

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/01/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Is This A National Embarrassment?

President Trump and challenger Joe Biden's debate turned into a chaotic disaster.

In the 90-minute showdown, President Trump interrupted Biden and moderator Chris Wallace more than 70 times. Biden responded by mocking the president calling him a "clown," a "racist" and "the worst president America has ever had."

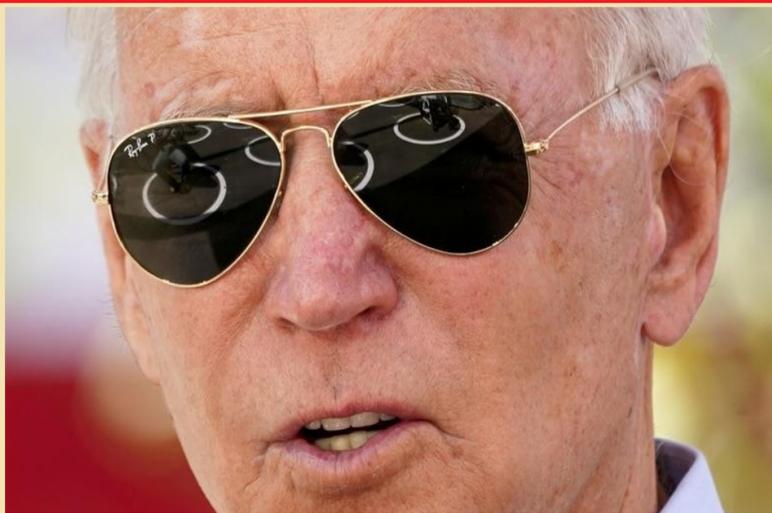
Trump also has asked his supporters to go to the polls and watch the results very carefully. Trump declared that he wouldn't support the results under "certain circumstances." He said, "If I see tens of thousands of ballots being manipulated, I can't go along with that."

The Commission on Presidential

Debates announced today that it would add additional structure to the remaining faceoffs between President Trump and former Vice President Biden after Tuesday night's chaotic clash in Cleveland.

Eleven Democratic governors issued a joint statement today voicing concern about the integrity of the November election declaring that they, "will not allow anyone to willfully corrupt the democratic process by delegitimizing the outcome or by engaging in the appointment of fraudulent electors against the will of the voters."

Today we are facing the biggest crisis in our election history which is that the outcome may not be accepted by one of the candidates.



We as the model of democratic systems across the globe have displayed a chaotic presidential debate to the entire

world that is really a national embarrassment.



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Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Covid & Cholesterol: Statins May Reduce Coronavirus Severity And Help Patients Recover Faster



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

SAN DIEGO — Statins, a common cholesterol-lowering medication, appear to be linked to a lower risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and faster recovery time in general. That's the takeaway from a new study by doctors at UC San Diego Health medical center.

The authors say that the molecule ACE2 resides on the outer surface of various human cells, similar to a doorknob on a door. Normally, ACE2 is a helpful molecule that contributes to blood pressure regulation. Unfortunately SARS-CoV-2 also uses ACE2 as its prime entryway into lung cells.

"When faced with this novel virus at the beginning of the pandemic, there was a lot of speculation surrounding certain medications that affect ACE2, including statins, and if they may influence COVID-19 risk," comments study leader Dr. Lori Daniels, professor and director of the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at UC San Diego Health, in a release. "We needed to confirm whether or not the use of statins has an impact on a person's severity of SARS-CoV-2 infection and determine if it was safe for our patients to continue with their medications."

Coronavirus patients who take statins are much less likely to develop severe symptoms. Researchers retrospectively analyzed the medical records of 170 coronavirus patients who had been treated in San Diego between February and June of this year. They also

used records from 5,281 COVID-negative patients as a control. For patients with COVID, the data encompasses the severity of their symptoms, how long they were hospitalized, the ultimate outcome of their hospital stay, any use of statins, and the use of any ACE or ARB inhibitors within the 30 days prior to being admitted.

