1. Introduction

By the end of December 2019 an increasing number of patients were diagnosed with pneumonia and respiratory failure due to unknown origin in the Chinese city of Wuhan, leading to the discovery of the 2019 novel coronavirus. [1]

3. Results and Discussions

Our preliminary in vitro study focused on 69 TCM plants as well as 8 mixtures of plants, selected based on their usage in Chinese hospitals protocols.

This screening revealed the promising activity at a dose lower than 6.25 µg/mL of several plants: Paeonia suffrutcosa, Glycyrrhiza uralensis, Cinnamomum ramulus, Armeniacae amarum and Qingfei Paidu Decoction.

The Qingfei Paidu Decoction contains twenty-one different plants, out of which three of them are Glycyrrhiza uralensis, Cinnamomum ramulus and Armeniacae amarum. Consequently, a synergy between the plants is thought to be possible.

In conclusion, it is important to mention that none of the TCM showed signs of cytotoxicity in the concentrations applied during this in vitro experiment (maximum concentration of 50 µg/mL).

2. Materials and Methods

Historically the TCM is administered to the patient as a cup of tea. That being said, decoction using water to obtain an extract was considered to be the most approachable method to mimic the original version.

➢ The cells selected for the antiviral activity testing of TCM compounds were Vero E6 cells.

4. Conclusion

➢ This screening revealed the promising activity at a dose lower than 6.25 µg/mL of several plants: Paeonia suffrutcosa, Glycyrrhiza uralensis, Cinnamomum ramulus, Armeniacae amarum and Qingfei Paidu Decoction.

➢ Thus, TCM can be considered as a path worth exploring in the fight against the COVID-19 disease.