BÖLÜM 51

TEDAVİDE UMUT VADEDEN AŞI VE İLAÇ ÇALIŞMALARI

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GİRİŞ

Koronavirüsler, genellikle soğuk algınlığı etkeni olarak saptanırken, son yıllarda bazı koronavirüs türleri, insanlar ve hayvanlar arasında SARS (Şiddetli Akut Solunum Sendromu) ve MERS (Orta Doğu Solunum Sendromu) gibi ciddi ve yaygın enfeksiyonlara neden olmuştur. Nitekim Çin'in Wuhan kentinde başlayan ve birçok ülkeye hızla yayılan COVID-19 da dünya çapında ciddi bir pandemiye yol açmıştır. Hastalığın hızlı yayılımı ve yüksek morbidite, mümkün olan en kısa sürede spesifik ve güvenli bir tedavi rejiminin veya aşının geliştirilmesini gerektirmektedir. Dünya Sağlık Örgütü'nün (DSÖ) 31 Ocak 2020 tarihinde 'uluslararası kamu sağlığı acil durumu' olarak ilan etmesinin ardından ilaç ve biyoteknoloji şirketleri aşı ve ilaç üretimi konusunda büyük bir yarış içerisinde çalışmalarına başlamıştır. 2020 Haziran ayı itibari ile dünya genelinde çalışılmakta olan 183 aşı adayı ve 30'dan fazla tedavi ajanı bulunmaktadır (1).

COVID-19 İÇİN PLANLANAN AŞI TÜRLERİ

Yeni tip koronavirüs hakkında elde edilen kısıtlı veriler ve virüs genomunun filogenetik analizlerine yönelik yapılan çalışmalar, bu virüsün SARS koronavirüs (SARS-CoV)'e (% 79.7 tanımla) çok benzediğini göstermektedir. İki virüs arasındaki bu benzerlik, SARS-CoV'e karşı koruyucu bağışıklık üzerine yapılan daha önceki çalışmaların, COVID-19'a karşı devam eden aşı ve tedavi çalışmalarında yol gösterici olabileceğini düşündürmektedir (2).

Daha önceki çalışmalarda, hem humoral hem de hücresel bağışıklık sistemlerinin SARS-CoV'e karşı koruyuculukta önemli rol oynadığı öne sürülmüştür. Spesifik humoral bağışıklığa ek olarak, CD 4+ ve CD 8+ yanıtlarının SARS-CoV'e karşı uzun süreli koruma sağladığı gösterilmiştir. Enfeksiyon sırasında yüksek oranda eksprese edilen N proteinine karşı antikor oluşumunun, bu virüsle enfekte hastalarda nispeten yaygın olduğu görülmüştür. Bu çalışmalar, antikor aracılı bağı-

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