibodies and S2 subunit targeting fusion inhibitors may be effective therapeutics to target 193 coronaviruses (1). Furin (a serine endoprotease) cleaves off S1/S2 (45), thus, could be a suitable 194 antiviral agent. Further, the helical nucleocapsid interacts with S protein, envelope proteins, and 195 membrane proteins to form the assembled virion (1). Therefore targeting the structural genes 196 using small interfering RNAs could be an effective therapeutic strategy against coronaviruses 197 (1). The host receptors are also associated with the viral entry into host cells, thus agents 198 targeting these receptors also inhibit coronaviruses (44). Inhibitors of endosomal cysteine 199 protease and transmembrane protease serine 2 can partially block viral entry into the cell (46). 200 K22 targets membrane-bound RNA synthesis in coronaviruses and inhibit double-membrane 201 vesicles formation (47) thus could be effective against SARS-CoV-2.

Broad-spectrum antivirals, for instance, dsRNA-activated caspase oligomerizer (DRACO) selectively induces apoptosis in virus-containing host cells, thus can be evaluated for its effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2 (48). However, it may not be a very promising strategy alone, as it cannot block the virus from entry or disrupt the viral nucleic acid. On the other hand thiopurine compounds, naphthalene inhibitors, protease inhibitors, zinc, and mercury conjugates target 3CLpro (3C-like protease) and PLpro (papain-like protease) enzymes in coronaviruses and Journal of Cli<u>nica</u>

208 can block the pathogenicity of coronaviruses (49, 50). Therefore, combinational therapy of these 209 antiviral agents with DRACO may enhance the overall impact on the recovery of patients. 210 Despite the higher rate of infectiousness, coronaviruses are thought to have the ability to 211 suppress counteracting response from host innate interferons. This response can be augmented 212 by the utilization of interferon inducers or recombinant interferons (1). The previously tested 213 recombinant interferon against SARS-CoV, such as interferon alfa and beta (1) can be utilized 214 either alone or in combination with other potential antiviral drugs including remdesivir. Both 215 interferon-alpha and beta inhibit viral replication (1). The use of interferon inducers in 216 combination effective antiviral agents may be evaluated for their synergistic effects against 217 SARS-CoV-2. In addition, calcineurin inhibitors such as cyclosporine (51) could also be 218 evaluated for SARS-CoV-2 in combination with antibiotics and traditional Chinese medicines.

## 219 Vaccines

220 Effective vaccines are important to prevent and control sporadic viral attacks and 221 emerging virus-mediated epidemics, such as the recent outbreak caused by SARS-CoV-2. 222 Although SARS-CoV was fully controlled during 2003, and MERS-CoV has been controlled 223 from causing high mortalities, yet the newly emerged SARS-CoV-2 is spreading efficiently with 224 a significant increase in the number of cases and fatalities each passing day. Vaccines are 225 required to prevent SARS-CoV-2 from causing COVID-19. Live-attenuated vaccines, designed 226 for SARS (1), may be evaluated for SARS-CoV-2 infected patients. In addition rhesus  $\theta$ -defensin 227 1 and protein cage nanoparticles are innate immunomodulators with high anti-SARS-CoV 228 efficiency (52, 53). Based on the higher similarities and phylogenetic relatedness between 229 SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2, protein cage nanoparticles designed for SARS-CoV can be 230 evaluated for SARS-CoV-2. Meanwhile, following the similar strategies utilized for SARS-CoV, 231 novel protein cage nanoparticles specified for novel coronavirus can be designed on an urgent 232 basis. Based on the urgency in the current scenario of COVID-19 outbreak, vaccination 233 strategies based on viral vectors, recombinant protein, and viral-like particles, which have been 234 developed or being developed for SARS and/or MERS can be modified for utilization against 235 SARS-CoV-2 (54). Despite the current progress, further work is needed to develop safe and 236 effective vaccines, available for individuals at high risk of SARS-CoV-2 endemics, to control the 237 ongoing and risk of future epidemics. An interesting feature of plasma from recovered patients is

