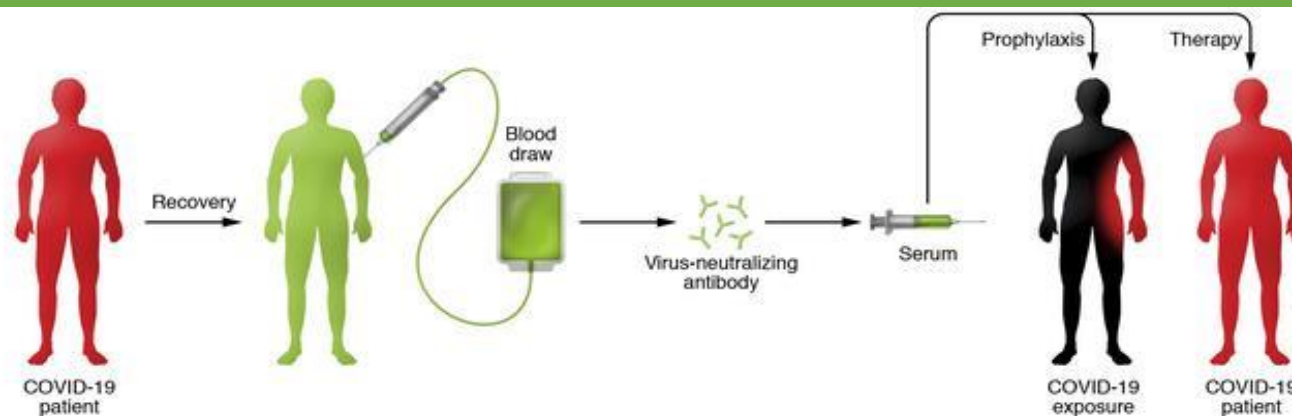


COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. COVID-19 is now a pandemic affecting many countries globally.

As Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc across the globe, scientists are racing to develop antidotes for the new coronavirus, which began infecting humans late last year. Scientists and researchers are exploring various avenues to come up with medical treatments that can fight the novel coronavirus. One such treatment that's in focus right now is **Convalescent Plasma Therapy**.

## HOW CONVALESCENT PLASMA (CP) THERAPY WORKS



### WHAT IS CONVALESCENT PLASMA THERAPY

The convalescent plasma therapy aims at using antibodies from the blood of a recovered Covid-19 patient to treat those critically affected by the virus.

The therapy can also be used to immunize those at a high risk of contracting the virus such as health workers, families of patients and other high-risk contacts.

The very important advantage of CPT is, this process grants the patient some passive immunity. Convalescent blood is an option if there are no medicines or vaccine to treat an infectious disease.

### CLINICAL TRIALS

CP therapy's potential as treatment for Covid-19 has already been explored in limited trial in China, where the outbreak first emerged.

In **one trial**, 10 critically-ill Covid-19 patients were subject to convalescent plasma therapy. The trial showed some improvement in patients' condition with no severe adverse effects.

This study showed CP therapy was well tolerated and could potentially improve the clinical outcomes through neutralizing viremia in severe Covid-19 cases.

### RISKS INVOLVED

Transfer of blood substances, Enhancement of infection, Effect on immune system.

### NOT THE FIRST TIME

Plasma therapy is being considered as a treatment for several viral infections such as **Ebola virus, MERS, H1N1 infection, SARS, Measles**

### CP THERAPY IN INDIA

The Health Ministry have warned against its use, saying that it is at an experimental stage and has the potential to cause life-threatening complications. However, some state governments shown keenness for plasma therapy treatment, and the Centre has permitted few states to perform plasma therapy on a limited number of COVID-19 patients.

### OTHER AVAILABLE & EMERGING

Remdesivir and Favipiravir have shown promise as stand-alone therapy in in vivo models.

The ICMR under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, recommended chemoprophylaxis with hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine.

Interleukin-6 inhibitors are being studied as a therapy in critically ill patients with severe respiratory failure and elevated serum IL-6.

Supportive care is currently the standard treatment for COVID-19.

Several clinical trials are ongoing to help establish the efficacy of various treatments, including antiviral therapies, re-purposed medications, and anti-inflammatory medications.