Molecular Docking Studies of Synthetic and Natural Anti-Viral Agents Against Sars Covid 19 Main Protease

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Abstract:- The first coronaviruses that were discovered to infect humans were known as 229E and OC43, but they only produced extremely minor infections that were comparable to the common cold. The potential for dangerous human infections was not realised until the epidemics of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and then MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome or camel flu). It is believed that those two illnesses originated in bats and travelled to civet cats and camels. The history of publications regarding coronaviruses shows how interest in them has fluctuated throughout time. The number of publications on corona-viruses gradually increased since their discovery in 1968, reaching two maxima after two epidemics: the SARS corona-virus outbreak in 2003-2004 and a porcine epidemic diarrhoea outbreak in North America in 2013. The discovery of the first cases of MERS in Saudi Arabia in 2012-a disease similarly brought on by the coronavirus-may have played a role. While there will be more than 4 million COVID-19 patients by May 16, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has listed cancer as one of the top 10 major causes of mortality. This work deals with 4 different proteins that docked with various antiviral medicines derived from natural and synthetic sources, utilising Auto dock Vina 4.2.6. Molecular docking helps to find compounds such as antiviral medications with possible inhibitory activity. A number of studies have demonstrated that the surface area at the interface directly correlates with binding affinity and that the hydrophobicity of the interacting protein molecule increases the selectivity of the binding domain.

Keywords:- Drug Repurposing, Inhibitory Action, Molecular Docking, SARS-COV-2 Nucleocapsid, Htra-Type Protease Algw withTri-Peptide, COVID-19.

I. INTRODUCTION

The current COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on all of us. However, depending on our status as individuals and as members of society, the pandemic's effects and repercussions are felt in different ways. While some people try to adjust to working online, homeschooling their kids, and using Instacart to get groceries, others are forced to be exposed to the virus in order to maintain society. The term "corona virus" comes from the Latin word corona, which means "crown" or "wreath" and is itself a derivation from the Greek v-korn, which means "garland, wreath." The corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that is the infectious disease known as corona virus disease (COVID-19) was first discovered in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The rapid spread of this highly contagious and pathogenic virus led to the declaration of the pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020. The scientific community around the world is concerned with finding an effective treatment for the new corona virus. Short-term efforts are focused on developing vaccines such as covishield and covaxin or inhibitors that act as protection against infection with the new corona virus. To develop new drugs with antiviral activity, the concern of many research groups is focused on the repositioning/repurposing of already approved drugs. The fastest way is to find potential drugs by molecular docking studies using auto dock vina.

- > A Look Back to COVID Era
- Dec-2019- first case of covid 19
- Jan 2020- The outbreak was deemed a global public health emergency by the WHO.
- Feb 2020 naming of covid 19
- Mar 2020 -The US proclaimed a state of emergency after there were 1 lakh cases of covid 19, and the first human trials for a modern mRNA vaccine for covid 19 were conducted.
- Apr 2020 -1 million covid 19 cases, WHO release guidance on mask wearing
- Sep 2020 19 incidents of million covid deaths
- Nov 2020 90% effectiveness was demonstrated in Pfizer and Bio N Tech vaccination trials, and contemporary vaccine effectiveness was also demonstrated.

- Dec 2020 WHO issues its first emergency use validation for covid 10 vaccination, delta variants was discovered first.
- Apr 2021 1 billion covid 19 vaccine dose administered

II. MOLECULAR DOCKING

The preferred orientation of one molecule to another when they are bonded together to create a stable structure is predicted using a technique called docking. Knowing the preferred orientation allows one to estimate the degree of association or burning affinity between two molecules.

Signal transmission is heavily dependent on the interactions between biologically important components such proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, and lipids. Additionally, the type of signal generated may vary depending on the relative direction of the two interacting partners (e.g., agonism vs antagonism). Docking is therefore helpful for forecasting the signal's kind and strength.^[3]

Due to its capacity to anticipate the bindingconformation of sn cule ligands to the proper target binding site, molecular docking is one of the most widely employed techniques in structure-based drug design. Characterizing the binding behaviour is crucial for the rational design of medications and for illuminating basic biological mechanisms.^[4]

> Protein-Ligand Docking

Using protein structure is referred to as "using structure" in the structure-based drug design (SBDD) approach. Computer technique that simulates the interaction of a ligand with a protein Given. Site of protein binding Complex Ligand. Predicts. the molecule's position within the binding site The strength of the binding, measured by the binding affinity, or a score.

