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RESEARCH ARTICLE

REVIEW ABOUT THERAPEUTIC AND PROPHYLACTIC EFFECTS OF VITAMIN (D AND E) ON SOME RESPIRATORY VIRAL INFECTIONS, AND COVID 19

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Abstract

Oxidative stress associated with almost all viral infections; in other words, inducing immune storm which increase generation of reactive-oxygen species (ROS) that causes damage in small vessels cellular membranes extensively at viral infections duration. Vitamin E considered as one among many antioxidants examined in mice in infections of influenza virus, with a leader position for its ability in blocking oxidative damage by its scavenging activity of free-radical. The phenomenon of Vitamin D multi-directional activity is probably because of the existence of the Vitamin D receptors (VDR) in most human cells of non-skeletal. Also, vitamin D able to change the immunity (acquired and innate), therefore able to be utilized as preventive, therapeutic adjuvant vaccine, for many viral infections difficultly to treat like influenza virus, and course modulating therapy for oral herpes virus, Epstein bar virus, hepatitis B virus, and some respiratory viruses, like covid 19. Retinoic acid has important role in cell differentiation and growth, where vitamin A partially can regulate viral growth. Retinoids influence many of virus infections in different complex ways i.e., if various lines of cells have an infection by the human cytomegalic-virus (hCMV), cells exposure to retinoic acid (RA) encourage expression of viral nucleic acid with vulnerability to infection.

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Introduction:-

Many viral infections can cause dramatic health and economic problems worldwide, among these infections are influenza infection, Hepatitis B viral infection, some respiratory viral infections, and Ebola viral infection and recently pandemic of new corona virus infection.

Previously vaccinations, and / or anti-viral therapies, used to reduce these problems; recently adjuvants are used to either ameliorate immunity of the patient to fight the infection or reduce complications of oxidative stress accompanying viral infection. This can be done by using Vitamins, like those to be mentioned in this review.

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Metabolism:

Two sources of Vitamin D are recognized either from precursor of 7-dehydrocholesterol to cholecalciferol via radiation of UVB on skin, or from food as ergocalciferol (D_2) or cholecalciferol (D_3). Figure (1) illustrates the metabolic pathways for both forms. 25-hydroxylation metabolized to calcidiol ($25(OH)D$), via liver enzymes CYP27A1 and CYP2R1 (cytochrome P450-linked 25-hydroxylases) and followed then by 1α -hydroxylation to the activity metabolite of $1\alpha,25$ -di-hydroxy-vitamin D_3 (calcitriol, $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$) which catalyzed via cytochrome P450-linked to $25(OH)D(3)$ - 1α -hydroxylase (CYP27B1) which present in kidney, as well as extra-renal tissues such as cells of immunity [1- 3]. Because of a feedback development, the chole- and ergocalciferol metabolism, activation and catabolic reactions are modified significantly. Production of $1\alpha, 25(OH)_2D$ positive regulators are parathormone (PTH), parathyroid secreted hormone, and Ca level, while growth factor-23 of fibroblast (FGF-23) and phosphate level are considered as negative ones. The activity of 1α -hydroxylase is affected by all of them [4].

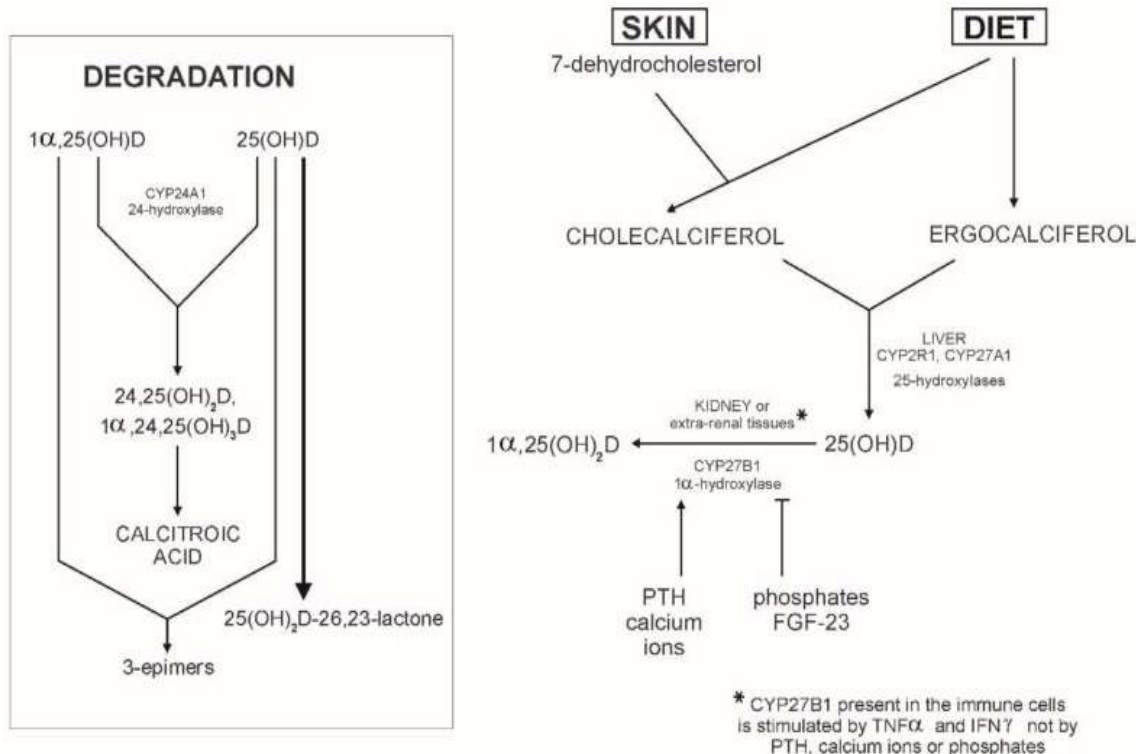


Figure 1:- Vitamin D Metabolic pathways.[5].

