

Dr. Brownstein's Blog on Coronavirus Part VIII

Coronavirus VIII: Why Does S. Korea Have Lower Death Rate Compared to US?

South Korea was one of the first countries affected by Coronavirus after China. Their first case occurred January 20, 2020. The number of cases remained low until February 18 when the country reported 31 new cases. A few days later hundreds more were confirmed and continued to rise. At that time, S. Korea had the highest number of COVID-19 patients outside of China. (1) By February 27, with a few hundred cases of COVID-19 reported, S. Korea had tested over 66,000 people while the US had tested just 445. (2)

How did this not spiral out of control like it has in the US? In later January, just after the first case, S. Korea procured a massive amount of tests. When the infection spread in February, S. Korean health agencies were quickly mobilized to test tens of thousands of exposed Koreans. **In fact, they tested tens of thousands of patients and properly instituted quarantining and treatment.**

That is a perfect example of how a national health service is *supposed to function*. We—especially the CDC—have a lot to learn from the Korean health agencies. How did this fare for the Korean citizens?

In the March 13, 2020 Korean Times it is reported that there are 7,869 cases of COVID-19. How many have died? Sixty-six people, mostly elderly patients with underlying illnesses have died so far. That means the death rate in Korea is 0.8% (66/7,869). This is still higher than the death rate for the flu in the US which is approximately 0.1%. However, this number is much lower than the 3-4% promoted by the media.

At present, the US has 1,716 cases and 41 deaths have occurred. That is a death rate of 2.3% (41/1716). It is important to keep in mind that the death rate is currently inflated due to the lack of COVID-19 testing kits. Those most likely to be tested are the sick and dying. Patients who convalesce at home with cold and flu-like symptoms will generally not be tested. Counting them would dramatically lower the death rate.

It simply is impossible to say how many Americans have COVID-19. In fact, we will never know the true number. I have seen dozens of patients over the past month who could have it. **Why didn't I test them?** Ask the fools at the CDC. They were late to the testing game, developed a faulty test kit and inhibited private industry from manufacturing accurate tests. I received the proper testing items at my office late afternoon Wednesday March 11, 2020—*nearly three months after the first reports came out of China and well into the panicked atmosphere surrounding COVID-19*. These test kits only became available after the CDC was forced to open testing to private labs.

Folks, I am not minimizing the severity of COVID-19. But, there is no rhyme or reason for what has transpired. The public is scared beyond belief. I think we need to be vigilant and cautious. If we play our cards right (which includes the use of IV vitamin C—see below), the death rate from COVID-19 should not

approach the 2-6% range that many are predicting. In fact, if the CDC played its' cards right from the beginning and properly monitored Americans coming from infected areas, the story would be much different.

We have lost nearly one-fourth of our economy because of the incompetence at the CDC. Heads should roll when this crisis is over.

What can you do? Follow my advice from my earlier [Coronavirus Blog Posts](#) about the importance of eating a healthy diet free of refined foods, maintaining hydration, exercising, and taking [Vitamins A, C, & D](#) at the first sign of any infectious illness. Also, find a holistic doctor who is knowledgeable about intravenous nutrient therapies. A Chinese hospital just released data showing the effectiveness of intravenous vitamin C therapies in treating COVID-19. (3) The report stated, *“High-dose vitamin C can not only improve antiviral levels, but more importantly, can prevent and treat acute lung injury (ALI) and acute respiratory distress (ARDS).”* **This is exactly what I have been recommending during this entire crisis.** It is too bad that over the last 50 years conventional medicine has not only refused to learn about vitamin C, it has vilified the therapy. At [The Center for Holistic Medicine](#) (my office) today, my nurses were very busy giving IV nutrient therapies to our patients.

Folks, it is time to take your health care into your own hands. Lead a healthier lifestyle and find a doctor who can help guide you in a holistic treatment program.

To All Our Health,
~DrB

David Brownstein, MD is a conventionally trained Board-Certified Family Physician with the additional overlay of holistic principles.

While Dr. Brownstein does not claim to have a cure for any illness, he does believe that we can enhance the individual's immune system by supporting the 'host' & the terrain of the host. The human body is well designed and the immune system, when given the proper support, can optimally function.

Disclaimer: The information in this blog should not be used as medical advice. Any therapies that are discussed should be supervised under the guidance of your physician or licensed healthcare professional.

(1) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-51609840>

(2) <https://abcnews.go.com/international/massive-coronavirus-testing-program-south-korea-underscores-nimble/story?id=69226222>

(3) WHN. Official Statement From China For Recommended Treatment of COVID-19. WorldHealth.net Mar. 5, 2020.