

HEALTHCARE & PHARMA

AUGUST 26, 2020 / 11:08 AM / UPDATED 6 MONTHS AGO

Japan researchers say ozone effective in neutralising coronavirus

By Rocky Swift



FILE PHOTO: A man wearing a protective face mask walks past an illustration of a virus outside a regional science centre, as the city and surrounding areas face local restrictions in an effort to avoid a local lockdown being forced upon the region, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Oldham, Britain August 3, 2020. REUTERS/Phil Noble

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japanese researchers said on Wednesday that low concentrations of ozone can neutralise coronavirus, and that hospitals to disinfect examination rooms and waiting areas.

Scientists at Fujita Health University told a news conference they had proven that ozone gas in concentrations of 0.05 parts per million, harmless to humans, could kill the virus.

The experiment used an ozone generator in a sealed chamber with a sample of coronavirus. The potency of the virus decreased after being exposed to low-level ozone for 10 hours.

“Transmission of the novel coronavirus may be reduced by continuous, low-concentration ozone treatment, even in enclosed spaces,” said lead researcher Takayuki Murata.

“We found it to be particularly effective in high-humidity conditions.”

Ozone, a type of oxygen molecule, is known to inactivate many pathogens, and previous experiments have shown that it is effective against the coronavirus but potentially toxic to humans.

A recent study at the Georgia Institute of Technology showed that ozone may be effective in disinfecting gowns, goggles and gloves.

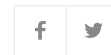
Fujita Medical University Hospital, in Aichi prefecture central Japan, has installed ozone generators to reduce infection risk.

The university has also performed a clinical trial of Fujifilm Holdings Corp’s [4901.T](#) Avigan drug on COVID-19 patients.

Reporting by Rocky Swift; Editing by Robert Birsel

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)

[Apps](#) [Newsletters](#) [Advertise with Us](#) [Advertising Guidelines](#) [Cookies](#) [Terms of Use](#)



All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. See [here](#) for a complete list of exchanges and currencies.

© 2021 Reuters. All Rights Reserved.