



SARS-CoV-2 Infections; Treatment and Development of Vaccine

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Message from the Guest Editors

The infectious disease (COVID-19) caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is still raging through mutant strains all over the world. In order to deal with this unprecedented situation, therapeutic drugs and vaccines against COVID-19 are being commercialized faster than ever before. Along with changes in infectivity, transmissibility, antigenicity, and pathogenicity, the efficacy of current vaccines is also of concern in the emergence of mutant strains. Multiple vaccines of different types are currently licensed, including mRNA vaccines, viral vector vaccines, and recombinant protein vaccines. At present, the following factors have been clarified regarding the preventive effects obtained by vaccines and their mechanisms of the action. Neutralizing antibodies against the S protein play an important role in the protective effects induced by commercial vaccines. It is possible that effects other than the neutralizing activity of cell-mediated immunity and humoral immunity also contribute to the preventive effect of vaccines, and these immune responses may affect the long-term persistence of vaccine efficacy and preventive effects against severe disease.





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