14 ANTIVIRAL THERAPY

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by

SARS-CoV-2, which is also termed the novel

coronavirus and is diligently associated with the

SARS virus. The Ministry of Science and

Technology from the People’s Republic of China

declared three potential antiviral medicines

suitable for treating COVID-19. Those three

medicines are, namely, Favilavir, chloroquine

phosphate and remdesivir. A clinical trial was

conducted to test the efficacy of those three

drugs, and the results proved that out of the

three medicines above only Favilavir is effective

in treating the patients with novel coronavirus.

The remaining two drugs were effective in

treating malaria.°7

Likewise a study carried out in the United States

by the National Institute of Health proved that

remdesivir is effective in treating the Middle

East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-

CoV), which is also a type of coronavirus that

was transmitted from monkeys. The drug

remdesivir was also used in the United States

for treating the patients with COVID-19. There

has been a proposal to use the combination of

protease inhibitors lopinavir-ritonavir for

treating the patients affected by COVID-19.°7