Among COVID-positive subjects, 27% were taking statins when they were admitted. Another 21% were on an ACE inhibitor and 12% were on an ARB. Incredibly, the study shows that use of a statin before coming to the hospital is linked to more than a 50% drop in one's risk of experiencing severe COVID-19 symptoms. Coronavirus patients using a statin also recover faster than other patients, researchers say. "We found that statins are not only safe but potentially protective against a severe COVID-19 infection," Daniels says of the study, published in the American Journal of Cardiology. "Statins specifically may inhibit SARS-CoV-2 infection through its known anti-inflammatory effects and binding capabilities as that could potentially stop progression of the virus."

"I tell my patients who are on statins, ACE inhibitors or other ARBs to keep taking them," she adds. "Fears of COVID-19 should not be a reason to stop, if anything our research findings should be incentive to continue with their medication."

How cholesterol plays a role in COVID infections

In a related study, researchers explain that by removing cholesterol from cell membranes, statins essentially block SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, from entering. Co-author Tariq Rana, PhD, professor and chief of the Division of Genetics in the Department of Pediatrics at UC San Diego School of Medicine and Moores Cancer Center, says he wasn't focusing on statins at all initially. At first, his team set out to see which genes "switch on" within human lung cells in response to SARS-CoV-2. Immediately, Rana noticed that a gene called CH25H turns "blazing hot" in response to the virus. CH25H is usually responsible for encoding an enzyme that modifies cholesterol. "I got excited because with HIV, Zika, and a few others, we know that CH25H blocks the virus' ability to enter human cells," Rana says. When CH25H activates, it produces a modified cholesterol called 25-hydroxycholesterol (25HC). This all starts a chain reaction that leads to the cholesterol on a cell's membrane being depleted. Rana's experiments show that adding 25HC to a group of human lung cells blocks the coronavirus from entering.



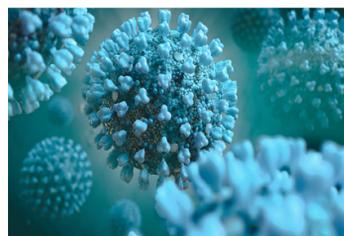
"The difference between untreated cells and those treated with 25HC was like day and night," Rana explains. These findings, published in The EMBO Journal, strongly suggest that SARS-CoV-2 needs some cholesterol, in addition to the ACE2 receptor, to bond with a host cell. This connects to statins because they also drain cell membranes of their cholesterol. "This is already happening in our bodies on a regular basis, so perhaps we just need to give it

a boost, with statins or by other means, to better resist some viruses," Rana says. "It's not unlike cancer immunotherapy — the idea that sometimes instead of attacking a tumor directly, it's better to arm a patient's immune system to do a better job of clearing away tumors on its own." The research team even says statins in general may not be necessary if 25HC can be turned into an antiviral medication. (Courtesy studyfinds.org)

Related Statin Usage is Linked to a Lower Death Rate in Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

By Dr. Hongliang Li and corresponding author, Dr. Yibin Wang

A new study led by Chinese researchers in collaboration with UCLA's Dr. Yibin Wang, PhD, has shown that people hospitalized with COVID-19 who took statin drugs were less likely to die and less likely to need mechanical ventilation than those who did not take the cholesterol-lowering drugs. Hospitalized patients taking statins had a 5.2% mortality rate, compared to a 9.4% mortality rate in patients not taking statins from two groups of COVID-19 patients with matching clinic characteristics except statin usage. Statin use also was linked to lower levels of inflammation, and a lower incidence of acute respiratory distress syndrome and admission to intensive care units.



Wang, professor in the Division of Molecular Medicine in the Departments of Anesthesiology, Medicine and Physiology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, says this is the first time a link has been observed between statin use and COVID-19 mortality based on a large-scale retrospective group analysis. The study also found that patients taking statins showed a comparably lower risk of dying or suffering other negative outcomes whether or not they were taking blood pressure-lowering drugs called angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs).