CYP27B1 exist in the cells of immunity is not regulated via signaling of PTH, FGF-23, Ca, or phosphate, but cytokines stimulating it i.e. interferon gamma ($IFN\gamma$) and tumor necrotic factor alpha ($TNF\alpha$) [3,6]. In turn, in keratinocytes CYP27B1 is regulated responding to activation of Toll-like receptor (TLR) and injury [3]. Expression of earlier enzyme (extra-renal) might be encouraged via receptors of recognition of alternate pathogen or (PRRs=pathogen-recognizing receptors) [7]. 1α -hydroxylase (the extra-renal type) regulation is dependent highly on circulating $25(OH)D$ concentration [8].

$1\alpha,25(OH)D$ and metabolites, at bloodstream are transferred via vit. D binding protein carrier (DBP- $25(OH)D$), and the transporter affinity is higher for $25(OH)D$ [5]. Degradation of metabolites is catalyzed through CYP24A1 resulting in 24-hydroxylation with $1\alpha,24,25(OH)_2D$ and $24,25(OH)_2D$ formation that are converted to calcitroic acid subsequently [1, 4]. Calcidiol in circulation might as well be changed through CYP24A1 to 24, $25(OH)_2D$ (an inactive form) and lactone of $25(OH)_2D$ -26,23- [1].

Three-epimers metabolites are yielded through C-3 epimerization in ring A of $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$, $24,25(OH)_2D$ and $25(OH)D$, which are slightly weaker in activity biologically than $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$. In 1994, these epimers were stated for the first time in keratinocytes of human [9].

Action of Vit. D (Genomic and Non-genomic):

Pathways of non-genomic and genomic cellular metabolism is affected by Vitamin D. Vitamin D acts mostly via VDR, and then, after a heterodimer yielding with retinoid X receptor (RXR). The latter dimer enters nucleus, and connects to vitamin D responsive element (VDRE) in genomic nucleic acid to control gene transcription.

Non-genomic pathways are the cell membranes rapid reactions and had been proposed for estrogen, corticosteroids, and thyroid hormone [4,10,11, and 12]. Possibly through a $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$, membrane-bound receptor protein that can give fast reply steroid-binding protein, which as well been known as stress protein endoplasmic reticulum 57). Activity of Ca-activated chloride channel and rapid cellular Ca efflux are regulated by vitamin D [12].

Responses (non-genomic) to the metabolite of active vitamin D continue through the phospholipase C systems messenger, protein kinase C and phosphatidylinositol-3'-kinase (PI3K), starting signal transduction of Ras/MAPK and Ca gateways widening [7].

Besides the role in bone metabolism and Ca homeostasis, vitamin D causes different effects in extra-skeletal tissues via the VDR, that exist in most body tissues [12, 13]. Affinity of VDR for ($K_a = 10^{-10}$ M) $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ is higher if compared to ($K_a = 10^{-8}$ M) $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ [13]. Activation of receptor is the foundation for 3% human genes regulation. Vitamin D involved in regulating functions of nervous and immune system in addition to cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and skin diseases role, cancer repression, or restraining of autoimmune diseases [4,11].

Recently, it was found that polymorphism in some proteins and enzymes of relation to vitamin D, e.g. DBP, CYP28B1, VDR or CYP24A1 (particularly polymorphs TaqI, FokI, BsmI, and ApaI), able to affect the response of individuals to treatment with anti-infectious therapy e.g. interferon/ribavirin in chronic hepatitis C [14,15], individuals susceptibility to tuberculosis, cancer, disease of Crohn, and ulcerative colitis or the increasing T1DM risk, as was noticed in people of European origin [16,17,18,19].

Serum Concentrations Guidance:

Vit. D status of the body depends on the serum $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ levels, since it's relatively to DBP has high affinity and of 25 days as the half-life. Assessment of $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ in the body to define level of vitamin D is not advisable, as its serum half-life is only a some hours (ca. 7 h) [10,13]. $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ serum concentration, that indicates vit. D available in sufficient level for organism, is (ca. 75–200 nM/L) or 30–80 ng/mL. A strong deficiency of vit. D is when concentrations are less than 10 ng/mL [13,20,21,22,23,24].

Vit. D anti- infection agent:

Functions of Vit. D for system of immunity is not easy to identify since the immunity response is not constant and relies on stage of infection.

VDR detected in cells of immunity propose that vit. D is one of the organizers of immune system. Activated B and T cells in vitro as well as the cells of epithelium that line the lower and upper tract of respirationable of transforming $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ (inactive metabolite) into $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ (which is metabolically active). The latter metabolite affects cells of immunity in paracrine way or an autocrine, intracrine (for example, via inside pathways of cells) [25–27].

Vit. D probable role in diseases of infection is illustrated through its effect on the adaptive and innate immunity (Figure 2):

