

Importance of functional nutrition components on new Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and other viral communicable diseases

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ABSTRACT

There are no foods to prevent or treat the coronavirus alone; however, it has been proven that a healthy and balanced nutrition is crucial for health, particularly in times when the immune system might need to fight back. The present study provides insights about the properties of bioactive components of foods and herbs as a possible adjuvant support the human immune system against infections. Also, has focused on the interactions of the intestinal microbiota with human health in the treatment of Covid-19 and other viral infections. More research with strong recommendations is needed to better understand causality.

Keywords: Functional nutrition, Covid-19, Viral infection, Bioactive compound

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Introduction

Viruses are microscopic obligate organisms, which contain either an RNA or DNA genome surrounded by a protective which virus-coded protein coat. Viruses need host cells with metabolic and biosynthetic mechanisms of eukaryotic or prokaryotic cells for their propagation and survival (Herrero-Urbe, 2011).

Most viruses are harmful to their hosts and can cause fatal diseases for humans. The number of potential pathogens worldwide is enormous; however, disease research and development resources are limited. For this reason, the World Health Organization (WHO) annually announces lists of priority diseases that are at risk of turning into a major epidemic. In Table 1, these lists published by the WHO in recent years include the main diseases and their causative agent that cause viruses and pose a potential threat (Bloom & Cadarette, 2019). The last one, Covid-19, which emerged in the city of Wuhan in China in 2019, and whose effect has still continued all over the world. As of March 11, 2020, the Covid-19 was declared a pandemic by the WHO.

When such viral outbreaks occur, such as the current dramatic emergency, for control of pandemic, it is first necessary to avoid these viral outbreaks. It is stated that keeping the immune system strong is as important as adhering to social isolation and hygiene rules to be protected (Pellegrini et al., 2020). One of the duties of individuals to keep the immune system strong is a healthy and balanced diet. There is no food or food supplement that provides protection from these epidemic diseases or supports the treatment of the disease. Also, a single food is not enough to keep the immune system strong. However, it is very important to eat a healthy and balanced diet, to know the content of foods and to become conscious about it (Table 1).

The Role of Nutrition in Viral Disease

Good nutrition has a positive impact on immune function. In various studies that have been conducted on the relationship between viral diseases and nutrition (Pellegrini et al., 2020), mainly emphasized to strengthen the immune system. In particular, it has been stated that deficiencies or suboptimal status of certain micronutrients adversely affect the immune function and resistance to infections decreases. The micronutrients comprise of minerals such as zinc (Zn), iron (Fe), selenium (Se), magnesium (Mg) and copper (Cu), vitamins such as vitamin A, B6, B12, C, D, E, K and folate, and also; some bioactive compounds such as natural antioxidant polyphenols, sterols, bioactive peptides, organic acids, and essential fatty acids. The bioactive compounds have been derived from macronutrient through the use of methodologies such as enzymatic hydrolysis and/or fermentation process (Gombart,

Pierre, & Maggini, 2020). Another phenomenon that strengthens the immune system is probiotic microorganisms and their metabolites. Probiotic microorganisms produce various metabolites with antioxidant, antimicrobial, anticancer, and anti-inflammatory properties. There are several studies on the antiviral properties of probiotic cells or their metabolites (Lehtoranta et al., 2014). In this study, it was investigated the important of some micronutrients and/or probiotic microorganisms in treatment or preventing of viral diseases.

Zinc (Zn)

The biological function of zinc, an essential trace element; the catalytic activity of enzymes is divided into three categories as the structural integrity of proteins and the regulation of gene expression. It contains approximately 250 protein Zn including various enzymes such as angiotensin converting enzyme, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) polymerase, ribonucleic acid (RNA) polymerase, and alkaline phosphatase. Several of evidence has accrued in past years to make evident the antiviral activity of zinc against adversity of viruses, and via numerous mechanisms (Li et al., 2019). Some studies have demonstrated greater response or tolerance to interferon therapy (administration of interferon, a substance in the structure of the protein that acts against bacteria, parasites, viruses, and gums, to patients infected with viruses) by administering zinc to patients infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV). Zinc is a powerful antioxidant and plays a central role in the immune system, adequate amounts of zinc are essential to maintain the integrity of the immune system (Li et al., 2019). It has known that Zinc-finger antiviral proteins (ZAP) which one of both human and animal cells, can inhibit the replication of viruses by stopping the accumulation of viral RNA in the cytoplasm, which can lead to innate immune mechanisms against infections (Read, Obeid, Ahlenstiel, & Ahlenstiel, 2019). In addition, zap proteins have different mechanisms; inhibition of viral protease, viral transcription, and viral polyprotein tertiary structure etc., but they are not fully understood. In a study related to virus and Zn (Chiu et al., 2018), it was investigated the antiviral potential of human ZAP against three viruses; Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), dengue virus (DENV) and Zika virus (ZIKV). As the result, no significant antiviral effect of ZAP was observed against DENV and ZIKV, it was identified JEV as the ZAP-sensitive flavivirus. In another study, it was demonstrated that increased intracellular Zn^{2+} inhibits the replication of SARS-coronavirus (SARS-CoV) in cell culture. In a different study, it was demonstrated that zinc supplement (30 mg/day) increased the proliferation of T cells that take part in the cellular defense of the immune system, in elderly care home. These information shows that Zn is very important in nutrition.