> Molecular Docking

In structural molecular biology and computer assisted drug design, molecular docking is a crucial technology. Predicting the dominant binding mode(s) of a ligand with a protein having a known three-dimensional structure is the aim of ligand-protein docking. The term "docking" mostly refers to interactions between protein molecules. The binding energy, free energy, and stability of complexes can be suggested using the information gleaned through the docking procedure. At the moment, the tentative binding characteristics of the ligand receptor complex are predicted using docking approach. ^[5]

Obtaining a ligand-receptor complex with an optimal shape and the idea of having less binding free energy is the main goal of molecular docking. The hydrogen bond (AGMbond), electrostatic (AGelec), torsional free energy (AGior), dispersion and repulsion (AGvdw), desolvation (AGdesolv), total internal energy (AG101al), and unbound system's energy are some of the characteristics used to show the net anticipated binding free energy (AG bind) (AG unb). **[Agarwal S et al., (2015)].**

- There are Various Kinds of Molecular Docking for Interactions between Proteins:
- ✓ A protein-ligand interaction occurs when two molecules interact.
- ✓ Whenever one protein interacts with another: the interaction between proteins
- ✓ Protein-DNA interaction occurs when a protein binds to DNA.
- > Advantages
- Determining the target spot.
- Choosing the "best" medication (based on scoring function)
- Mechanisms of enzymes.
- The actions of proteins.
- Virtual compound screening, etc.
- Steps Involved In Molecular Docking:
- Preparation of ligand
- Preparation of protein
- Setup ligand protein docking calculations
- Evaluation of results
- > Applications of Molecular Docking

• Lead Optimization

Molecular docking is able to foretell the best way for a ligand to interact with its target. It can foretell several ligand binding mechanisms in the groove of the target molecule. This can be utilised to create medication candidates that are more powerful, selective, and effective.^[6]

• *Hit Identifications*

Large datasets can be evaluated using docking in conjunction with a scoring algorithm to uncover powerful drug candidates that can target the target molecule in silico. [7]

• Drug-DNA Interaction

When predicting how a medication will initially attach to nucleic acid, molecular docking is crucial. The relationship between a drug's molecular structure and cytotoxicity is established using this information. ^[8]

Bioremediation

It is also possible to forecast which contaminants can be broken down by enzymes using protein ligand docking. To develop and create the medications, in silico strategies and models were used. These investigations heavily rely on various software.^[9]

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

With the reference of literatures the drugs and proteins were aken from the drug bank online and protein data bank.

A. Protein Information: [21]

 \succ 6WZQ:

Structure of SARS-CoV-2 Nucleocapsid dimerization domain, P21 form

•	DOI	: 10.2210/pdb6WZQ/pdb
•	Classification	: VIRAL PROTEIN
•	Organism(s) syndrome coronavirus 2	: Severe acute respiratory
		F 1 1 1 1
•	Expression System	: Escherichia coli
•	Mutation(s)	: No
•	Deposited	: 2020-05-14 Released:
	2020 -05-27	
•	Deposition Author(s)	: Ye, Q., Corbett, K.D.

➢ 6WZO:Structure of SARS-CoV-2 Nucleocapsid dimerization domain, P1 form

•	DOI	: 10.2210/pdb6WZO/pd
•	DOI	: 10.2210/pdb6WZO/pd

- Classification : VIRAL PROTEIN
- Organism(s) : Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
- Expression System : Escherichia coli
- Mutation(s) : No
 Deposited : 2020-05-14 Released: 2020-05-27
- Deposition Author(s) : Ye, Q., Corbett, K.D.
- > 7CO2: HtrA-type protease AlgW with tripeptide

٠	DOI	: 10.2210/pdb7CO2/pdb		
٠	Classification	: PEPTIDE BI	NDING	
	PROTEIN			
	\mathbf{O} · ()	.1 .*		

- Organism(s) : synthetic construct, Pseudomonas aeruginosa PAO1
- Expression System : Escherichia coli BL21 (DE3)
- Mutation(s) : No
 Deposited : 2020-08-03 Released: 2021-03-10
- Deposition Author(s) : Li, T., Song, Y.J., Bao, R.
- ► 6XCA:

Crystal structure of an anti-SARS-CoV-2 human neutralizing antibody Fab fragment, C105.

