Alternatives To Vaccines for the Treatment of COVID-19

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Abstract:
Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a viral respiratory illness caused by coronavirus called SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV). SARS was first reported in Asia in February 2003. The illness spread to more than two dozen countries in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia before the SARS global outbreak of 2003 was contained. The first human cases of coronavirus infections appeared in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 and has spread worldwide since. This coronavirus is referred to as SARS-CoV-2, or COVID-19 because it shares more than 70% genetic similarity with SARS-CoV. Ever since the discovery of COVID-19 in humans, there have been numerous approaches to adapt, manage, and prevent this disease. Several vaccines have been developed that have had a major positive impact on the direction of the pandemic. However, there is a lot of vaccine hesitancy and people that are vaccinated can still be infected with COVID. So additional therapeutic strategies are needed. Recently, Merck (molnupiravir) and Pfizer (ritonavir/PF-07321332) have reported very positive human trial results with a pair of anti-viral drugs. One of the main benefits of these antiviral drugs is that they provide an alternative for people who do not feel comfortable taking the vaccines. The pills are designed to be taken as soon as a person shows symptoms of having COVID-19. So far, the pills have cut the risk of hospitalization down immensely. With the introduction of new treatments, the overall effect of COVID-19 will not be as detrimental as it has been.