Table 1. Potential threatening epidemic viral diseases (Bloom & Cadarette, 2019; CDC, 2020; Kuhn et al., 2010; WHO, 2020)

Virus	Viral Diseases	Description
MERS-CoV	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)	A viral respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.
SARS-CoV	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	A viral respiratory disease caused by a SARS-associated coronavirus.
Ebola virus	Ebola virus disease (EVD)	One of six known species within the genus Ebola virus. Including EBOV, cause a severe and often fatal hemorrhagic fever in humans and other mammals, known as Ebola virus disease (EVD).
Nipah virus	Nipah diseases	A bat-borne virus that is associated with a highly fatal infection. Nipah virus can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis.
Phlebovirus	Rift valley fever (RVF)	A viral disease most commonly seen in domesticated animals in sub-Saharan Africa, People can get RVF through contact with blood, body fluids, or tissues of infected animals, or through bites from infected mosquitoes.
Zika virus (ZIKV)	Zika	A mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys.
Lassa virus	Lassa fever	An acute viral haemorrhagic illness caused by Lassa virus, a member of the arenavirus family of viruses.
Dengue virus (DENV)	Dengue fever	A mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus; symptoms typically begin three to fourteen days after infection.
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	Two species of lentivirus (a subgroup of retrovirus) that infect humans, it causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
Nairovirus	Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)	Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is caused by infection with a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) in the family Bunyaviridae.
SARS- CoV2	Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	The New Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a disease caused by a virus first identified on January 13, 2020 as a result of research conducted in a group of patients who developed respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) in late December in Wuhan Province, China.

Recommended dietary allowance (RDA) of zinc is 8–11 (Female/Male) mg/day (upper intake level threshold 40 mg/day) in the case of adults. However, in the long term, high zinc intake may disrupt the copper balance, so an intake of ≤ 25 mg/day is recommended (Alexander et al., 2020). Meat and seafood are major sources of dietary zinc, while the zinc in plant-based diets containing folate, phytic acid and some phytochemicals which are potent inhibitors of Zn absorption

and is less available. On the other hand, legume seeds also are considered as the important sources of zinc.

In summary, products such as seafood (cooked oysters), beef and lamb (cooked), fish, poultry, pork (cooked) from the animal food group, spinach, pumpkin, white mushrooms (cooked), and strawberries, as well as products from the cereal and

legume group such as leavened whole grains, wheat germ (tasted) and beans (cooked chickpeas) can be cited as the main zinc source.

Iron (Fe)

Main function of the iron in the human body is to carry oxygen from the lungs to the tissues, therefore; iron deficiency can impair immunity and be a risk factor for the development of recurrent acute respiratory tract infections (Jayaweera, Reyes, & Joseph, 2019). However, iron overload can cause oxidative stress to propagate harmful viral mutations (Zhang & Liu, 2020). As for studies on iron and viruses, in a study (Zhu et al., 2019), it was determined that iron supplementation reduced dengue virus prevalence and viral load, whereas neutralization of serum iron facilitated dengue virus infection. The reason of this situation is that many viruses also need iron-containing enzymes to complete their replication process. In a different study, Iron supplementation was determined to increase mortality risk among HIV-Infected Patients (Haider et al., 2019). It is therefore noted that iron chelators represent a promising adjunct strategy in the treatment of viral infections, limiting iron by oral intake or venous injection. Iron is essential for a central component of the immune system, the differentiation and growth of epithelial tissue and the neutrophils (a type of white blood cells) to produce a reactive oxygen species to kill pathogens. RDA of iron is 8–18 (Female/Male) mg/day in the case of adults (Gombart et al., 2020). Iron from animal sources is so readily absorbed than from plants, many of these sources such as lean beef, oysters, chicken and turkey are recommended. Conversely, it has been indicated that viral infections that disrupt liver function can cause changes in iron homeostasis, and in this case iron overload can exacerbate chronic viral disease. In particular, Iron overload during infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), or hepatitis C virus (HCV) is associated with increased disease progression (Schmidt, 2020). In a study, as individuals with severe and very severe COVID-19 exhibited increased serum ferritin level, it has been proposed iron depletion therapy as a novel therapeutic approach in the COVID-19 pandemic (Perricone et al., 2020). Of course, the negative situation here is not the iron intake with food, but the consequences of excessive iron loading.

