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*Corresponding author

Sivakumar J T Gowder, Department of Management of Science and Technology Development, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

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Opinion Article

Is it Safe to Eat Meat or Meat Products in this Covid-19 Pandemic?

Sivakumar J T Gowder*

Department of Management of Science and Technology Development, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Opinion

In this era, the Covid-19 pandemic has become a great threat to human society. It affects almost all regions in this world. Though there are no vaccines or medicines yet, to overcome this infection, we have to follow preventive measures that have been suggested by WHO and other government or authorized agencies. People are still unaware, whether it is safe to eat meat or meat products. Moreover, the authorized agencies have not mentioned clearly about intake of meat or meat products in this pandemic. According to the reports of CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), half of the infectious diseases which affect human beings emerge from animals. As we understand, zoonotic diseases are the diseases that emerge from the animals. The CDC revealed a list of diseases which even includes the coronavirus disease, that is, the Middle East respiratory syndrome. In addition, the flu can affect many animals- dogs, cats and bats. The flu viruses can be easily transmitted to humans through these animals. In addition, the mutated forms of these viruses also affect the humans; and to the human population through humans. The flu pandemic in 2009 - swine flu- killed many people, originated from pigs. In 1918, the flu pandemic, which affected and killed millions of people across the world, originated from birds. We have known, the viral disease-rabies, which affects human beings through animal bites. From the reports, we can also reveal that the plague which affected human beings through animals. That is, people who handled animals became victims of this bacterial disease [1]. Animal coronaviruses are more common and it leads to many fatal diseases. The porcine epidemic diarrhea CoV (PEDV), leads to diarrhea in baby pigs which finally turned into deaths [2].

Some coronaviruses, canine and feline coronaviruses infect animals but not human beings. Some coronaviruses that infect animals may spread to humans and then spread between humans. Even though reports are less or limited information but transmission of covid-19 from animals to humans is meager. Though it is still under investigation but from the available sources, we understand that source of covid-19 is linked to a live animal market in the Wuhan city of China. Now it became a great disaster throughout the universe. A tiger in the New York City - zoo was the first one which was positive for covid-19. This tiger was initially having respiratory illness and later on, it was observed to be infected with covid-19 [3]. From the available reports, we understand that the New York based- Wildlife Conservation Society is insisting the governments to close all live animal markets (meat shops) and also to stop illegal animal trafficking. Coronavirus is a zoonotic, because of spreading from animals to humans. Now there are observations that the reverse process occurs, transmitting the diseases from humans to animals [4]. In this article, finally I conclude that, in this pandemic, we need to follow all safety measures to control covid -19 infections. In this pandemic, all people around the globe follow necessary steps- self isolation, using mask, washing hands with soaps quite often, etc. as safety measures. We have not so far developed vaccines or drugs; we should concentrate more on preventive measures that become very crucial at this point of view. We are aware of the scientific concept that viral infections can be transmitted from animals to humans and vice versa, we need to avoid taking meat and meat products at least in this pandemic to avoid infection. Moreover, the government, private or social organizations of the respective regions/countries should educate people with reference to all possible preventive measures to get rid of this health crisis [5,6].

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