



SARS-CoV-2 and HIV

Dear Editor,

We read the publication on “Co-infection of SARS-CoV-2 and HIV in a patient in Wuhan city, China” with a great interest. Since HIV infection is a common disease in Asia, the concurrence between HIV infection and other disease is an interesting problem. The present case by Zhu et al¹ might be the first report on coinfection of SARS-CoV-2 and HIV. Zhu et al¹ noted that “HIV infection need to be regarded as vulnerable group” to COVID-19. Nevertheless, there is no identified interrelationship between the two viral infections. In fact, despite there are many HIV-infected patient and COVID-19 outbreak expands to cover a large area in Asia, there are few observations on infection among HIV-infected patients. In our setting, Thailand, where the COVID-19 disease occurred after China, there is no case of infection among HIV-infected patients despite there is an extremely high prevalence of HIV infection in this area. Regarding the case report by Zhu et al,¹ the patient did not have antiviral therapy for HIV infection before. At present, antiviral drug is widely used for treatment of HIV-infected patient and anti-HIV drug is proposed as possible effective drug against SARS-COV-2.^{2,3} Therefore, HIV-infected patients receiving standard anti-HIV drug might not have increased risk for COVID-19. On the other hand, there might be a lower risk than general population.

Beuy Joob¹ 
Viroj Wiwanitkit^{2,3,4} 

¹Department of Medical Center,
Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand

²Department of Community Medicine,
Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India

³Department of Tropical Medicine,
Hainan Medical University, Haikou, China

⁴Department of Laboratory Medicine,
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Correspondence

Beuy Joob, Department of Medical Center, Sanitation 1 Medical
Academic Center, Bangkok 10140, Thailand.

Email: beuyjoob@hotmail.com

ORCID

Beuy Joob  <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5281-0369>

Viroj Wiwanitkit  <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1039-3728>

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