Selenium (Se)

Selenium is an essential mineral, meaning it must be obtained through diet. Dietary selenium deficiency is a significant factor in immunity. The oxidative stress in the host can alter a viral genome, increase the pathology of an influenza virus infection and also augmented virulence in humans has been linked to nutrient deficiencies, including that of the micronutrient selenium (Seale, Torres, Berry, & Pitts, 2020). The immune response to live bivalent infectious bronchitis coronavirus vaccine could be stimulated by synergistic effect of selenium with ginseng stem-leaf saponins (Harthill, 2011). Besides, there is an opinion that swine flu, avian flu, and SARS (another coronavirus) developed in selenium-deficient regions of China, Ebola, HIV, in selenium-deficient regions of Sub-Saharan Africa (Harthill, 2011). Selenium shows antiviral properties in the form of sodium selenite. This component can oxidize the thiol groups in the virus protein disulfide isomerase, rendering the virus unable to penetrate the healthy cell membrane (Kieliszek & Lipinski, 2020). There have been various studies in the literature about the effect of selenium on viral diseases.

Recommended dietary allowance of selenium is 55 µg/day in the case of adults (Gombart et al., 2020). However, a total long-term intake of selenium from food and supplements ≤ 300 µg/day is recommended, as higher intakes may be associated with toxicity. There are a lot of foods with high levels of selenium including meat, chicken, fish and eggs are protein-rich foods (Klapec et al., 2004).

Copper (Cu)

Copper (II) is a co-factor in the active of superoxide dismutase, which involved in the body antioxidant defenses and the functions of critical immune cells such as T helper cells, B cells, neutrophils natural killer (NK) cells, and macrophages (Raha, Mallick, Basak, & Duttaroy, 2020). In a study, it was determined that a Cu-complex compound had antiviral effect to DENV-2 in Vero cells which are monkey kidney epithelial cell (Sucipto & Martak, 2020). Sucipto and Martak also reported that Copper (II) dihydrate exhibited a disruption effect on dengue virus replication, DENV-2, in vivo study (Sucipto & Martak, 2020). Copper (Cu) can significantly reduce the infectious viruses such as bronchitis virus, poliovirus, human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1).

The current United States Recommended Daily Intake is 0.9 mg (Raha et al., 2020). The richest dietary copper sources include shellfish, seeds and nuts, organ meats, wheat-bran cereals, whole-grain products, and chocolate.

Magnesium (Mg)

Mg extremely important antioxidant nutrient: human body can't make it and must get from outside. Research showing magnesium powerfully supports the immune system. In humans, Mg the second most abundant intracellular cation after potassium, plays several roles, involves in > 600 enzymatic reactions in the body, and regulating basic roles such as neuromuscular conduction, muscle contraction, myocardial contraction, blood sugar control, and blood pressure, maintaining tissue integrity and cellular functions, as Mg plays a significant role in immunity and metabolism maybe contributing to the exaggerated immune and inflammatory responses exhibited by COVID-19 patients (Wallace, 2020). People with decreasing levels of magnesium especially elderly people have correlated with the increase of proinflammatory cytokines (IL-6, THF-x) that's means more free radical damage and inflammatory responses.

The RDAs for Mg are 300 mg for young women and 350 mg for young men (4.5-5 mg/kg/day). Magnesium is widely distributed in green leafy vegetables, such as spinach, legumes, nuts, seeds, and whole grains, mineral, and bottled waters can also be sources of magnesium (Azoulay, Garzon, & Eisenberg, 2001).