- DOI : 10.2210/pdb6XCA/pdb
 Classification : IMMUNE SYSTEM
 Organism(s) : Homo sapiens
 Expression System : Homo sapiens
 Mutation(s) : No
 Deposited : 2020-06-08 Released:
- 2020-07-01

- Deposition Author(s) : Sharaf, N.G., Barnes, C.O., Bjorkman, P.J.
- Funding Organization(s) : National Institutes of Health/National Institute Of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID).

> Protein Preparation

Significant proteins were chosen based on prior in vitro experiments that were conducted on them, and Protein Data Base was used to gather the structural information of the proteins (PDB). The protein was downloaded in PDB format and saved as a brand-new, pre-existing file.

- Import the Protein File and the Steps as to be Followed,
- ✓ Delete the extra chains if the protein has more than one chain (mostly A chain is active)
- ✓ Remove the water molecules
- \checkmark Add the hydrogen molecules
- ✓ Click the calculation tools and select energy optimization and followed by geometry optimizations
- ✓ Click the active site and select "make a group from this residue" and save the protein.

• Ligand Preparation:

- ✓ ligand was downloaded from the pub chem or drug bank online and saved in the mol.2000 or SDF form
- click the calculation tools and select energy optimization and followed by geometry optimization.
- Click the active site and select "make a ligand from this group residue"
- ✓ Set up a docking database and run docking calculation.

• Active Site Prediction

Finding the ligand-binding sites on a protein is the most important step in molecular docking. The innovative energy-based approach Q-Site Finder created by Jackson, which analyses the interaction energies of a methyl probe with a protein, is used to discover the protein-ligand binding sites. (Laurie and Jackson, 2005).

The software was used to find the poisons' likely active binding locations. For this investigation, more flexible binding sites were favoured.

• Protein Ligand Docking:

Following the screening of the compounds, an integrated tool called Argus lab 4.0.1 and Auto dock tools 1.5.6 construct a virtual screening environment.

The programme provides interactive interfaces for setting up both the target protein's binding site and the screening chemical library. Each substance in the library is docked into the binding site following screening, producing the protein-compound interaction profiles of electrostatic, hydrogen-bonding, and van der Waals interactions. The programme then verifies the pharmacological interactions, groups the screening compounds for post-screening analysis based on interaction data and compound structures, ranks and visualises the screening compounds using the pharmacological interactions and energy-based scoring function.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

> The Obtained Results are Tabulated below,

This table shows the docked picture of drugs with proteins, 17 different antiviral drugs were docked with four different proteins.

			Table 1 The Docked Picture of Drugs wi	th Proteins 1	
S.NO		CHEMICAL	STRUCTURE	CAPTURE	FINAL
	NAME	NAME			ENERGY
01.	6W2O	Acyclovir		254	Argus lab: - 5.3
					Auto dock: - 6.9
02.	6W2O	Darunavir			Aurgus lab- nil Auto dock: -
03.	6WZO	2 deoxy 2 fluro	NH2	<u>~~</u> ~	8.6
05.	01120	cytidine		The s	Argus lab: - 5.64 Auto dock: -
			F лино ОН		5.1
04.	6W2O	Curcumin			Aurgus lab: - 4.03 Auto dock: - 7.4
			HO OH H ₃ C O CH ₃	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
05.	6WZO	Chebulic acid	но	an R	Aurgus lab: - 8.55
					Auto dock: - 5.6

Table 1 The Docked Picture of Drugs w

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06.	6WZO	Favipiravir	F N NH ₂	Argus lab: - 4.74 Auto dock:- 0.9
07.	6WZO	Fosetamivair		Argus lab: -624 Auto dock: 66.2
08.	6WZO	Ritonavir		Argus lab: -12.35 Auto dock: 85.5
09.	6WZO	Polymycin-B		Argus lab: NIL Auto dock: 154.7

10.	6WZO	Brincidofovir		Argus lab: - 9.04 Auto dock:17
11.	6WZO	Baloxavir		Argus lab:- 9.36 Auto dock: 95.7
12.	6WZO	Luteolin	HO OH OH	Argus lab: -7.48 Auto dock: 33.2
13.	6WZO	Dexamethasone	HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ CH	Argus lab:- 8.86 Auto dock:46.5

