

Interleukin-17A (IL-17A): the silent amplifier of COVID-19

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Abstract

One of the hallmarks of COVID-19 is the cytokine storm that provokes primarily pneumonia followed by systemic inflammation. Emerging evidence has identified a potential link between elevated levels of interleukin-17A (IL-17A) and disease severity and progression. Considering that per se IL-17A can activate several inflammatory pathways, it is plausible to hypothesize an involvement of this cytokine in COVID-19 clinical outcomes. Thus, this cytokine can represent a marker of disease progression and/or a target to develop therapeutic strategies. This hypothesis paper aims to propose this “unique” cytokine as a silent amplifier of the COVID-19 immune response and (potentially) related therapy.

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