Vitamin D

Vitamin D is known to induce antimicrobial peptide LL-37, which has antiviral, -bacterial and -fungal effects. Several articles on the effects of vitamin D on either prevention or treatment of COVID-19 are being published as we navigate this new pandemic. According to various studies, calcitriol an active form of vitamin D is activated by ultraviolet radiations, it was determined that the calcitriol lead a rise in the production of antiviral peptidase(Gombart et al., 2020). In another study (Jaratsittisin et al., 2020), it was suggested that vitamin D receptor agonists (VDR) was an effective anti-DENV agents. In different studies, it was shown that vitamin D is significantly associated with virus replication in chronic HBV infection, and that insufficient vitamin D levels most likely fail to suppress hepatitis B Virus (HBV) replication and contribute to poor clinical courses (Hoan et al., 2016). Angiotensin-converting enzyme-2 (ACE-2) is a type I integral membrane protein and the host cell receptor responsible for mediating virus entry into the cell through binding with spike (S) protein(Zhang, Penninger, Li, Zhong, & Slutsky, 2020). It is known that the active form of vitamin D can induce the expression of ACE-2. Taking this information together it seems rational to consider a potential role for vitamin D against SARS-Cov-2. The richest dietary vitamin D sources include fish, mushroom, and fortified dairy products.

Vitamin K

Vitamin K plays role on coagulation in which is an intricate balance between clot promoting and dissolving processes. Vitamin K is also a cofactor of anticoagulant protein S. There are limited studies on the viral effect of vitamin K (Janssen et al., 2020). In a study (Dofferhoff et al., 2020), it was determined that pneumonia-induced extrahepatic vitamin K depletion leading to accelerated elastic fiber damage and thrombosis in severe COVID-19 due to impaired activation of MGP and endothelial protein S, respectively. In other study (Walk et al., 2020), it was hypothesized that vitamin D might have both favorable anti-inflammatory and unfavorable pro-calcification effects during COVID-19 and that vitamin K might compensate for the latter. Many studies are needed for the effect on COVID-19 of this vitamin.

B-Vitamins

B vitamins are water-soluble vitamins and plays an important role as a part of coenzymes and in the energy metabolism of all cells. The different roles of vitamin B could be chosen as a potential treatment options for the treatment of COVID-19 (Zhang & Liu, 2020). Vitamin B1 (thiamine) is recognized as thiamin and anurine and also the first type of vitamin B that has been identified. In HIV patients, it is essential to test the extent of Vitamin B1, as it can play beneficial roles in these cases. Niacin (B3) showed a significantly anti-inflammatory effect during ventilator induced lung injury (Zhang & Liu, 2020). Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) participates in more than 100 enzyme reactions also play important role in production of T cells and interleukins (Qian, Shen, Zhang, & Jing, 2017).Vitamin B-12 is a crucial B vitamin with a vital role in the immune system, it is needed for the production of white blood cells. It is also act as an immunomodulatory factor to maintain the normal function of macrophages (Bourbour et al., 2020). The predominant sources of B vitamins are grain and cereal-grain food, seeds and normal intestinal microbiome.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin to be recognized and β -carotene is its plant-derived precursor. Vitamin-A supplementation was associated with reduced mortality in patients with Ebola Virus disease during the West African outbreak (Aluisio et al., 2019). In other study, it was determined that Vitamin-A supplementation improves linear and ponderal growth in infants who are infected with HIV (Villamor et al., 2002). A studies reported that vitamin A has several mechanisms contributes to the phagocytic and oxidative activities of macrophages, regulate the number and function of NK cells (Natural killer cells; a type of lymphocyte cells)

(Bourbour et al., 2020; Gombart et al., 2020). In a study, it had reported that diets with low vitamin A may reduce the effectiveness of inactivated bovine coronavirus vaccines and increase the susceptibility to infectious diseases (Jee et al., 2013). There are some foods with high amount of vitamin A include liver, potato and carrot.

Probiotics

Evidence for antiviral activity of probiotic strains against common respiratory viruses, including influenza, rhinovirus, and respiratory syncytial virus comes from clinical and experimental studies (Turner et al., 2017). Several probiotics have been reported to possess an immunomodulatory ability and protect from virus infections by enhancing cytokine antiviral responses in respiratory and immune cells and in the intestinal mucosa (Biliavska, Pankivska, Povnitsa, & Zagorodnya, 2019). In a study, it was detected that the strains of *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, as well as *Lactobacillus plantarum* could interact with the envelope of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) (Botić, Klingberg, Weingartl, & Cencič, 2007). And, in a different study, it was determined that *Lactobacillus gasseri* exhibited antiviral activity against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Infusino et al., 2020). Besides, it is known that orally ingested probiotics strains of *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* species have enhanced cytokine production in the lungs or serum against viruses (Lehtoranta et al., 2014).

