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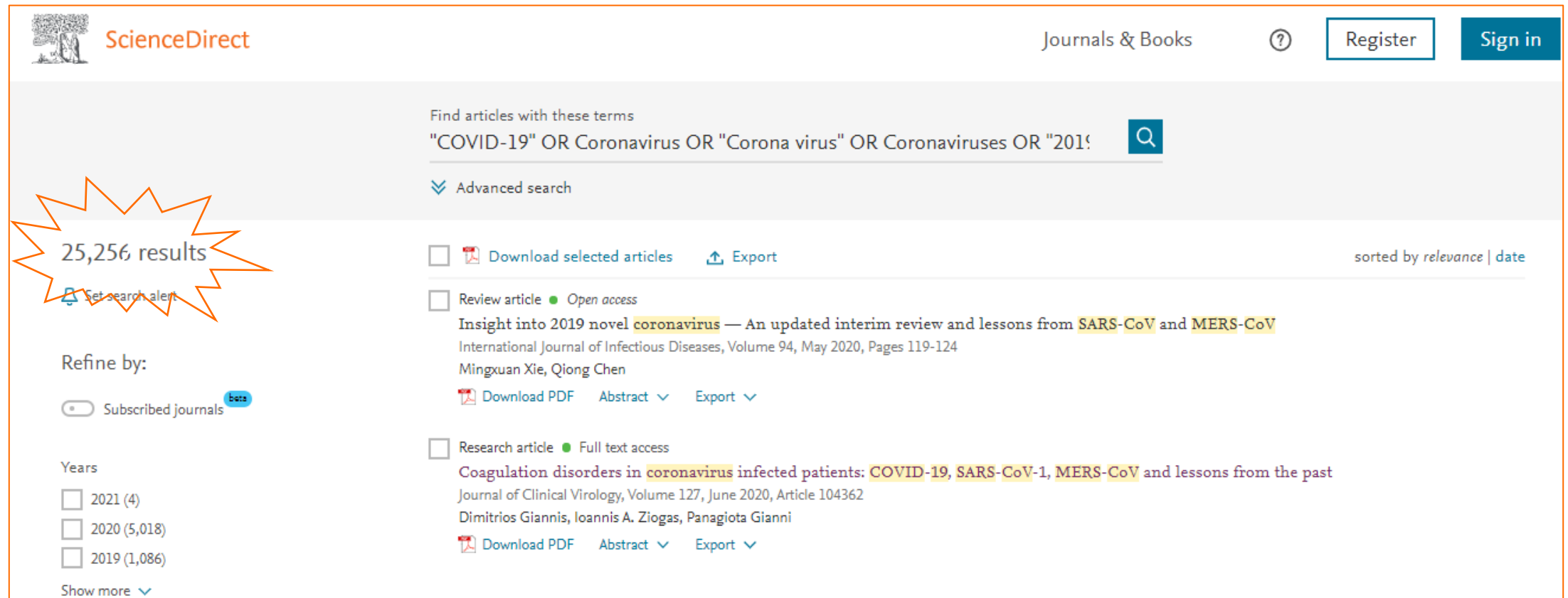
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 Antiviral Research
Volume 155, July 2018, Pages 89-96

Effect of interferon alpha and cyclosporine treatment separately and in combination on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) replication in a human in-vitro and ex-vivo culture model

H.S. Uj^a, Denise I.T. Kuok^a, M.C. Cheung^a, Mandy M.T. Ng^a, K.C. Ng^a, Kerrie P.Y. Hui^a, J.S. Malik Peiris^a, Michael C.W. Chan^{a, B}, John M. Nicholls^{a, B}

