

1104-11 Townsgate Drive
Vaughan, ON, L4J 8G4
Canada, 416 837 8865
jerrycuttler@rogers.com

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Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, MD
Commissioner of U.S. FDA
United States Department of Health and Human Services
Silver Spring, MD, 20993

Dear Dr. Hahn

Low-dose radiotherapy, 0.5 Gy to the lungs, for COVID-19 pneumonia

This follows my March 20th letter¹ that urged FDA consideration of a 0.5 Gy X-ray treatment to the lungs to remediate COVID-19 acute respiratory distress syndrome, which ends the lives of many severe cases. I recommended performing a short clinical trial of this radiotherapy to demonstrate its previously known high efficacy (>80%) and safety in 18 studies on 863 cases.² One exposure is expected to induce an anti-inflammatory phenotype that corrects an immune system disorder, an overreaction releasing a cytokine storm that degrades the alveoli.

Communication of this potential remedy led to the registration of more than 15 clinical trials. Single-arm results from Emory University³ and from hospitals in Iran,⁴ India⁵ and Spain⁶ are encouraging. The December 2020 issue of Cancer features the planned day 7 interim analysis of the Emory data⁷ and an editorial that reviews low-dose radiotherapy and COVID-19 pneumonia and supports ongoing trials.⁸

It is important to note this therapy could greatly reduce the mortality of the pandemic, allowing relief from the severe lockdown measures being enforced. A recent analysis determined it could be delivered by modern fluoroscopes that are available in most hospitals.⁹ FDA acceptance of this radiotherapy for pneumonia would also enable a strong reduction in the annual mortality of influenza patients.

Sincerely


Dr. Jerry M. Cuttler, DSc

Copy: Dr. James S. Welsh, MD

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