H1N1–SARS-CoV-2 immunity hypothesis

Summary

The case of using cowpox to inoculate against deadlier smallpox is well known.

It is also known that H1N1 (pdmH1N1) has been shown to provide an immunity to cold/flu viruses in a general way, with exception cases.

I state and briefly discuss a tentative hypothesis concerning both H1N1 (pdmH1N1) and SARS-CoV-2. My limited understanding and data both seem to bear out the hypothesis. Of course, we need to find out more through empirical studies. However, even if the research shows that there is a weak immunity defense that H1N1 provides against SARS-CoV-2 (so, far weaker than the hypothesis proposes), that would still be a helpful and actionable piece of information at this time.

I am hoping that someone else (I am unable to do so) would study the relation between H1N1 general immunity and SARS-CoV-2. *My primary reason for disseminating this document is to encourage this potentially significant research.*

Hypothesis

Undergoing the full lifecycle of an H1N1 (pdmH1N1) illness provides a high rate of defense against the severe effects brought on by SARS-CoV-2. (I.e., a high proportion of those who undergo it would see fewer of the severe effects.)

What the hypothesis is not

- (a) Undergoing the full lifecycle of an H1N1 (pdmH1N1) illness provides a *complete* defense against the severe effects brought on by SARS-CoV-2.
- (b) Undergoing the full lifecycle of an H1N1 (pdmH1N1) illness provides a high rate of defense against *any* effects brought on by SARS-CoV-2.
- (c) *Being vaccinated against H1N1 (pdmH1N1) provides a sufficient* defense against the severe effects brought on by SARS-CoV-2. (Merely being vaccinated against H1N1 does not provide the same level of general immunity.)

Proposal given that the hypothesis is correct

Widespread inoculation against SARS-CoV-2 via H1N1 general immunity (i.e., via undergoing the full lifecycle of an H1N1 illness). *Note that merely vaccinating for H1N1 does not confer the same heightened immunity. Instead, one needs to endure the lifecycle of the illness.*

I am hoping that someone else (I am unable to do so) would study the relation between H1N1 general immunity and SARS-CoV-2.

Thank you for being an audience to this proposal at this difficult time, especially with an unusual suggestion. Although it is unusual, I wouldn't dream of wasting researchers' time with unserious suggestions.

(Note an additional factor:

Unsurprisingly, it could also be that the story is more complicated. It perhaps takes being exposed to the lifecycle of at least one

additional kind of cold/flu virus (in addition to H1N1) to confer immunity to SARS-CoV-2. This leads to:

Alternative hypothesis

Undergoing the full lifecycle of an H1N1 (pdmH1N1) illness, followed by at least one other virus, provides a high rate of defense against the severe effects brought on by SARS-CoV-2.)

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