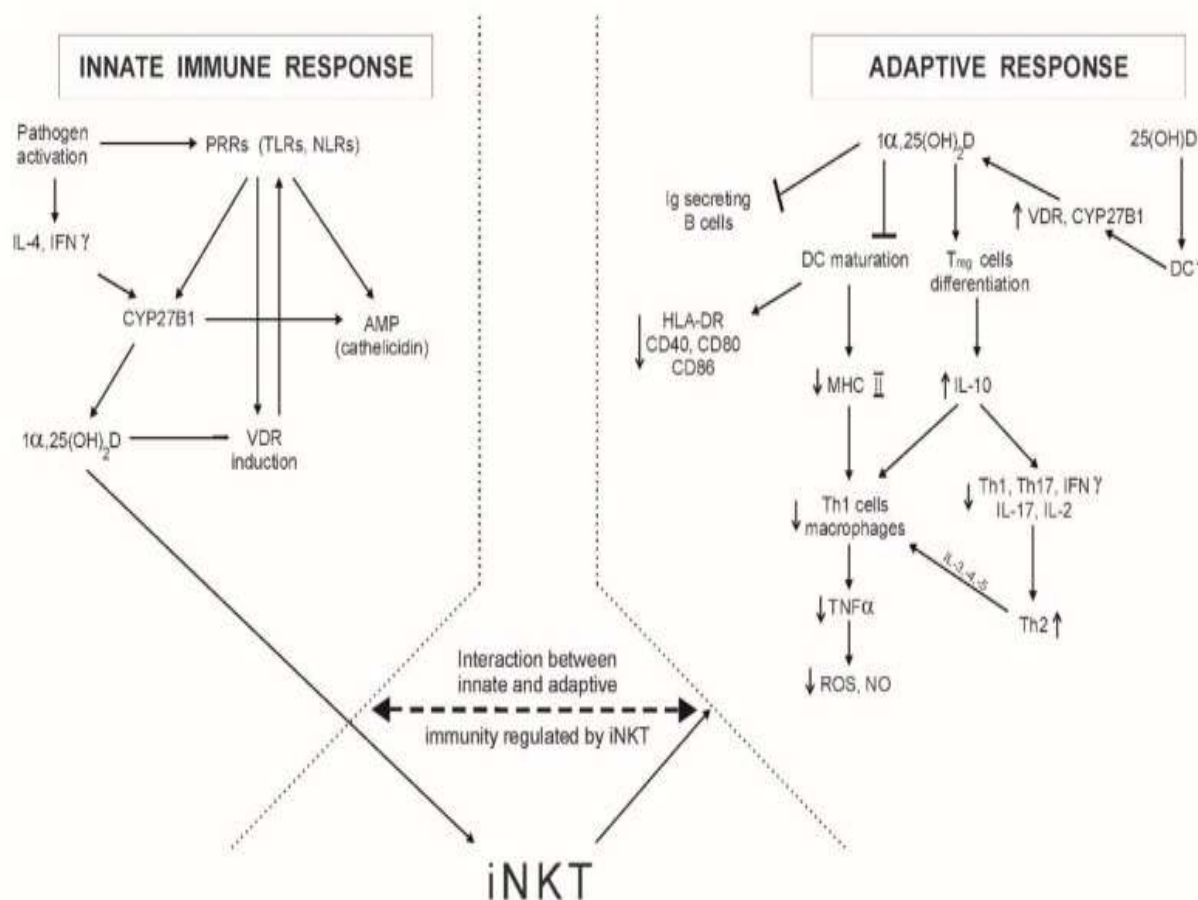


Figure 2:- Vit. D role in the immune response.[5].

Innate Immunity and Vit. D:

Pathogen Recognizing Receptors (PRR)s:

Generally, innate immune response or nonspecific, was proved to be the first defense line against agents of infection and initiates presentation of antigen [28, 29].

Innate immunity response crucial points are the receptors of Toll-like (TLRs), which are of different subgroups of innate intracellular PRRs that exist at monocytes, cells of epithelia, poly-morpho-nuclear cell, and macrophages. TLRs can recognize compounds of pathogen origin; e.g., bacterial, viral lipopolysaccharides, proteins and nucleic acid. Cytokines released by activated TLRs would induce antimicrobial peptides (AMPs), ROS, defensins, and cathelicidins [3, 6, 7, 25, 26]. VDR induction affected or affect by numerous TLRs e.g. co-stimulatory molecule CD-14, co-receptor expression for TLR4, that is triggered via $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ in epidermal keratinocytes and monocytes. In macrophages, CYP27B1 increased expression considered as indirect AMPs result, that encourages TLR2 [6]. It had been shown by Greiller and Martineau that in macrophages [7], heterodimer of TLR2/1 ligation causes CYP27B1 up-regulation, in a similar manner to the TLR4 by lipopolysaccharide (LPS) or TLR8 by CL097 ligation.

Production of CYP27B1 by TLR ligation is probably occurs if alternate PRRs or TLRs encourage enzyme (extra-renal) activation, permitting calcitriol to cause effects more extensively on the immunity response [7]. In case of infection by virus, pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) might identified by different PRRs, e.g. nucleotide binding-oligomerization receptors domain (NOD)-like ligand (NLRs) and retinoic-acid-inducible receptors of gene-I (RIG-I)-like ligand. In epithelial cells and myeloid, $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ encouraged the receptor of NOD2 through 2 VDREs in NOD2 gene. Products of lysosomal breakdown (peptidoglycan of bacteria), if associated with calcitriol, it would induce NOD2 to enhance signaling of AMP and expression of beta defensin 2 [7, 30].

Interleukins (IL) IL-1 β , TNF α and -6, and -12 and other inflammatory cytokines are yielded at an innate immune response early phase. Among others, cytokines encourage proteins of acute phase synthesis and contribute to the

cells activation and recruitment of the response of adaptive immunity. Signaling of PRR also contribute to the chemokine ligands (CXCLs) production of e.g. IL-15 and CXCL8–CXCL10 that stimulate production of natural killer cells (NK) and neutrophils which have role, particularly in immunity (innate) versus bacteria [7].

TLRs up-regulation can occur by other ways. Neutrophils don't synthesize 1α -hydroxylase but, express the VDR unlike macrophages. Hence, in these cells, it is hard to induce $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ transformation into the functioning compound via TLR stimulation. Proteins of surface, e.g. transforming growth factor β (TGF β), or triggering receptor on myeloid cells-1 (TREM-1), exist on the epithelial keratinocytes or neutrophils, respectively, might associate in response of cell to serum $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ by CYP27B1 expression stimulation, through TGF β or signaling of TLR, through TREM-1, [30]. TGF β able to associate with calcitriol to yield 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) that stimulates the leukotrienes production and chemicals that associate with the bacteria phagocytosis [30].

