

Letter to Editor

SARS-CoV-2 originated from laboratory?Zarehzadeh S¹ and Baserisalehi M^{2*}¹Department of microbiology, Shiraz Branch, Islamic Azad University, Shiraz, Iran²Department of microbiology, Kazeroun Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kazeroun, Iran

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1. Letter to Editor

The Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) could be a viral respiratory disorder that caused by a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 [1]. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) are two pathogenic viruses in humans. Both SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV are zoonotic in origin and both viruses originated in bats, during this review; we summarize the origin of COVID-19. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory disorder (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). This includes anyone that has had closed contact with a patient with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset or a history of travel from affected geographic areas (presently China, Italy, Iran, Japan, and South Korea) within 14 days of symptom onset [2]. SARS-CoV-2 had a unique inserted sequence (1378 bp) located within the middle of its spike glycoprotein gene. This unique sequence is not specific and several coronaviruses discovered from natural sources, showed that this “unique” sequence was also found in other coronavirus [3]. In our view, there is currently no credible evidence to support the claim that SARS-CoV-2 originated from a laboratory engineered CoV. It is more likely that SARS-CoV-2 could be a recombinant CoV generated in nature between a bat CoV and another coronavirus in an intermediate animal host [4].

References

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