BACKGROUND The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected the lives of millions of people. To date, there is no vaccine or specific drug to prevent or treat severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection, which causes COVID-19. Because the development of effective vaccines could take months, if not years, repurposing existing approved drugs is considered a more attractive strategy. Statins are cholesterol-lowering drugs with a very good safety profile, low cost and potent anti-inflammatory effects, which suggest they could be beneficial to counter SARS-CoV-2 infection. In the clinic, they are often prescribed along with ACE inhibitors and ARBs for individuals with hypertension (high blood pressure) or cardiac pathologies.



Widely used statin drugs.

"Earlier this year, the same group of researchers reported that people with COVID-19 taking ACE inhibitors and ARBs were at a lower risk of mortality than those not treated. Despite this, there were some concerns about the benefits of these drugs in COVID-19 patients because animal studies had shown that statins, ACE inhibitors and ARBs increase the expression of angiotensin-converting enzyme II (ACE2), the receptor that SARS-CoV-2 uses to infect host cells. Thus, a closer look was needed to determine how clinical outcomes in patients with COVID-19 could be affected by the use of statins, either alone or in combination therapy.

The results of the study, Wang says, support the potential benefits of statin use in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and show the safety of proceeding with future studies involving statins for the treatment of COVID-19. What this study does not show is that the decrease in the death rate of patients with COVID-19 is directly caused by the use of statins. (Courtesy <https://www.uclahealth.org/>)

Editor's Choice



A woman reads a book at Chobhar, a picnic spot in Kathmandu, Nepal. REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar



The shadow of President Trump is cast on Air Force One as he arrives for a campaign rally at Duluth International Airport in Minnesota. REUTERS/Leah Millis



Georg Salzner, president of Castello di Amorosa winery, buries his face in his hand while speaking to Madeleine Reid, the director of hospitality, as they are framed by a warehouse containing thousands of wine bottles destroyed



Joe Biden and his wife Jill take the stage in front of their campaign train during a campaign stop in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. REUTERS/Mike Segar



Pope Francis meets with members of the clergy after his weekly general audience at the San Damaso courtyard, at the Vatican. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



A chef works on a dish in the kitchen with a sign board depicting "Day 1" on the first day New York restaurants were allowed to restart indoor dining, in Manhattan. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



Britain's Prince Edward and Sophie, Countess of Wessex smile with schoolchildren during a visit to see Vauxhall City Farm's community engagement and education programs in action, as the farm marks the start of Black History Month in London



Anti-eviction protesters scuffle with police to prevent eviction of a family from their home at Las Ramblas in Barcelona, Spain. REUTERS/Nacho Doce

Covid & Cholesterol: Statins May Reduce Coronavirus Severity And Help Patients Recover Faster



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廣告
Daily News



喪禮只限於家人

訃聞
林慰嚴逝於二零二零年九月二十一日，享年九十歲，一九二九年十月二十二日生於中國台山，是林永祥及陳金鶯之子，其妻美麗及其姊瑞芳比他先逝，他的兒女有 Angie, Allison 和 Wai，各兒女有其配偶並有六位兒孫，他有眾多姪兒，姪女並姪孫們。
他生長於中國戰亂時代，輾轉從台山遷移到廣州，然後到香港，在香港中學畢業後，又經加拿大，委內瑞拉，最後在德州候士頓與他的父母相聚，並在 University of Houston 唸書，他協助父母打理家庭的生意，其後在燕梳事業發展，後期更開設並管理三家餐館：Lim's Restaurant, South China and New South China。
他熱愛生活並喜歡與別人分享娛樂，如玩保齡球，及與朋友、家人共餐，各人將會為他的離去而傷感。



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13001 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079
日期: 十月三日
時間: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
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