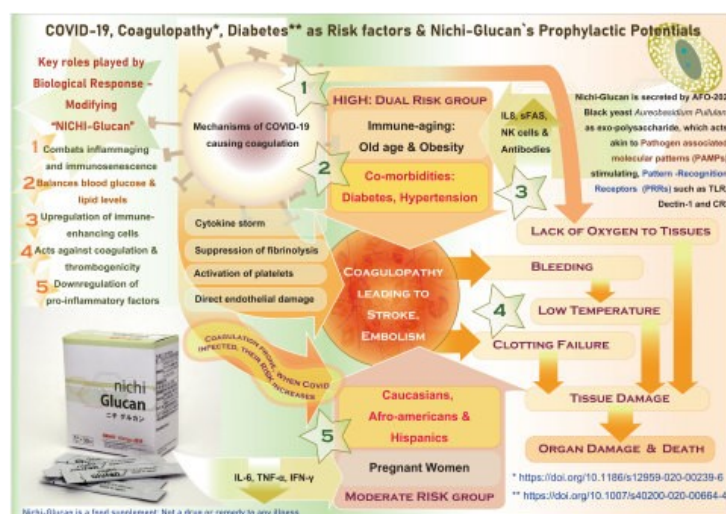


## Beta glucan food supplement offers hope for COVID-19 patients

26 October 2020 | News

Caucasian, Hispanic, and Afro-American population, when Covid-19 infected, are prone to abnormal blood clotting, which may lead to stroke. Pregnant women and people with comorbidities are also at high risk. Higher mortality has been reported in patients, whose fasting plasma glucose is very high at the time of hospital admission with SARS-COV-2.



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During this unprecedented pandemic, prophylaxis to Covid-19 in diabetic population, and strategies for Prevention of Covid-19 associated coagulopathy by consumption of Beta glucan food supplement produced by Black yeast *Aureobasidium Pullulans* AFO-202 strain has been published in Journal of Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders and Thrombosis Journal respectively, recommending clinical studies for its validation in Covid-19 patients.

COVID-19 virus damages blood vessels, causing clot or thrombus formation resulting in stroke and disruption of the body's blood clotting system, leading to organ damage and death. Metabolic and immune dysregulation leads to higher mortality in diabetes patients.

The AFO-202 derived Nichi-Glucan has the potentials to alleviate the cytokine storm, minimize coagulation disruption, and prevent complications of Covid-19 by balancing blood glucose & cholesterol, according to the authors, who have earlier published its immune enhancement and modulation capabilities to help tackle Covid-19. Pilot studies in Diabetic and Dyslipidemic individuals from south Asian population also have been reported.

Research of Prof. Noboru Fujii on poly-thermotolerant fungi leads to the successful culture of *Aureobasidium Pullulans* and Takashi Onaka (President, Sophy Inc) accomplished its industrial-scale GMP production in Kochi, Japan, which was approved by the Japanese health ministry as a food additive. Among several  $\beta$ -Glucans produced by extraction and

purification methods from sources, Nichi Glucan is unique, being secreted as an exo-polysaccharide by AFO-202, possessing a distinct structure, water-solubility, high purity, functionality and molecular weight of 30,000.