Bioactive Peptides

Recently, bioactive peptides have gained much attention because of their numerous health beneficial effects and exhibit various biological activities such as antioxidant and anti-human immunodeficiency virus. Matemu *et al.* (2011) found that covalent attachment of saturated fatty acids to 7S-peptides improve their antiviral activity against feline calicivirus (FCV) on the Crandell–Reese feline kidney (CRFK) cells as well as increase in surface properties of generated lipopeptides. An experiment study suggests that ZY13, one of the peptidic analogs of cathelicidin-BF (BF-30) efficiently restrict ZIKV infection (Xing et al., 2020).

Carnosine, an endogenous dipeptide consisting of beta-alanine and L-histidine, and anserine, a methylated form of carnosine is found in cells such as skeletal, cardiac, and smooth muscle cells. Therefore, they are found in protein rich foods like red meat, chicken, seafood. The anserine/carnosine in some studies, it was determined that dietary intake of acerine/carnosine supports the immunological defense against infections caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and/ or viruses by increasing the functions of some immune cells (monocytes and macrophages) (Wu, 2020).

Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFAs)

Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) are fatty acids that contain more than one double bond in their backbone. PUFAs are also known to have anti-viral actions besides many positive effects on health (Das, 2008). For example, it was determined that both cis-linoleic acid (18:2, omega-6) and arachidonic acid (20:4, ω-6) could inactivate animal herpes, influenza, Sendai, and Sindbis virus within minutes of contact (Kohn et al., 1980). Also, in a study (Leu et al., 2004), it was determined that strong synergistic anti-HCV effect was observed when the arachidonic acid was combined with IFN-α (interferon-α) which is a substance found naturally in the body in very small quantities and defends the body against viruses. On the other hand, α-linolenic acid (18:3, omega-3) fatty acid is a safe, effective, and low-cost strategy to help support optimal immune function. Polyunsaturated fatty acids such as the omega-3 characterized by boosting the immune system by improving B cells (B-lymphocyte) activity, reducing cytokines, lowering the inflammatory eicosanoids, and increasing phagocytosis. It is also could noticeably rarefy influenza virus replication via the RNA export machinery (Bourbour et al., 2020).

It has been considered that the anti-HCV effect of PUFAs is due to the formation of significant amounts of lipid peroxides. Lymphocytes and macrophages contain significant amounts of PUFAs and release them on appropriate stimulation. This action is predicted to be similar to the fact that PUFAs stimulate NADPH-dependent superoxide production by macrophages, neutrophils and lymphocytes that has bactericidal action (Das, 2008). Of polyunsaturated fatty acids; omega-3 (ω-3) fatty acid is found in fish and seafood.

Some Functional Foods with Antiviral Properties

Diet management should be considered in terms of improvement Immunity and the use of antiviral properties for a small number of nutrients. General recommendations for healthy adults can generally be described as rich in plant foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, soybeans and nuts, good sources of antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, lower in saturated fats/trans fats and animal proteins (Table 2).

Citrus is one of the nature's best and easily available source of vitamin C, flavonoid, fiber, antioxidant, anti-tumour, cardio-protective and neuro-protective agent what makes them significant is their immune boosting potential, reduce inflammation, improve gastrointestinal function and health. Citrus fruits play an important role in preventing conditions like diabetes, cancer, neurological disease. Apples are a good source of fiber and vitamin C. They also contain polyphenols, which may have numerous health benefits.

