Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) is humanity's biggest challenge these days. This highly contagious virus started from Huanan Seafood Market in the city of Wuhan (China). Owing to its rapid spread, it was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30\textsuperscript{th} January and then a pandemic on 11\textsuperscript{th} February 2020. Presently, it has spread to over 200 countries of the world and has overwhelmed their primary healthcare systems\textsuperscript{1}. This virus infects the respiratory tract and causes atypical pneumonia among other symptoms. Research is underway to develop vaccine. Until the vaccine is developed and administered on massive scale, the only feasible way to deal with it is to slow its spread.

Majority of the people who contract this virus develop mild or moderate symptoms and are able to recover themselves without any clinical intervention. However, other factors like comorbidities, old age group, decreased lymphocyte count and higher level of lactate dehydrogenase tend to decrease the survival rate\textsuperscript{2}. Children and infants are also vulnerable to the virus but their symptoms are milder than the adults\textsuperscript{3}. Respiratory failure caused by hyper-inflammation of lungs due to cytokine response is the major cause of mortality in COVID-19. The patient experiences acute cough, fever and bilateral ground glass appearance on radiological findings\textsuperscript{4}. In less frequent cases, gastrointestinal illnesses like nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain are developed which is confirmed by virus infected stool of patients\textsuperscript{5}. Eight percent patients develop acute cardiac injury due to the process of systemic inflammation and detected by raised troponins\textsuperscript{6}. Severely ill patients may also experience neurological complications. Almost all patients also experience a loss of taste and smell\textsuperscript{7}. Normally symptomatic treatment is given to the patient and oxygen is given to maintain oxygen saturation. An antiviral agent known as Remdesivir has shown promising results in treatment of COVID-19 and further research is underway to evaluate its effectiveness. Furthermore, plasma therapy or immunoglobulins are used in patients whose condition continues to deteriorate in spite of the treatment. Studies have shown that the patients who receive plasma therapy have a higher survival rate\textsuperscript{8}.

Nevertheless, the economic impacts of the COVID-19 are far-reaching. With the world practically on a standstill because of lockdowns and curfews, the global economy is set to face a

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None to declare.

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REFERENCES