Pathogens destruction is a response of many of antibacterial innate immunity via autophagy [27]. Chun et al. [30], suggested such process which is significant for the antimicrobial response that triggered by vit. D against infection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

AMPs released by TLR have wide-spectrum antiviral and microbial effect, and proved to inactivate viral influenza [25]. The AMPs antiviral effect is resulting from envelope proteins destruction performed via cathelicidins. As for antibacterial impacts, AMPs, cause disruption of microbial membrane. Cathelicidin 37-residue in humans, as active antimicrobial along with LL-37 helical peptide, amphipathic, is cleaved from the pro-peptide, human cathelicidin (hCAP18). The cathelicidin majority is kept in vesicles of neutrophil as well as other kinds of immunity cells, as B lymphocytes and NK and monocytes that are able to express hCAP18 [3]. In vitro, $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ and vitamin D active metabolite stimulate cathelicidins production in human macrophages through elevated VDR expression [26]. Sundaram and Coleman [26], mentioned that VDRE up-regulation via TLRs cause cathelicidin transcription that destroys intracellular *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Szymczak and Pawliczak [27], revealed that hCAP18 has activity against viruses and bacteria. In case of infection by virus, the cells of lung epithelium are able to convert calcitriol into the calcitriol as active metabolite, causing an increase in production of hCAP18. Beard et al. [3] showed that expression of cathelicidin in keratinocytes and macrophages is encouraged by CYP27B1, and when there is no VDR, CYP27B1, or $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$, the capacity of cells to yield cathelicidins is highly disrupted. Report of Pawliczak and Szymczak [27] showed that not only signaling of TLR is contributing, yet cytokines also do so, e.g. IL-4 and IFN γ might affect CYP27B1 production. IFN γ existence encourages CYP27B1 of macrophage. $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ has role in the down feedback strategy which inhibits TLRs hyper-activation [27].

$1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ effect on synthesis of cytokine by stimulation of viral pattern recognition receptor differs among pathogens. Fitch et al. [31] mentioned that vitamin D did not succeed in modifying virus or TLR7/8- of syncytial respiratory (RSV) to enhance production of cytokine of innate immunity, even at high concentrations (supraphysiologic) levels.

Anti-Microbe -Proteins or Peptides (AMPs):

AMPs are organized by Vitamin D, e.g. defensins. $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ stimulates modestly human beta defensin 2 and the effect of the latter as antiviral comes from its ability as chemo-attractive for monocytes and neutrophils [3, 26]. Nevertheless, concentration of $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ serum was not associated with AMPs serum levels in pneumonia of community-acquired origin [26].

Analysis of human nucleic acid revealed that there is VDRE in cathelicidin and beta defensin promoters. Transcription of Cathelicidin only seemed to be induced in monocytes via $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ [30]. The elevated beta defensin 2 level is a result from the interleukin-1 (IL-1) and $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ decreased expression in monocytes AMPs for gene induction, VDRE needs to integrate with nuclear factor kappaB (NF κ B) in the promoter [30].

Adaptive Immunity and Vitamin D:

T- Lymphocytes:

Response of adaptive basis is: presentation of antigen to cells of T and B type, where antigen-stimulated production of antibodies, cytokines, chemokines, hormones, and enzymes of a wide spectrum will occur. The existence of VDR in the activated lymphocytes was first to be noticed to correlate vit. D role with system of immunity [30].

Subgroups of T cells are few kinds of cells: cells of CD8⁺ T show vitamin D-activating 1α -hydroxylase and VDR at high levels relatively; cells of CD4⁺ T; cells of memory; and cells of NK. Activated cells of CD8⁺ T able

to differentiate to cytotoxic (CTLs), important against cancer and intracellular pathogens. Activated cells of $CD4^+$ T able to differentiate to cells of Th cells, cells of regulatory (T-reg) (cells of suppressor) type, Th17, and $\gamma\delta$ T cells, Th2, Th1, and Th9 cells that yield various cytokines profiles. Thus interferon γ , IL-2, and TNF α produced from Th1 cells, while IL-3, -4, -5, -10, and -13 secreted from Th2. cytokines induced- $CD4^+$ T cells give enforcement to other cells of immunity, e.g. CTLs, and to the response of antibody in circulation, by CD40:CD40 bond of antigen-specific B cells co-stimulatory sites [6,26,27,28,30,32]. Th cells role involve: immunoglobulin production enhancement, activation of macrophage, and mastocytes (Th2) and eosinophils generation [28]. Response of stimulated Th1- is the main factor for various viral and bacterial infections whereas when this process becomes not controlled, it causes autoimmunity [29].

Regarding vit. D role in response of immunity, it behaves like Th cell generation modulator and changing production of cytokine type, as well as by T-reg cells promotion, that are related to anti-inflammatory reply, immune suppression, and for limitation processes of inflammation [29]. One report concentrated on 25(OH) $_2$ D ability for stimulating T-reg cells via the cells for antigen presentation (dendritic cell (DC)) induction to synthesize CYP27B1 and VDR [33]. Jeffrey et al. [33] reported the vitamin D significant form for cells T-reg generation was non-25(OH) $_2$ D DBP-bound. A report by Bruce et al. [29] showed that $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ able to regulate cells of invariant NK T (iNKT), that are able to behave as organizer cells and associate in the relation between adaptive immunity and innate. Induction of iNKT had proven protection against autoimmunity diseases. A report of Sigmundsdottir et al. [34] mention that chemokine expression of receptor 10 (CCR10) by $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ on cells of T-lymphocyte eases association with cells of competent immunity, e.g. detecting keratinocytes CCL27. In vitro, $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ blocks Th1 cytokines expression and stimulates cytokines of Th2. Cells of Th subgroups; for example, cells of Th17, secrete IL-17, have important role in autoimmunity [6, 30].

Inverse relationships between activity of disease and concentrations of vitamin D in patients with T1DM, disease of inflammatory bowel, autoimmune thyroiditis, arthritis (rheumatoid), or multiple sclerosis had been noticed [35].

$1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ seemed to reduce autoimmune process via blocking activity of Th17 cell [36]. $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ can reduce the antigens presentation ability via DC maturation inhibition. A decrease in the molecules of co-stimulatory receptors and human leukocyte antigen HLA-DR expression i.e. CD40, CD86, and CD80 were observed. $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ triggers T-reg differentiation that induces production of IL-10 which inhibits IL-12. $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ -treated DC showed less co-stimulatory MHC (major complex of histocompatibility) II binding, compared to intact ones [29]. Based on that, production of macrophage and cells of Th1 is diminished, yet the cells ability for inducing T-reg is conserved [6, 26,29]. IL-10 induced as well blocks Th17 cells and Th1 and so IL-17, IL-2 and IFN γ production leads to tolerance of immunity [6]. The foregoing renders cells of Th2 to be predominant. Accordingly, the enhanced IL-4, -5 secretion, and -13 more reduce Th1. In vitro, in monocytes of human, $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ was proved to be Th1 cell- cytokines mediated inhibitor as well as for (TNF α), but in case of mice, in vivo as Th17 suppressor via IL-23 and -6 down-regulation [6,26,29]. Bruce et al. [29], showed that naïve $CD4^+$ Th cells incubated with $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$, through priming of Th17 cells, it would block production of IL-17. Chun et al. [30] illustrated that expression of DC gene can be organized via 2 vitamin D major metabolites: $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ and 25(OH) $_2D$, considering this as a different way for immunomodulation.