Table 2. Some foods and their components associated with antiviral activity

Food item	Components associated with antiviral activity	Reference
Almonds, Peanuts	Vitamin E levels antiviral activities	(Makau et al., 2018)
Camellia sinensis	Flavonoids, polyphenols, antioxidants	(Suchitra & Parthasarathy, 2020)
Broccoli	Sulforaphane, Antiviral effects	(Antonenko et al., 2013)
Garlic extracts	Organosulfur, Antiviral activity	(Suchitra & Parthasarathy, 2020)
Curcumin	Reduced the inflammatory cytokines	(Hewlings & Kalman, 2017)
Paprika	vitamin C and vitamin E	(M. H. Gnayfeed, Daood, Biacs, & Alcaraz, 2001)
Zingiber officinale	Antiviral activity (H1N1, influenza A and HRSV)	(Chang et al., 2013)
Leafy vegetables	Beta carotene, Antioxidant, elevating leucocytes.	(Grune et al., 2010)
Coconut water	Vitamin B ₂ , B ₃ , B ₁ and B ₉ , antiviral activity	(Chauhan et al., 2014)
Aromatic plants	Polyphenolics	(Christaki, Bonos, Giannenas, & Florou-Paneri, 2012)
Spinach	Carotenoids (Lutein, α -carotene)	(Carbonell-Capella, Buniowska, Barba, Esteve, & Frígola, 2014)
Kiwifruit	Antioxidant	(Park et al., 2014)
Banana	Phenolics, carotenoids, biogenic amines, phytosterols	(Kaur, Purewal, Sandhu, & Kaur, 2019)
Onion	Organosulfur compounds (Quercetin and Allicin)	(Singh, Singh, Kaur, & Singh, 2016)
Spirulina extract	Sulpholipids, bioactive proteins (Cyanovirin-N)	(Sharma, 2019)

Nuts and seeds such as almonds and peanuts have high vitamin E levels. Also, they include minerals such as the Zn, Se, Cu. In a study, it was determined that almonds and the peanut skin had significant antiviral activities (Makau, Watanabe, Mohammed, & Nishida, 2018).

Green tea (*Camellia sinensis*) contains a group of flavonoids called catechins have shown to be effective in inhibiting viral infections. This advantageous effect has been ascribed to the existence of high amounts of polyphenols, which are vigorous antioxidants (Chacko, Thambi, Kuttan, & Nishigaki, 2010).

The sulforaphane, a chemical found in vegetable such as Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* var. *Italica*), other cruciferous vegetables have claimed to turn on the antioxidant genes and enzymes in particular immune cells. Also, it is known that Broccoli has antiviral effects against influenza viruses (Antonenko et al., 2013).

Garlic (*Allium sativum*) extracts has been recognized to have organosulfur compounds like allicin, diallyl trisulfide and ajoene are main chemicals, which impart antiviral property to garlic, showed the antiviral activity against HIV, herpes, cytomegalovirus and the flu viruses.

Curcumin (*Curcuma longa*) is a bright yellow chemical produced by *Curcuma longa* plants and belonging to the ginger family is recognized to be significantly reduced the inflammatory cytokines (Hewlings & Kalman, 2017). In some studies, conducted related with action of curcumin on viruses, it was determined that curcumin demonstrated various protective and/or inhibitory activities such as inhibition of viral replication, inhibition of viral entry, degradation of viral Tat protein and interaction with VP30 against viruses such as the RVFV, the HCV, the EV, influenza A virus (IAV) and bovine herpesvirus 1 (BHV 1) (Mathew & Hsu, 2018). The ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) and its extracts demonstrated to have antiviral activity (H1N1, influenza A and HRSV) and inhibition of viral replication by promoting the function of the immune systems (Chang, Wang, Yeh, Shieh, & Chiang, 2013).

Olive based products (olive oil, olive leaves) include oleuropein, hydroxytyrosol, elenolic acid, vitamin E components. It was determined that these components were reduced the upper respiratory infection with antioxidative property of oleanolic acid in oleuropein against especially influenza A and B, parainfluenza 1, 2, and 3 viruses, and herpes (Somerville, Moore, & Braakhuis, 2019).

Table 3. Some nutrients and microorganisms effective on viral diseases and recommended daily intakes (RDI) of them.

