



Editorial

Witchcraft and Myths about Covid-19 in Iraq

Hayder M. Al-Kuraishy

Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Medicine and Therapeutics, College of Medicine, Al-Mustansiriya University, P.O. Box 14132, Baghdad, Iraq.

*E-mail: hayderm36@yahoo.com; Phone: +96-407906230487.

© 2021 Global SciTech Ocean Publishing Co. All rights reserved. ISSN. 2581-3331

Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that has recently appeared in China and had caused a million of infections and thousands of deaths. This epidemic has spread widely, such as wildfire and lethality in European countries and the United States of America. Those countries have faced this epidemic in scientific ways, and have taken measures of regional isolation and quarantine, as well as experimental and clinical research in pursuit of a successful drug or vaccine (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2020a; 2020b).

In the meantime, the social networking sites buzzed between supporters and opponents of the existence of this epidemic. A social media platform, especially Facebook, has raised many conflicting theories about this epidemic, is it real or is it a political game between the big countries. Iraq and some of the neighbouring Arab countries were the victims of this media hype that adopted non-scientific means in spreading the events of this epidemic (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2020c; Al-Kuraishy and Al-Gareeb, 2020).

In Iraq, people were divided into two categories, an ignorant, uneducated group, unaware of the existence of this epidemic, and considered it a major political game, in light of the ongoing demonstrations in the country. An educated group believes that the virus exists and that it is fatal and must be taken with caution when dealing with it. At first, the Iraqi government, under the supervision of the Iraqi Ministry of Health and the crisis cell, remarkably spread awareness, so that it convinced people that this epidemic is dangerous and should be prevented through social divergence and a curfew in the day and at night. During this period, there were few casualties in the hundreds, and the epidemic was under control, and many countries of the world and the World Health Organization (WHO) considered that Iraq was one of the countries controlling the epidemic.

During this time, Covid-19 also affects pregnant women, and the first reported case of infection was

detected on 13 March 2020 in a pregnant woman that was treated with chloroquine and azithromycin and the result was a cure without a newborn infection (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2020d). In Iraq, magicians and charlatans, as well as herbalists, played a role in describing the anti-Covid-19 medications and convinced many people that the peganum seeds, garlic and onions have an important role in eliminating this epidemic. Hurry up a lot of people by buying these plants and herbs, hoping to prevent this epidemic depending on a recent Zhou et al study (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2020e). On the other hand, many people who believe in this epidemic have taken exaggerated preventive measures; including spraying masks with sterilizers and chlorine, and this resulted in cases of poisoning and chemical pneumonitis. Those who believe in this epidemic were more cautious and anxious than others, many of them led to anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders. It has been proven that a lot of false research and news that has been withheld and withdrawn was the reason behind the exaggerated preventive measures (Al-Kuraishy and Al-Gareeb, 2019). As well, Covid-19 outbreak led to the fear and anxiety of the infected and the touched persons, it became a difficult obsession (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2020f). Accelerated events due to the propagation of wedding parties and funeral councils, and the rate of infections increased until they reached thousands at the beginning of June, and the central government rushed to take more powerful wages, but to no avail.

What's more, many Private Clinics are still opened and many patients sit side by side without taking any safety precautions. In addition, many non-specialized doctors, especially in the popular areas, treat any person with fever as having typhoid fever, relying on Widal analysis and results. Unfortunately, most of the Widal test in Covid-19 patients was positive due to cross-reactions with most diseases (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2015). Therefore, most of the newly diagnosed

patients with Covid-19 were previously misdiagnosed as typhoid fever. The most dangerous aspect of this story is that patients who are diagnosed with the covid-19 disease based on lung radiology and computerized tomography scan (CT) scan refuse to go to the hospital and threaten the treating doctor because they consider this disease as a stigma in their life (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2020g).

That is why Iraq has lived and will live difficult months in the light of the existence of this epidemic between a believer and a denier of this disease. Accordingly, the WHO must take a more active role in Iraq to educate people about the seriousness of this epidemic; otherwise Iraq will be the biggest focal point for this epidemic and exacerbates its global spread more brutally. Because the Iraqi person has become a hostage to the ideas of ignorant and intruders, and saving him from these ideas means saving Iraq (Al-Kuraishy et al., 2020h).

REFERENCES

- Al-Kuraishy HM, Abdulhadi MH, Hussien NR, Al-Niemi MS, Rasheed HA, Al-Gareeb AI (2020f). Involvement of orexinergic system in psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders: A scoping review. *Brain Circulation*, 6, 70-80.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Gareeb AI (2019). Effects of rosuvastatin on metabolic profile: Versatility of dose-dependent effect. *Journal of Advanced Pharmaceutical Technology & Research*, 10, 33-38.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Gareeb AI (2020). From SARS-CoV to nCoV-2019: Ruction and argument. *Archives of Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 15, e102624.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Gareeb AI, Alrifai SB, Awad MS (2015). Immunomodulator effects of azithromycin, ciprofloxacin and ceftriaxone on cross-reaction between Widal Test and Anti-Helicobacter Pylori Igm in acute typhoid fever. *International Journal of Science and Research*, 4, 2541-2546.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Gareeb AI, Monteiro MC, Al-Saiddy HJ (2020g). Brain injury and SARS-CoV-2 infection: Bidirectional pathways. *Current Medical and Drug Research*, 4, Art. ID 207.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Gareeb AI, Monteiro MC, Hussein HN (2020h). Covid-19 and Iraq: The exponential epidemic. *Journal of Conventional Knowledge and Holistic Health*, 4, Art. ID 209.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Maiah TJ, Al-Gareeb AI, Musa RA, Ali ZH (2020d). COVID-19 pneumonia in an Iraqi pregnant woman with preterm delivery. *Asian Pacific Journal of Reproduction* [Epub ahead of print]. Online available at <http://www.apjr.net/preprintarticle.asp?id=282984>.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Naimi MS, Lungnier CM, Al-Gareeb AI (2020e). Macrolides and COVID-19: An optimum premise. *Biomedical and Biotechnology Research Journal*, 4, 189-199.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Al-Niemi MS, Hussain NR, Al-Gareeb AI, Al-Harchan NA, Al-Kurashi AH (2020a). The potential role of renin-angiotensin system (RAS) and dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) in COVID-19: Navigating the uncharted. In: *Selected chapters from the renin-angiotensin system*, Kibel A (Ed). IntechOpen, London, pp. 151-165.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Hussien NR, Al-Naimi MS, Al-Buhadily AK, Al-Gareeb AI, Lungnier CM (2020b). Is ivermectin-azithromycin combination the next step for COVID-19? *Biomedical and Biotechnology Research Journal*, 4, S101-103.
- Al-Kuraishy HM, Hussien NR, Al-Naimil MS, Al-Buhadily AK, Al-Gareeb AI, Lungnier C (2020c). Renin-Angiotensin system and fibrinolytic pathway in COVID-19: One-way skepticism. *Biomedical and Biotechnology Research Journal*, 4, S33-40.

How to cite this article?

Al-Kuraishy HM (2021). Witchcraft and Myths about Covid-19 in Iraq. *Journal of Conventional Knowledge and Holistic Health*, 5 (1), Article ID 211.