According to studies of animals, it was proposed that Th2 cells progression might have exacerbating effects on diseases of allergy e.g. dermatitis, asthma atopical inflammatory processes induction [6]. The increased Th2 cytokines production (IL-4, -5, -13) noticed in the atopic dermatitis acute period, leads to cathelicidin suppression and infection vulnerability increment. In the disease chronic phase, Th1 cells were of predominance [6].

Via IFN γ inhibiting, $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ blocks stimulation of ROS and production of nitric oxide. All effects, with IL-17 suppression are the causes for the decreased pathogens resistance e.g. *Citrobacter* and *Toxoplasma* [6, 37,38]. Report of Ehrchen et al. [37] proved that mice VDR-knock out leads to change in response of Th1 to infection with *Leishmania major*, though IFN γ produced via $CD8^+$ and $CD4^+$ Th cells. Rajapakse et al. [38] noticed IL-12 and IFN γ reduction levels in infected mice with *Toxoplasma gondii*, suggesting Th1 cell blocking. After $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ treatment, $CD4^+$ Th cells counts, splenocytes reduced with obvious apoptosis were noticed. Report of Ryz et al. [39] revealed reduction in Th17 cells of infected mice with *Citrobacter rodentium* when $1\alpha,25(OH)_2D$ is given. Based on Th17 impaired response, production defect in antimicrobial peptide REG3 γ was observed.

$1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ leads to antigen-presentation and T-cell stimulation ability of macrophages and monocytes and CD40, -80, -86, and MHC II reduction. Activation of NF κ B by $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ contributes to IL-23 and IL-12 suppression that are linked to differentiation of Th1. [7,29].

T cell responses regulation is via DC existence and vitamin D inactive metabolite such as $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$. Jeffery et al. [33], described upon maturation, CYP27B1 is produced by DC if come in contact with LPS or T cell resulting in the $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ release and synthesis that affects responses of T cell.

B-Lymphocyte s:

$1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ considered to be generation inhibitor and acts in vitro as an agent of pro-apoptosis in B cells (activated). Despite it does not generate these cells; yet it act as differentiation inhibitor [26]. Fang et al. stated that in mice having virus of influenza (primary infection), and inducing immune protection, meaning a significant dependence on existence of lymphocytes B [40].

$1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ suppression effects were observed referring to secreting B cells of immunoglobulin (Ig). $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ was particularly blocks their progression after mitogenic stimulation [41]. Ig mechanism impact is not one only for interaction B cell and vitamin D. $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ regulates cells of B via CCR-10 and IL-10 [42]. Heine et al. [43], reported that B cells through activation via signals of IL-4 and CD40 receptor, illustrate elevated gene expression for $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ 1α -hydroxylase CYP1 α , then via significant $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ amounts production. In B cells, expression of IL-10 $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ enhanced through VDR transcriptional activity or by Ca signaling modulation. Accordingly, it might be proposed that vit. D and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ inactive metabolites able as well to modulate the response of immunity.

Vitamin D Anti-Inflammatory Action:

Vitamin D behaves by feedback loop promotion to block inflammatory events and antibacterial processes over activity through TLR4 and TLR2 down regulation in monocytes [26, 30]. $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ was stated to reduce pro-inflammatory chemokine production in cells of epithelium of human respiratory system and down regulate cytokines such as TNF α , IL-6, and IL-8, in vitro within various cells [26]. In respect to lymphocytes of human, vitamin D anti-inflammatory effect occurs through inhibition of NF κ B. This factor of transcription regulates genes expression encoding for proteins of immunity yielded in infection, e.g. proteins of acute phase, chemokines, and cytokines or enzymes of inducible effectors [6, 26].

Proliferation of T-cell considered as Vitamin D-modulated where the mechanisms partially lead to responses of anti-inflammatory through elevation of T cells subgroup proliferation, CD8 α . Cells of T type, unlike cells of CD8 $^+$ T, considered of no cytotoxicity, rather might have a role in gastro-inflammation suppressing [30].

Time-Dependency of Vitamin D Immuno-modulatory Effects:

Vitamin D immune-modulatory effects are associated to infection (late or early periods). The association levels in circulation for $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$ and α_1 -antichymotrypsin, in tuberculosis, protein of an acute-phase was illness-correlated, and not with the response of early acute-phase of infection [46]. Also, $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ interacted differently with various mechanisms stated to account on time in human cells leukemia. Report of Tse et al. [47] stated dependency of time for NF κ B in HL-60 cells biphasic regulation. After HL-60 cells exposure to $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$, suppression in first 4h ca. with a late (8–72h) prolonged - NF κ B transcription factor reactivation. With this stimulation, there were genes of anti-apoptotic and inflammatory up-regulation e.g. IL-1 β , Bcl-xL and TNF α [47]. This effect has indirect impact on the regulation of immunity illustrated via vitamin D since the processes of inflammation are related highly to the cells immune response to pathogens. Sundaram and Coleman [26], proposed that in vivo study, the response of immunity in mice to allergens suggested that supplementation of $(1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D})$ by injection of 100 ng applied following primary sensitization period blocked local inflammatory response and eosinophils at high levels in lung tissues and bronchoalveolar lavage fluid. But this effect couldn't be seen in every day-supplementation throughout that study.

Retinoids Role in Influenza Symptoms and Pathogenesis:

Influenza A epidemiologic observations and seasonality are due to wide population- impairing immunity of innate type attributed to a reduction in sunlight exposure at winter months and a consequent vitamin D deficiency [48–50]. Theory of Cannell proposed that epidemics of influenza are consequent of disease dormancy which is activated responding to deficiency of vit. D.