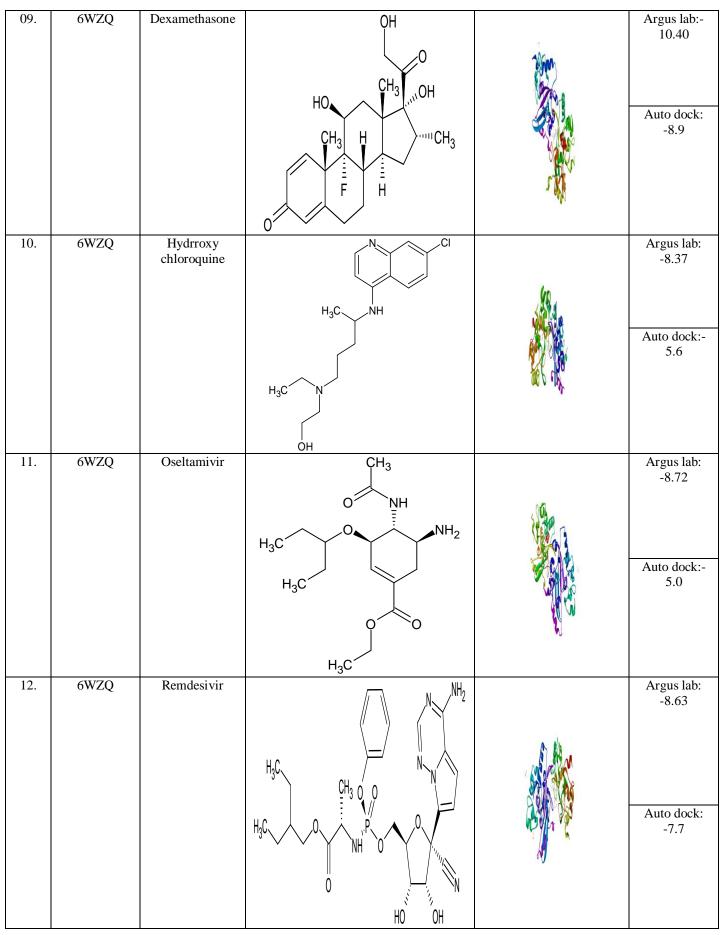
14.	6WZO	Hydrroxy chloroquine		Argus lab: - 7.95 Auto dock:13.00
15.	6WZO	oseltamivir		Argus lab:- 8.85 Auto dock: 15.7
16.	6WZO	Remdesivir		Argus lab: -8.37 Auto dock: 38.6
17.	6WZO	Trifuridine		Argus lab:- 5.64 Auto dock: 11.7

S.NO	PROTEIN NAME	CHEMICAL NAME	STRUCTURE	CAPTURE	FINAL ENERGY
01.	6WZQ	Acyclovir	O HN H ₂ N O H		Argus lab: - 4.19 Auto dock: - 4.4
02.	6WZQ	Darunavir	H ₃ C CH ₃ NH O NH O HO//////////////////////////////////		Aurgus lab:- 12.81 Auto dock: - 5.7
03.	6WZQ	2 deoxy 2fluro cytidine	F IIIIII OH		Argus lab: - 5.73 Auto dock: - 5.0
04.	6WZQ	Curcumin	HO HO H ₃ C C H ₃ C		Aurgus lab: - 4.416 Auto dock: -5.8

Table 2 The Docked Picture of Drugs with Proteins 2

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05.	6WZQ	Chebulic acid	0	2	Aurgus lab: -7.94
			HO		
			НО ОН ОН		Auto dock: -5.1
			но		
06.	6WZQ	Brincidofovir	о _{но} о		Argus lab: -
00.	0₩2Q	Bincidolovii	NH ₂		Argus lab: - 9.21
				46	
			O N HQ Q		Auto dock:-3
07.	6WZQ	Baloxavir	₩ F		Argus lab:- 10.7
			F		10.7
					Auto dock: -10.9
			0 N		
08.	6WZQ	Luteolin	<u>о́н</u> о́ О́н		Argus lab: -7.51
				2.1	-7.51
			Т Т Т ОН		Auto dock: -8.9
			 OH O		



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13.	6WZQ	Trifuridine	O F F		Argus lab: -5.40
			HN F		Auto dock:
					-6.6
			но Он		
14.	6WZQ	Favipiravir	0 	Nº R	Argus lab: -4.82
			F N NH ₂ N OH		Auto dock:- 5.0
15.	6WZQ	Fostemsavir	H ₃ C N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N		Argus lab: -5.76
			H ₃ C O O N O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O		Auto dock: - 8.4
16.	6WZQ	Ritonavir			Argus lab: -11.84
			$\begin{array}{c c} H_{3}C & N & H_{3}C &$		Auto dock: -10.0

