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Coronaviruses, a family of viruses within the nidoviruses superfamily, are further classified according to their genera, alpha-, beta-, gamma- and deltacoronaviruses (a-, B-, y- and 5-). Among those, alpha and beta species are capable of contaminating only mammals, whereas the other two genera can infect birds and could also infect mammals.'* '* Two of these genera belong to human coronaviruses (HCoVs): a-coronaviruses, which comprise human coronavirus 229E (hcov229E) and human coronavirus NL63 (hCovNL63), and B-coronaviruses, which are human coronavirus HKU1, human coronavirus OC43, MERS-COV (known as Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) and SARS-CoV (referred to as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus). '° The severe acute respiratory syndrome CoV-2 (SARS-CoV-2) is now named novel COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019).'° Genome sequencing and phylogenetic research revealed that the COVID-19-causing coronavirus is a beta-coronavirus that belongs to the same subtypes as SARS virus, but still exists in a variant group. The receptor- binding gene region rn . el g rn - ral ~amre