Vitamins D and A have intermingling roles in influenza and retinoids have indirect role in pathogenesis of influenza infection. For example, radiation of sun has different impact on vit. D and A; i.e. reduces Vit. A, yet elevates vit. D. Vitamin A and D can inhibit one the other. Retinoids can regulate growth of epithelial cell of airways, gene expression, and progression. Influenza symptoms are identical to toxicity of retinoid. pharmacological and/or supplementary levels induce symptoms of influenza-like. They also partially organize the activity of virus. They affect block or stimulation of pathogenesis of influenza.

Sunlight reduction, and/or deficiency of vit. D elevates simultaneously accumulation, expression, and endogenous retinoid toxicity potentials (such as reduction in the vit. D-to-vit. A ratio), that aggravate activation of virus or elevates susceptibility of host to influenza virus (novel strains). Moreover, during normal retinoid physiological concentrations seem to function along with vitamin D to block pathogenesis of influenza, higher concentrations with (very low vit. D: A ratios) make it worse and might encourage fatal disease or severe complications. Influenza infections outcome might partially rely on balance of the ratio among vitamins concentrations. Vit. A and Vit. D roles in influenza may extend to genetic variability in their metabolism and their levels [51].

Retinoids:

Retinoid as synthetic and natural congeners, are basically signaling molecules of fat-soluble dietary-derived principally liver stored and are necessary for development of embryo, normal homeostasis of cell, differentiation of tissue, secretion of mucus, and growth [52, 53]. Vitamin A active form (Retinoic acid) in most systems' cellular differentiation connected to and activates receptors (retinoid X receptors (RXRs)), (retinoic acid receptors (RARs)); that regulate many target gene transcription [54–56].

RXRs and RARs are lipophilic thyroid / steroid super-family members of factors of ligand-dependent nuclear transcription agents which composed of retinoids, steroids, vitamin D₃ and thyroid hormones. Since they are able to diffuse readily from the source and permeating the target, hormones of lipophilic property are of organization potentials for development, cell differentiation, and organ functions [68, 69]. The RXRs and RARs present in 3 products of identifiable gene— β , γ , and α . At activation of ligand, the function of receptors as factors of hetero-dimeric transcription and control the target genes expression via connecting to specific sequences of DNA, termed of RA-elements respond (RAREs) [57, 58].

Free retinol yield retinoic acid via retinyl esters hydrolysis, liver stored, and retinol release into circulation and transport to tissues of the target, then bound to retinol-binding peptide (RBP). First, through an alcohol dehydrogenase, to retinaldehyde retinol is oxidized and then synthesis of primarily RA from retinaldehyde within the cell microsomes by the dehydrogenase of retinaldehyde occurs. A level of retinol in circulation stays fixed because of a careful transport system of regulation and ensures target tissues to receive retinol essential quantity in spite of large fluctuations in intake of diet [59]. Many factors of transcription action are influenced by retinoic acid e.g. AP-1 activation repressing via blocking the c-fos and c-Jun induction [60]. Other nuclear receptors are regulated e.g. receptor of vitamin D, peroxisome proliferation-activated receptors (PPARs), receptor X of farnesoid, and receptor X of liver that hetero-dimerizes along RXR and regulates the transcription factors activation e.g. STAT-1, NF- κ B, and AP-1 [56]. RA shows negative effects on growth of cell by RARs alternative activation versus PPAR β/δ [61].

Retinoic acids at low concentrations are necessary factors of growth for specific kinds of cells, whereas concentrations of higher level block growth of cell and are teratogenic, cytotoxic, and mutagenic. Toxicity of exogenous vit. A may take place because of excessive consumption of diet or from retinoid treatments. Even though toxicity of vit. A from pro-vitamin A, but carotenoid of plant as sources has never mentioned. Storage in liver, absorption from fortified foods, supplements, and animal foods in retinyl esters form may cause hypervitaminosis A. Retinoid intoxication endogenously might naturally take place at cholestasis, if metabolites of vit. A are refluxing to blood from liver [62].

Throughout life, retinoic acid is needed for lung alveoli maintenance and a deficiency resulting in alveoli loss and to emphysema features. Alveolar regeneration is induced by exogenous retinoic acid has been stated in emphysema experiment of rat model. Alveologenesis disruption occurs by action of (disulfiram), a retinoic acid synthesis inhibitor. [63].

Circulating retinol = (1–3 μ mol/L as normal) doesn't give an idea about liver concentrations for vit. A, because the RBP secreted is controlled homeostatically. Hence, concentrations of retinol in plasma differ a bit in spite of major

intake alterations in vit. A. Hypervitaminosis A may be seen even if serum retinol within limits of normality, mentioning that plasma retinol at toxicity conditions is not an accurate evaluation of status of vit. A [64, 65].

Vit. A is one of the antioxidant vitamins and its supplements are available as measures for protecting human from disease widely. A review in Cochrane, mentioned the antioxidant effect on mortality (including vit. A), according to trials of randomization, Bjelakovic et al. [66] also went over all trials of randomization where adults consuming singly or combined Se, beta-carotene, and vit. A, C, E. Sixty eight trials randomly studied with 232,606 cases. When antioxidant trials of supplements were analyzed, no significant effects for mortality were noticed (RR: 1.02; 95% CI: 0.98–1.06). Nevertheless, analyzing multi-variate regression illustrated that, in “low bias” trials as better designed, β -carotene was correlated of significant risk 7% increasing, vit. A 16% risk increasing, and vit. E 4% mortality risk increasing. Vit. C and Se are of no significant effect. Researchers arrived to a conclusion that vit. A, vitamin E, and β -carotene treatments might elevate mortality.

Below are a summary for many evidence lines supporting the model proposed:

1. Vit. A is of photo-oxidation sensitivity.
2. Vit. A and D are associated inversely where vit. A can block vit. D actions and vice versa.
3. Retinol, major metabolite for retinoic acid has necessary role in growth of epithelial cell of airway regulation, progression, and gene expression.
4. Clinical features of influenza simulate toxicity of retinoid i.e. syndrome of retinoic acid induced through synthetic retinoids usage for acute promyelocytic leukemia treatment.
5. Vit. A Supplementation able to induce symptoms of influenza-like.