17.	6WZQ	Polymycin-B	H _M	Argus lab: NIL
			H ₂ C H ₃ H ₄ C OH H ₅ C OH NH ₂ NH H ₄ H ₄ H ₄ O NH ₂ NH CH ₃ O NH ₂ NH ₂ NH H ₂ NH ₂ NH H ₂ NH ₂ NH H ₂ NH H ₂ NH H ₂ NH	Auto dock: 16.3

Tablw 3 The Docked Picture of Drugs with Proteins 3					
S.NO	PROTEIN NAME 6XCA	CHEMICAL NAME	STRUCTURE	CAPTURE	FINAL ENERGY
01.	6XCA	Acyclovir	HN N		Argus lab: -4.22
			H ₂ N N N O		Auto dock: -4.1
02.	6XCA	Darunavir	H ₃ C CH ₃ O O HO IIIII O HO IIIII O HO IIIII O HO IIIII O HO		Aurgus lab: -10.30
			NH O H O		Auto dock: -2.6
03.	6XCA	2 deoxy 2fluro cytidine	NH ₂ N	<u>A</u>	Argus lab: -5.54
					Auto dock: -3.6

04.	6XCA	Curcumin	0 0		Aurgus lab: -
			HO O O O CH ₃		2.5 Auto dock: -4.3
05.	6XCA	Chebulic acid	но		Aurgus lab: -7.41
			но он он		Auto dock: -3.6
			ноноро		-5.0
06.	6XCA	FAVIPIRAVIR	0	AKANS.	Argus lab: -4.81
			F N NH ₂ N OH		Auto dock:- 4.5
07.	6XCA	FOSTEMSAVIR			Argus lab: -6.33
					Auto dock: - 6.8
08.	6XCA	6XCA RITONAVIR		Argus lab: -12.32	
					Auto dock:
					-7.9

09.	6XCA	POLYMYXIN-			Argus lab:
		В	$H_{2}C$ $H_{3}C$ $H_{4}C$ H		NIL Auto dock: -6.2
10.	6XCA	Brincidofovir	H0 0 H0 0 H0 CH3		Argus lab: - 8.01 Auto dock:0.1
11.	6XCA	Baloxavir	S F F F O O O H O O H O	Service of the servic	Argus lab:- 8.75 Auto dock: - 8.3
12.	6XCA	Luteolin			Argus lab: -7.33 Auto dock: - 6.4
13.	6XCA	Dexamethasone	HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ CH		Argus lab:- NIL Auto dock: -7.3

1.4	(VC)	I I. dana area	N CI	A norma la ha
14.	6XCA	Hydrroxy chloroquine	H ₃ C NH	Argus lab: -7.94
			H ₃ C N OH	Auto dock:- 6.00
15.	6XCA	oseltamivir	H ₃ C	Argus lab: -8.29
				Auto dock: -5.8
16.	6XCA	Remdesivir	H ₂ C	Argus lab: -9.84
				Auto dock: -8.3
17.	6XCA	Trifuridine		Argus lab: -5.42
			HO HO OH	Auto dock: -7.3

		Table	4 The Docked Picture of Drugs with Prote	ins 4	I
S.NO	PROTEIN NAME	CHEMICAL NAME	STRUCTURE	CAPTURE	FINAL ENERGY
01.	7CO2	Acyclovir	N N		Argus lab: -4.25
					Auto dock: -4.6
02.	7CO2	Darunavir	H ₃ C O N S O		Aurgus lab: -11.82
			HO ///// NH2		Auto dock: -6.5
03.	7CO2	2 deoxy 2fluro cytidine		C.	Argus lab: -5.66
					Auto dock: -5.3
04.	7CO2	Curcumin			Aurgus lab: - 4.28
			HO HO H ₃ C CH ₃		Auto dock: -5.4
05.	7CO2	Favipiravir	F_N_NH	65	Argus lab: -4.82
			N OH		Auto dock:- 4.8

01	7000	Fostemsavir	H ₃ C		A
06.	7CO2		HOPOH NN HOPOH H ₃ COON NN HOPOH H ₃ COON		Argus lab: -6.81 Auto dock: - 6.9
07.	7CO2	Ritonavir	$H_{3}C$ H		Argus lab: -15.03 Auto dock: -7.2
08.	7CO2	Polymycin-B	$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		Argus lab: NIL Auto dock: 7.3
9.	7CO2	Brincidofovir	ли	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Argus lab: - 7.36 Auto dock:-5

