

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.⁶²

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-19.⁶²