Generally, activity of virus is of retinoids regulation.

Retinoids have an influence to mechanisms and elements which both contribute and block pathogenesis of influenza. [66]

Influenza virus infection and Vitamin E:

Oxidative stress in organism infected with virus of influenza produces saturated lipid chains oxidation of cytoplasmic membrane (lipid peroxidation), that minimizes membranes permeability. At deficiency of antioxidant, if membranes damaged and/or exposed, influenza infection proceeds at strong pathology and lead to body serious damage at all levels.

Throughout infection of influenza in mice, antioxidant enzymes activity catalase and SOD were modified, besides a reduction on the endogenous antioxidants quantity of low-molecular-weight e.g. ascorbate, α -tocopherol (Table 1) and glutathione. Vit. E endogenic levels were decreased significantly in lung, blood plasma and liver. Moreover, cytochromes modifications were noticed along a reduction in activities of hepatic cytochrome P-450-dependent mono-oxygenases. Along with the above mentioned, in the disease course, the organism's antioxidant protection buffering capacity is diminished [67].

Table 1:- Endogenous vit. E content [nmol/mg protein] in blood plasma, lung, liver of mice experimentally with virus of influenza A/Aichi/2/68 H3N2 (1.5 MLD50) infected. Values = (means \pm SEM) [41].

Group	Lung		Liver		Blood plasma	
	5 th day	7 th day	5 th day	7 th day	5 th day	7 th day
I Control	2.2 \pm 0.31	2.14 \pm 0.26	4.94 \pm 0.51	5.4 \pm 0.42	1.8 \pm 0.065	1.72 \pm 0.07
II Flu	1.47 \pm 0.14	1.7 \pm 0.17	3.35 \pm 0.42	3.12 \pm 0.37	1.46 \pm 0.035	1.2 \pm 0.37

The above information shows that, during influenza infection virus, a reduction in antioxidant of natural vit. E was observed along with an elevation of products of endogenous lipid peroxidation significantly.

In humans factor of nuclear (erythroid-derived 2)-like 2 (NRF2) encoded by gene NSF2, is regulating protein for antioxidant proteins expression which have a role against triggered oxidative damage through inflammation and injury. NRF2 can control the induced and basal response of antioxidant element-dependent expression of genes for regulating patho-physiological and physiological outcomes of exposure to oxidant. NRF2 is of a significant impact on toxicity and oxidative stress, organizing the defense by antioxidant [67].

NRF2 can control pathway of antioxidant and considered as pivotal for lungs protection against influenza virus development, injury and inflammation of infection-induced pulmonary under oxidative stress conditions. The antioxidant system of NRF2-mediated is necessary to save the lungs from oxidative storm and injury induced via viral influenza. [67].

Since there is an important oxidative stress role in viral influenza pathogenesis, enormous work had employed to examine the antioxidants influence on influenza course. Pathway of NRF2 stimulated by drugs is examined for diseases treatment of oxidative stress and infective influenza virus. In vivo models experiments, in mice predominantly, have an important place in such studies.

α -tocopherol (vitamin E) is an antioxidant examined against infections of influenza virus in mice, it is also of leading position since its impact in blocking damage of oxidation via its scavenging activity of ROS [67].

NRF2 protein expression is noticed to be elevated in vit. E-supplemented rabbits and cholesterol-fed by NRF2 activation pathway, leading to induction of many genes of antioxidant. Vit. E seemed to stimulate the NRF2 protection effect. Furthermore, it was observed that vit. E blocks suppression of NRF2 via allergens in macrophages of alveoli, showed in vivo for asthmatic cases [67].

Clearly the above information proves the antioxidants role e.g. vit. E, that can be shown in different methods:

1. Capturing free radicals in multiple mechanism(s) (non-enzymatic or enzymatic).
2. ROS Generation suppression.
3. Indirectly affecting the above processes i.e. by viral replication inhibition.

Since vit. E is a substance soluble in lipid with hydrophobic terminus; it accumulates within the membranes interior lipid where it behaves as the main significant series-breaker, as it reacts with lipid radicals (peroxyl) almost 4 times faster compared to their reaction with adjacent side chains of fatty acids. It is famous that vit. E can block oxidative damage, since its lipophilic property contributes to easy diffusion passively via the membranes of cell, permitting reticulum (single-plated) and mitochondrial arrival. Vit. E saves them against damage and lipid peroxidation (Figure 3). Particularly significant is its chain-free radicals reaction termination that saves fatty (multi-unsaturated) acids of the membrane against oxidation ROS [67].