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10.	7CO2	Baloxavir	S N H		Argus lab:- 10.30
				SK-OW	Auto dock: - 8.8
11.	7CO2	Luteolin	HO OH OH OH O		Argus lab: -9.45 Auto dock: - 7.4
12.	7CO2	Dexamethasone	HO CH ₃ HO CH ₃ H H H H H H H H H H H H H		Argus lab: NIL Auto dock: -5.6
13.	7CO2	Hydrrox y chloroquine	H ₃ C NH H ₃ C NH		Argus lab: -9.85 Auto dock:- 6.1
14.	7CO2	oseltamivir	$H_{3}C$ $H_{3}C$ $H_{3}C$ $H_{3}C$ $H_{3}C$		Argus lab: -8.16 Auto dock: -6.2

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15.	7CO2	Remdesivir	$H_{3}C$ O $H_{3}C$ O O $H_{3}C$ O O $H_{3}C$ O	Argus lab: -9.02 Auto dock: -8.7
16.	7CO2	Trifuridine		Argus lab: -5.98 Auto dock: -7.2

V. FINDING OF INTERACTION

The ligand protein interaction can be simply viwed by click the 'ligand interactions' in the discovery studio file and note the amino acid which were involved in the **Hydrogen bonds, Electrostatic bond and Hydrophobic bonds.**

As the Anti-Viral agents are docked against SARS COVID main protease, the docking scores were obtained. From the results we can concluded that best binding energy of the compound.

However we can't say that only one drug out of these is the better one because the proteins are different (one is peptide binding protein and another one is imunne system protein and other two are viral proteins) and drugs are two types one is natural and others are synthetic. So, drugs possess different binding score with the different proteins

- Note:- For the binding of the proteins and drugs some of the bonds plays an important role suh as
- Hydrogen bond
- Hydrophobic bonds

The number of hydrogens bonds in the compound (weak electrostatic bonds between proton and electronegative of the compound) will estimate the better binding effects.

For eg: In this docking of acyclovir with 6WZO, the hydrogen bonds viz., ARG 256, ARG 271 makes pair with the nitrogen and oxygen with different position and PHE 274 make bond with other nitrogen and oxygen hence, this compounds has maximum binding affinity with this proteins (Fig.no.4). In case of Favipiravir it has only hydrogen bond so, it has leasst energy.

Hence, from this study one can know the insilico (a pre way before pre-clinical and clinical studies) way of docking of unknown drugs using different proteins.Once it was established then the further studies are developed such as invitro and invivo studies. It may help to procure economical balance, human resource and time management.

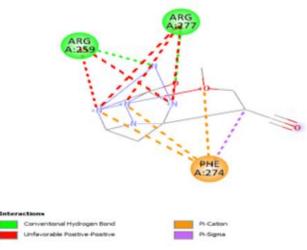


Fig 1 2D digram of Acyclovir with 6WZO

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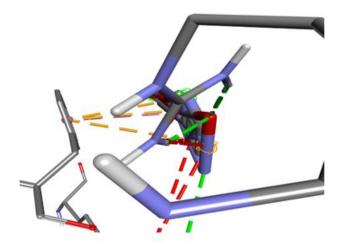


Fig 2 3D Digram of Acyclovir with 6WZO

VI. CONCLUSION

As the synthetic and natural drugs were docked against covid-19 main protease and the results were compared, this results shows that, when allopathic compounds are used for this infection its shows better activity and introducing the concept of drug repurposing. Drug repurposing eliminates the discovery of new compounds and wasting of time and money and as well as docking technology enhances the concept of repurposing of many antiviral agent against novel corona virus.

The medications using natural compounds were taken from approved bioactive compound databases using molecular docking techniques. These compounds from natural products were found to be capable of effectively inhibiting COVID-19 by acting on the primary protease (Mpro).

When compared to other drugs, the results of molecular docking revealed that the main compounds from the kabasura kudineer plants—chebulic acid and curcumin—may inhibit COVID-19.

- Among the Synthetic Compounds,
- 2deoxy 2fluro cytidine (-5.71) SARS COVID 19 Main protease
- *Ritonavir (-15.3), Baloxavir (-10.9), curcumin (-4.3) SARS COVID Neutralizing antibody .*

These findings urge additional in-vitro and in-vivo research on **Ritonavir**, **2deoxy-2-fluoroctytidine**, and **Baloxavir**. They also support the traditional use of **Kabasura kudineer** as a preventative measure.

Although the drugs were developed, our own sanitation is very important in this pandemic period so follow the protocols of Govt. Wear mask, stay home and stay vaccinated.

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