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244 Although some strategies against SARS-CoV are being developed including RBD based 245 vaccines, they need further evaluation (2). Given the importance of the current outbreak in 246 Wuhan, further studies are necessary to provide deep understating of replication, pathogenesis, 247 and biological properties using reverse genetics and related molecular techniques. These 248 investigations will help the control and prevention of SARS-CoV-2 mediated pneumonia disease 249 and novel emerging diseases in the future.

the presence of active antibodies, thus transferring plasma from people recovered from COVID-

19 into infected individuals could enhance immunity against SARS-CoV-2. Monoclonal

antibodies that could inhibit virus-cell receptor binding, and interrupt virus-cell fusion have been

developed (1). Combining two or more monoclonal antibodies may be suitable for the quicker

recovery of patients. Lastly, antiviral peptides that target different regions of S such as, HP2P-

M2 peptide (effective against viral infections) (1), should also be considered against COVID-19.

### 250 **Conclusions and Perspective**

251 SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV were reportedly originated in recombination from bats 252 viruses, before their introduction into Guangdong province through civets, and the middle east 253 through camels respectively. Some of the SARS-CoV strains became epidemic after several 254 independent spillovers to humans during the outbreak of 2002 in Guangdong, China (3). 255 Similarly, MERS-CoV became endemic after a series of infections to humans during 2012 in 256 middle eastern countries (33). Both viruses further transferred to several countries other than 257 countries of origin. However, unlike the continuous propagation of MERS-CoV epidemics, the 258 SARS-CoV outbreak was successfully controlled in 2003. Based on the origin of other 259 coronaviruses, SARS-CoV-2 is likely originated in bats and introduced to Wuhan, China through 260 an unknown intermediate. Until now, no effective clinical treatments or prevention strategies are 261 available to be used against human coronaviruses.

262 Testing the drugs for coronaviruses requires suitable animal models prior to their use in 263 humans. The currently established models are not very promising for the studies of pathogenesis 264 and treatment of highly pathogenic coronaviruses. For instance, non-human primates were unable to reproduce the characteristics of the severe human disease and even mortality was not 265 266 observed (55). However, some of the small animals developed the clinically apparent disease Journal of Clinica

267 (55), such as transgenic mice expressing human ACE2 and mouse-adapted SARS-CoV strains 268 are one of the most suitable models (1). Additionally, transgenic mice expressing human DPP4 269 are a suitable small animal model for MERS (1). Like the animal models for SARS-CoV, 270 transgenic animal models may also be standardized for SARS-CoV-2. The development of 271 clinical drugs for coronaviruses is challenging because of the repeated emergence of novel 272 coronaviruses with diverse features, thus, each newly emerged virus requires specific drugs. 273 Moreover, only a limited number of animal models are available and most of them can only be 274 used in highly demanding biosafety level 3 labs (1). From the perspective of the current 275 outbreak, designing effective therapeutics for SARS-CoV-2 is yet another challenge for 276 scientists. Although a large number of antiviral treatment options for SARS and MERS have 277 been reported with potent in vitro activities, a very limited number from them may have the 278 potential in the clinical setting.

279 Now moving forward treatment options are available that could be utilized clinically during the 280 ongoing SARS-CoV-2 epidemics. Some of the broad-spectrum antiviral drugs may be effective 281 for SARS-CoV-2, and it is a congenial opportunity to test them in the current scenario of 282 pneumonia in Wuhan, China. Broad range combinational therapies including, lopinavir and 283 interferon antiviral peptides can also be evaluated and examined as these agents have shown 284 significant effects against MERS in non-human primates (1). The designing and development of 285 novel broad-spectrum antiviral drugs that can potentially target all coronaviruses, in general, 286 maybe the only treatment option against reemerging and circulating coronaviruses.

