

Review of: "A Harmless Avian Vaccine Virus Could Be Developed into an Off-the-Shelf “Antibiotic” for Viruses"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The concept of utilizing viral interference as a therapeutic modality aligns with the increasing need for novel pandemic preparedness strategies. This manuscript focuses on IBDV as a broad-spectrum antiviral, which aligns with current global health priorities; it has the potential to make a significant impact on the discourse around pandemic preparedness and therapeutic innovation.

Suggestions for Improvement

1. The manuscript briefly acknowledges concerns about zoonotic risks from attenuated avian vaccine viruses. A more detailed discussion regarding the genetic safeguards and robust monitoring systems would address potential skepticism and preempt regulatory concerns.
2. Although the manuscript argues that IBDV can be developed into a stockpiled antiviral with modest funding, additional specifics on production scalability, cost, and regulatory hurdles would enhance its persuasiveness. A brief comparison to existing antiviral development timelines could add realism.
3. Regarding the “Safety and Efficacy of Reverse Engineered IBDV R903/78 Drug Candidate,” could you please provide more information about this drug and any clinical trials relevant to this drug to increase transparency?