Some foods or microorganisms effective on viral diseases	Food and concentration in this food	Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) (in adult individuals)	Reference
Zinc (Zn)	Lean red meat, whole-grain cereals, pulses, and legumes (2.5-5 mg/100g)	8 mg/ day for women and 11 mg/day for men.	(Institute of Medicine, 2001)
Iron (Fe)	Beef, variety meats and by-products, spleen, cooked, braised (33.46 mg / 100 mL)	18 mg/ day for women and 8 mg/day for men.	(NIHa, 2021)
Selenium (Se)	Brazil Nuts (1.92 mg/100g)	55 µg/day for women and men	(Institute of Medicine,2000; Nutrition Facts for Brazilnuts, 2021)
Copper (Cu)	Tempeh (0.9 mg/cup) Beef, liver, pan fried (12.4 mg / 100 mL)	900 µg/day for women and men	(Institute of Medicine, 2000; NFT, 2021)
Magnesium (Mg)	Pumpkin seeds, roasted	310 mg/day for women, 420 mg/day for men	(Food Data Central, 2021)
Vitamin D	Fish salmon (685 IU/100 g)	600 IU/day for women and men	(Food Data Central, 2021)
Vitamin K	Spinach and broccoli (raw, 498 and 307 µg/100 g wet weight, respectively)	1 mg/kg day	(Booth & Suttie, 1998; Kamao et al., 2007)
Vitamin A	Beef Liver (16814 IU)	600 µg/ day for women 700 µg/day for men.	(Food Data Central, 2021; Olson, 1987)
B-Vitamins (B1, B2, B3, B5, B9, B12 etc.)	Whole grain wheat and barley cereal (B1;1 mg, B2; 0.117 mg, B3; 8.621 mg, B6; 0.862 mg)	B3 = 35 (mg/day*), B6 = 100 (mg/day*) Folate (B9) = 1000 (µg/day*), B12 = 3.5-2.4 (µg/day)	(Food Data Central, 2021; Institute of Medicine, 1998)
Probiotic microorganisms	Yogurts, Cheeses, Beverages, Ice Creams	n.d.**	(Granato et al., 2010)
Bioactive peptides	Milk, Whey, Soyabean, fruits, vegetables, and grains	n.d.	(Korhonen & Pihlanto, 2003; Liu, 2013)
Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs; α-linolenic acid: ALA, linoleic acid: LA, Docosa-hexaenoic acid: DHA, Eicosa-pentaenoic acid: EPA, etc.)	Soybean oil (MUFAs; 22.783 g/100g, PUFAs 57.74 g/100g); Salmon (1.8 g/100 g); Omega-3). Fish, mackerel, salted ((EPA)1.619 g/100g, (DPA 0.391 g/100g, (DHA) 2.965 g/100g)	1.1 g/ day for women and 1.6 g/day for men.	(Food Data Central, 2021; NIH, 2021b)

The yellow/orange pigment beta carotene that found in green leafy vegetables, sweet potatoes, and carrots like all carotenoids, is an antioxidant can reduce inflammation and boost immune function by elevating leucocytes in the body (Grune et al., 2010). Coconut water is rich in vitamins like B2, B3, B1 and B9 along with immune stimulating properties to fight viral infections like flu (Chauhan, Archana, Singh, Raju, & Bawa, 2014).

The onion (*Allium cepa* L.), contains organosulfur compounds like quercetin and allicin are associated with hinder virus attachment to host cell, alter transcription and translation of viral genome in host cell and also affect viral assembly (Sharma, 2019). Spirulina is a dietary supplement. It is a free-floating cyanobacterium, which has 70% protein content and is rich in phenolic acids, essential fatty acids, sulfated polysaccharides, and vitamin B12. In literature, it is found some

studies related with the antiviral activity of Spirulina against viruses (Joseph, T, Ajay, Das, & Raj, 2020).

Some nutrients and microorganisms effective on viral diseases, and the recommended daily intakes (RDI) of them were given in Table 3.

The yellow/orange pigment beta carotene that found in green leafy vegetables, sweet potatoes, and carrots like all carotenoids, is an antioxidant can reduce inflammation and boost immune function by elevating leucocytes in the body (Grune et al., 2010). Coconut water is rich in vitamins like B2, B3, B1 and B9 along with immune stimulating properties to fight viral infections like flu (Chauhan, Archana, Singh, Raju, & Bawa, 2014).

The onion (*Allium cepa* L.), contains organosulfur compounds like quercetin and allicin are associated with hinder

virus attachment to host cell, alter transcription and translation of viral genome in host cell and also affect viral assembly (Sharma, 2019). Spirulina is a dietary supplement. It is a free-floating cyanobacterium, which has 70% protein content and is rich in phenolic acids, essential fatty acids, sulfated polysaccharides, and vitamin B12. In literature, it is found some studies related with the antiviral activity of Spirulina against viruses (Joseph, T, Ajay, Das, & Raj, 2020).

Some nutrients and microorganisms effective on viral diseases, and the recommended daily intakes (RDI) of them were given in Table 3.

Furthermore, some foods with immune-enhancing properties and their relationship with immune system cells are given in Figure 1.