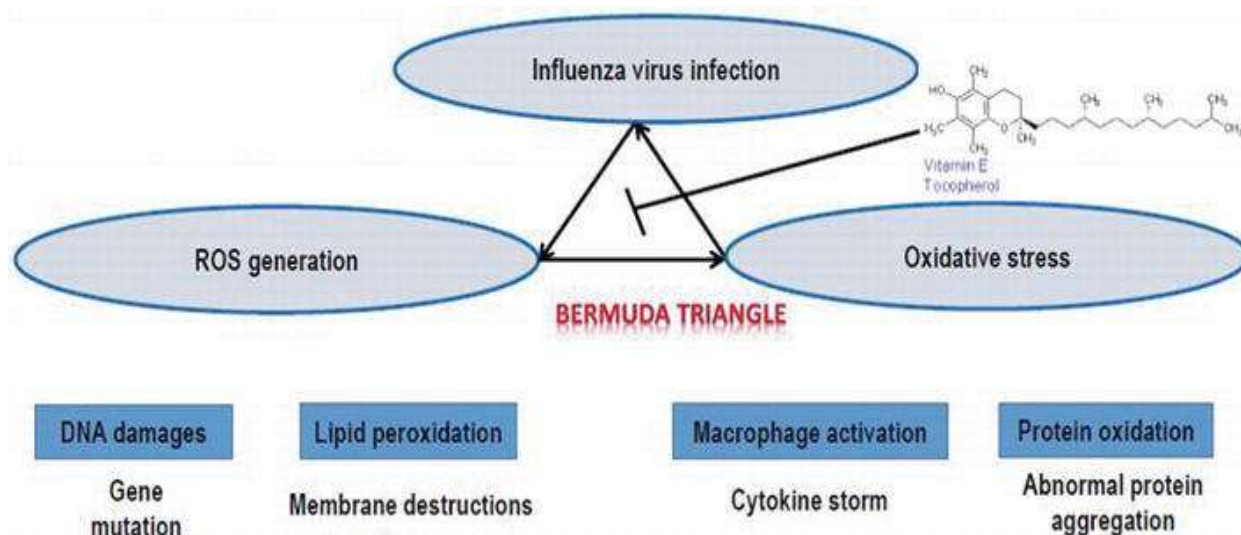


Figure 3:- “Triangle of Bermuda” made by the viral influenza pathogenesis in the infested patient. Vit. E action is steered to the core of tempest. [67].

Vit. E affects immuneresponses in various tissues e.g. respiratory system, through oxidative stress quenching directly, and by eicosanoid oxidative modulation pathways and synthesis of prostaglandin, inflammatory mediators inhibition, and apoptotic signaling control of lipid. Vit. E stabilizes phospholipids of membranes [67] (Figure 3).

Many functions (non-antioxidant) of vit.E might be necessary for the cell integrity functions and maintenance, e.g. its anti-phospholipase A2 agent function as lipid bi-layer stabilizer of membranes against oxidized and hydrolyzed lipids [67].

Corona virus 19 (covid 19):

COVID-19 was classified by (WHO) as a β CoV of group 2B [68]. Ten COVID-19 genome sequences were taken from 9 patients of 99.98% identity sequence [69]. Another study showed there was 99.8–99.9% nucleotide identity in isolates from five patients and results of sequence proved the new beta-CoV strain existence [70]. The COVID-19 genetic sequence revealed more than identity of 50% to the MERS-CoV and 80% to SARS-CoV [69, 70], where MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV initialized in bats [71]. Hence, phylogenetic evidence analysis indicates the belonging of COVID-19 to the beta-coronavirus genus that includes SARS-CoV, that infects bats, wild animals and humans [72].

The receptor binding is host expressed cells which considered as the first infection step of viral then fusion followed with the membrane of cell. It is reasoned that the cells of lung epithelia are the viral primary target. Thus, it has been reported that SARS-CoV human-to-human transmissions occurs by the binding between the receptor-binding domain of virus spikes and the cellular receptor which has been identified as receptor of angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) [73, 74]. Importantly, sequence of the receptor-binding domain of COVID-19 spikes is identical to SARS-CoV. This data effectively suggests that entry into the host cells is most likely via the ACE2 receptor [73].

COVID-19 infected patients presented higher numbers of leukocyte, findings of abnormal respiratory, and plasma cytokines (pro-inflammatory) enhancement levels. Case report of COVID-19 indicated at the 5th day, patients showed fever, breathing of coarse sounds, a cough, for both lungs, and 39.0 °C temperature. The sputum of patient with polymerase chain reaction (real-time), resulting as positive for COVID-19, confirmed infection [75]. Studies of laboratory revealed leukocyte with leucopenia counts of 2.91×10^9 cells/L where neutrophils of 70.0%. Furthermore, 16.16 mg/L for a protein in blood, (C-reactive) was noticed that is above the range of (0–10 mg/L as normal). High D-dimer and ESR were observed as well [75]. The main infection COVID-19 pathogenesis as respiratory system for virus targeting was associated with severe RNAemia, pneumonia, along with the incidence of ground-glass opacities, and injury of cardiac acutely [76]. Significant high blood cytokines and chemokine levels were observed in cases with infection of COVID-19 including IL10, IL1RA, IL7, IL1- β , IL8, IL9, basic G-CSF, FGF2, IFN γ , GM-CSF, IP10, MIP1 α , MIP1 β , MCP1, PDGFB, VEGFA, and TNF α . Few cases of great severity admitted to the ICU presented high pro-inflammatory cytokines levels i.e. IL7, IL2, G-CSF, IL10, MCP1, TNF α , IP10, MIP1 α , that are due to severity progression of the disease [76].

Conclusion:-

Because of the above mentioned great and vast effects of vitamin D on immune system in many diseases, and vitamin E effects on immune system specially on respiratory system during infections, it is better to boost immunity of patients with those 2 vitamins, and ameliorate the over stimulation of inflammatory response with its dramatic derangement on patient's life and health.

As the Globe nowadays is passing through the most vicious pandemic of covid 19, causing paralysis of economy worldwide, taking lives of thousands of humans, spreading horror within nations, burdens financial efforts to overcome this tragedy; so it's recommended to

1. give a high single bolus dose of vitamin D (600 000 IU), (this because vitamin D act as hormone in the body and its receptors number would decline if exposed to this hormone for long period (if given as daily maintenance therapy), so it's better to give it as high single bolus dose, every few months to allow for its receptor to get up-regulated), and give maintenance dose of vitamin E and C, with trace amount of Iron and Zinc (because of being the metallic portion of many cytochromes), and used as usual regimen in all health centers worldwide to be given for all populations at the beginning of each cold seasons, as a preventive measure.
2. As for therapeutic measures for covid 19, give high single dose of Vitamin D3 (600 000 IU), as immune-modulator, with high daily dose of vitamin E and C (as antioxidants, because ROS can act as strong chemo-attractants leading to exaggerated immune response, which was observed in patients with COVID -19) with Iron and Zinc maintenance dose.

3. Reduction of vitamin A –rich foods, or supplementation during infection , because of its ability to re-activate or increase susceptibility to respiratory viral infections; but vit A supplementation can be given after complete and certain resolution of covid 19 infection to stimulate alveolo-genesis.
4. Cathelicidin, to be given as inhaler or nebulizer to stop viral replication, mainly during the first 3 days of infection especially for patients who are unable to synthesize it .

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