Editorial

COVID-19, An Indian Perspective

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During the pandemic of Covid-19 infection, travellers have been used to estimate the risk of infection. This has been similar to the approach used for the in-influenza pandemic, influenza H1N1. This artificially low number reported by international authorities means that for the past few years we've seen massive state action abroad and only simmering unease domestically. While Chinese officials were enacting a world-historic containment effort—putting about 700 million people under some kind of movement restriction, India quarantining tens of millions of people, and placing others under new kinds of surveillance. As countries across the world struggle to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, rapid and accurate diagnosis has rarely been so important.

Over the past few years, diagnostic tests for the new coronavirus have been developed, authorized, and distributed at an unprecedented speed. But doubts about the reliability and accuracy of diagnostic data have only multiplied in China, the UK, the US, and elsewhere. No diagnostic test ever provides complete certainty. Results exist within a margin of error in an emergency scenario, routine diagnostic uncertainty no longer exists within a threshold but rather becomes the province of "unknown unknowns". We don't know what we don't know. The reduced evidentiary requirements in accelerated regulation mean margins of error remain unclear. The clinician should not raise expectations of diagnostic certainty that are impossible to meet and potentially erode faith in the health system and government response. There are lot of new and re-emerging infections in different parts of world. Due to globalization there is increased travel in the world. Global scenario shows that 20 diseases have re-emerging or extended worldwide since 1973. The key to detecting and preventing the next pandemic is comply strictly with the principle of keeping nature intact. Strategies to deal with infections like COVID-19 proactively will require multidisciplinary approach on the part of governments which will require immense continued public health investment. Covid vaccination has had an effect on immediate protection but does not last.

The mechanism of preventing pandemic spread globally will be to identify the driving factors that highlight the emergence of each new emerging infectious disease like the corona pandemic. Artificial intelligence and predictive modelling of how the driving mechanisms will promote or shape future emerging infectious diseases emergence potential and risk will help in stopping of the pandemic. This international approach to pandemics will require sentinel physical training surveillance infrastructure, logistics support, immense financial input, and political will during pre-pandemic emerging infectious disease outbreak.

Bibliography

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