# Article information:

South Africa and India push for COVID-19 patents ban - The Lancet  
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32581-2/fulltext>

# Article summary:

1. South Africa and India have called for the World Trade Organization (WTO) to suspend intellectual property (IP) rights related to COVID-19 in order to ensure that not only the wealthiest countries will be able to access and afford the vaccines, medicines, and other new technologies needed to control the pandemic.

2. Dozens of low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) support the proposal, however high-income countries (HICs) such as the UK, USA, Canada, Norway, and EU oppose it.

3. The pharmaceutical industry and HICs argue that IP is required to incentivise new inventions of vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments while proponents argue that a temporary ban would allow multiple actors to start production sooner instead of having manufacturing concentrated in the hands of a small number of patent holders.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article is generally reliable in its reporting on South Africa and India's call for a WTO suspension of intellectual property rights related to COVID-19. It provides an overview of both sides' arguments - those who support the proposal as well as those who oppose it - which allows readers to form their own opinion on the matter. The article also cites sources from both sides such as Mustaqeem De Gama from South Africa's Permanent Mission to the WTO who helped write the proposal as well as John-Arne Røttingen from WHO Solidarity Trial who argues against it.

However, there are some potential biases in this article worth noting. For example, while it does provide an overview of both sides' arguments, it does not explore counterarguments or present both sides equally; instead it focuses more heavily on those who support the proposal than those who oppose it. Additionally, there are some unsupported claims made throughout such as when South Africa cites examples of how IP has created barriers to access without providing evidence for these claims or exploring possible counterarguments. Furthermore, there is no mention of any potential risks associated with suspending IP rights related to COVID-19 which could be important for readers considering forming an opinion on this issue.

In conclusion, while this article is generally reliable in its reporting on South Africa and India's call for a WTO suspension of intellectual property rights related to COVID-19, there are some potential biases worth noting including one-sided reporting and unsupported claims which should be taken into consideration when forming an opinion on this issue.

# Topics for further research:

* Impact of suspending IP rights on COVID-19
* Counterarguments to South Africa's proposal for WTO suspension of IP rights
* Risks associated with suspending IP rights related to COVID-19
* Evidence for South Africa's claims of IP creating barriers to access
* Arguments against South Africa and India's proposal for WTO suspension of IP rights
* Impact of WTO suspension of IP rights on global health

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/6e5d636f1d02be81fd0d962a874458d7>