Abstract

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) has emerged as a coronavirus infection of humans in the past 5 years. Though confined to certain geographical regions of the world, infection has been associated with a case fatality rate of 35%, and this mortality may be higher in ventilated patients. As there are few readily available animal models that accurately mimic human disease, it has been a challenge to ethically determine what optimum treatment strategies can be used for this disease. We used in-vitro and human ex-vivo explant cultures to investigate the effect of two immunomodulatory agents, interferon alpha and cyclosporine, singly and in combination, on MERS-CoV replication. In both culture systems the combined treatment was more effective than either agent used alone in reducing MERS-CoV replication. PCR SuperArray analysis showed that the reduction of virus replication was associated with a greater induction of interferon stimulated genes. As these therapeutic agents are already licensed for clinical use, it may be relevant to investigate their use for therapy of human MERS-CoV infection.

Cyclosporine

Cyclosporine (CyA) is a potent immunosuppressive agent that, when used in low doses, is an effective therapy for many autoimmune diseases.

From: *Pediatric Allergy: Principles and Practice (Second Edition)*, 2010

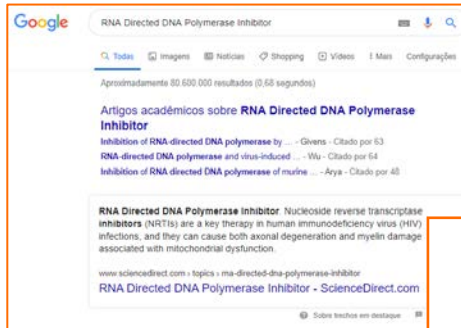
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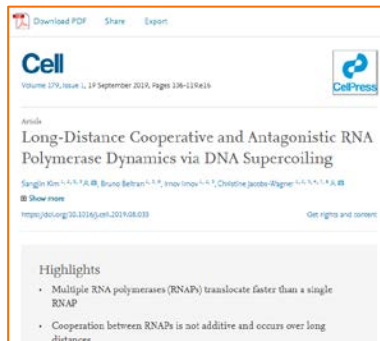
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Cyclosporine	Cyclosporine
Neil K.I. Russell, ... Peter J. Morris, in <i>Kidney Transplantation (Sixth Edition)</i> , 2008	Vidhi V. Shah BA, ... Jashin J. Wu MD, in <i>Therapy for Severe Psoriasis</i> , 2016
<h3>Antiviral Effects</h3> <p>Cyclosporine may possess anti—human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and anti—hepatitis C virus (HCV) properties. It has been shown that cyclophilin A (the intracellular protein with which cyclosporine binds) is involved in the maturation and replication of HIV-1, and that by cyclosporine binding to cyclophilin A this process can be altered.³¹⁷ The use of cyclosporine in HIV-1-infected individuals has been shown to increase the CD4 count and to reverse HIV-associated</p>	<h3>Introduction</h3> <p>Cyclosporine (CsA) is an effective medication used for the treatment of severe plaque psoriasis in adult patients.¹ It is commonly known for its ability to effectively prevent allograft rejection and is widely administered following kidney, liver, and heart transplantation. The capability of CsA to drastically reduce immunologic activity within short time spans has also made it a popular drug of choice for the treatment of various immune-mediated disorders, including</p>

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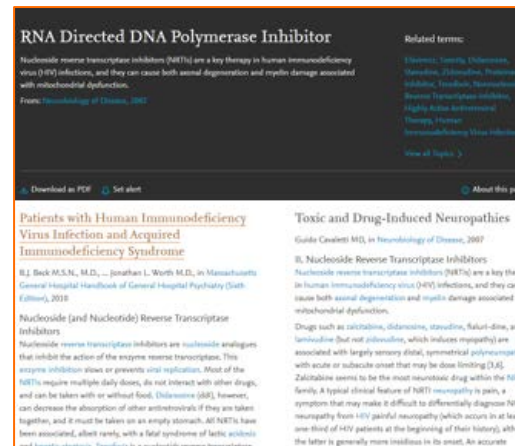


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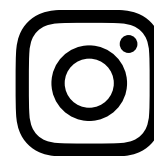
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