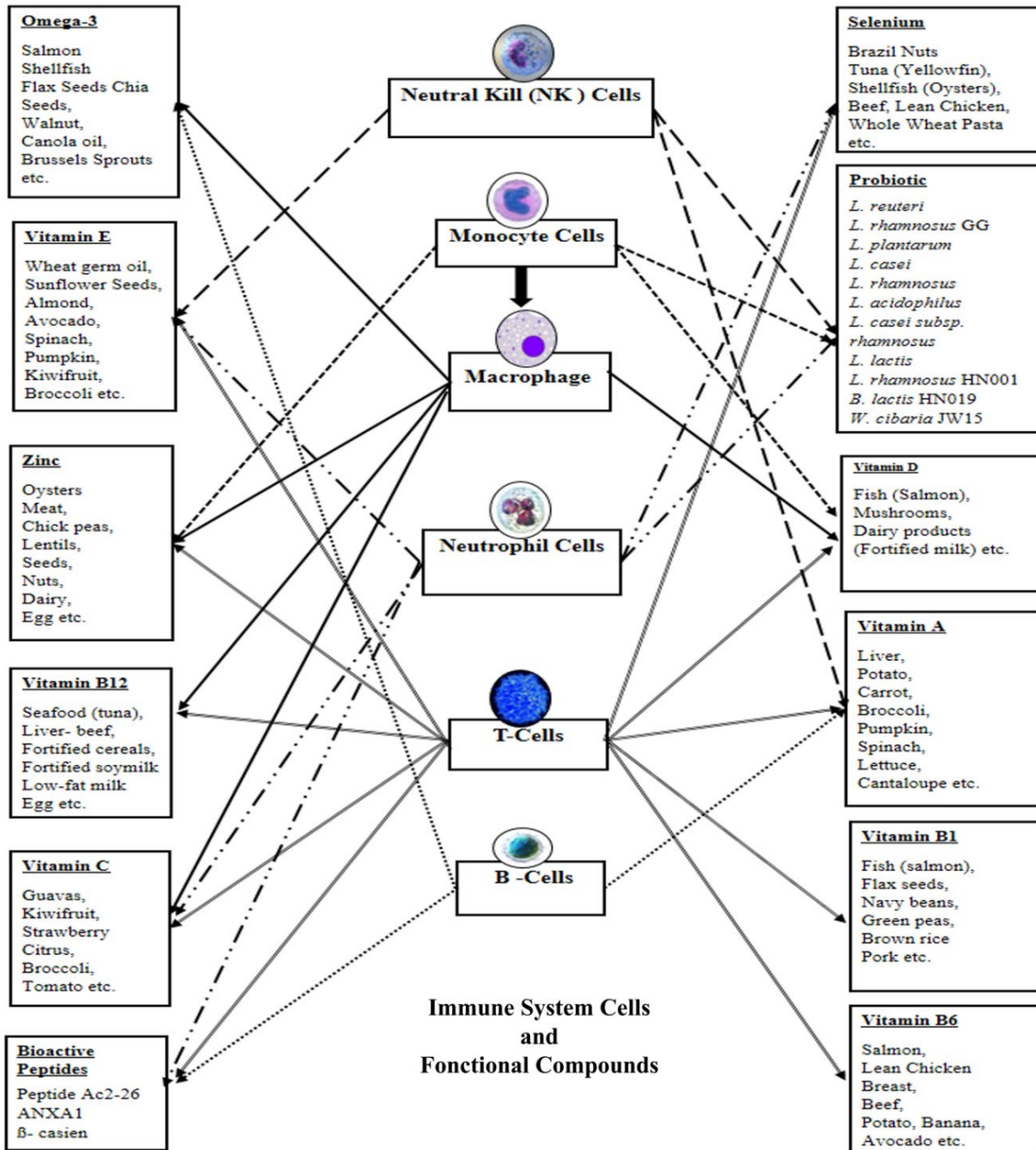


Figure 1. Some foods with immune-enhancing properties (Alkhatib et al., 2020; Bourbour et al., 2020)

Conclusion

This study provides a brief overview of the immune-enhancing and antiviral properties of some bioactive ingredients (especially micronutrients) in foods on Covid-19 and other viral infections. It is a fact that a balanced diet supported by appropriate foods, functional foods and antioxidants is needed in the prevention and treatment of viral infections. The information mentioned for nutritional interventions generates dietary hypotheses that can be applied for protection from COVID-19 and other viral diseases. Thus, further studies are needed to clarify the role of COVID-19 and viral diseases with strong recommendations.

Compliance with Ethical Standard

Conflict of interests: The authors declare that for this article they have no actual, potential or perceived the conflict of interests.

Ethics committee approval: The authors declare that this study does not require ethical permission.

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