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499	Table 1. Therapeutic options for COVID-19
	ruble 1. Therapeduce options for CO (1B 1)

Therapeutic Name	Activity	Effectiveness	Reference
K22	It targets membrane-bound replication complex of virus in host cell to inhibit RNA synthesis	It has been found effective against SARS and MERS, thus could be effective against SARS-CoV-2.	(56)
Draco	It targets viral dsRNA to induce apoptosis in cells containing virus	It has been found effective against a large group of viruses, therefore may have potential to target SARS-CoV-2.	(49, 57)
Mycopheno lic Acid	It targets Nucleosides and/or nucleotides to inhibit synthesis of guanine monophosphate	Effective against wide range of viruses, however combinatorial therapy with interferon beta-1b may be useful for SARS-CoV-2.	(54)
Lopinavir	It targets 3CLpro enzyme to inhibit its activity	Effective against wide range of viruses including SARS- CoV and MERS-CoV, thus could be suitable choice for treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection.	(58)
It terminates transcription of the viral RNA transcription at premature level		It has been found effective against broad spectrum viruses including MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. The efficacy is	(35)

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		very promising when combined with IFNb, hence could be a suitable therapeutic strategy for SARS-CoV-2.	
Ribavirin	It targets RdRp (RNA-dependent RNA polymerase) enzyme to inhibit synthesis of viral RNA synthesis and capping of mRNA	Effective against wide range of viruses including MERS- CoV and SARS-CoV but high doses are required which may have severe side effects. It may be reevaluated for SARS-CoV-2 and recommended if low doses are found effective.	(35, 58)
Bcx4430	It targets RdRp (RNA-dependent RNA polymerase) enzyme to inhibit synthesis of viral RNA synthesis and capping of mRNA	It is broad-spectrum and effective against SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV, thus may be effective against SARS-CoV-2 however, evaluation using animals' models is required.	(59)
Bananins	It targets helicase to Inhibit its unwinding and activities of ATPase	It can affect broad-spectrum viruses and can be evaluated for SARS-CoV-2	(1)
Aryl Diketoacids (Adks)	Targets helicase to inhibit its unwinding	Effective for broad range viruses and including SARS/MERS-CoV and may be a suitable choice for SARS-CoV-2	(1)

Griffithsin	It targets Oligosaccharides on S to block viral binding with host cell	It has been found effective against SARS/MERS-CoV and other high pathogenic viruses, thus can be used against SARS-CoV-2	(60)
Hexamethy lene Amiloride	activity the most suitable treatment options for		(61)
Л103	It targets lipid membrane and causes modification of phospholipids	It has shown effects against different viruses and may be promising anti-SARS-CoV-2 agent.	(1, 58)
Recombina nt Interferons	These induce the innate interferon responses against viral pathogens	Inducing immune responses through recombinant interferons has been found effective against a wide range of viruses and can be the most suitable option in case of SARS-CoV-2.	(1, 58)
Nitazoxani de	These induce the innate interferon responses against viral pathogens	Inducing immune responses through recombinant interferons has been found effective against a wide range of viruses and may be promising to use against SARS-CoV-2.	(62)

Cyclospori ne, Alisporivir	It inhibits cyclophilin to affect calcineurin– NFAT pathway	These agents can inhibit broad-spectrum viruses specifically coronaviruses and thus could be suitable option to treat people infected with SARS-CoV-2.
Rapamycin	It inhibits kinase signaling associated pathways to block viral entry	It is effective against SARS/MERS-CoV and possibly be effective against SARS-CoV-2.
Imatinib	It inhibits kinase signaling associated pathways to block viral entry	It is effective against SARS/MERS-CoV and possibly be effective against SARS-CoV-2.
Dasatinib	It inhibits kinase signaling associated pathways to block viral entry	It is effective against SARS/MERS-CoV and possibly be effective against SARS-CoV-2.

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(1, 63)

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