COVID-19: The theory of a manufactured virus hotly contested

(Paris) A theory put forward by French professor Luc Montagnier, codiscoverer of the AIDS virus, according to which the new coronavirus is the result of a laboratory accident, was hotly contested on Friday by the scientific community.

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According to the Nobel Prize in Medicine, used to controversy and now very controversial in the scientific world, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is the result of an attempt to manufacture a vaccine against the AIDS virus.

According to him, according to him, the presence of elements of HIV in the genome of the new virus, and even of elements of the "germ of malaria", he argues in an interview at the sites frequencemedicale and pourquidocteur.
According to Professor Montagnier, who also spoke on the CNews channel, these characteristics of the new coronavirus cannot have arisen naturally. The accident was said to have taken place in the Wuhan City High Security Laboratory, he added.

He even proposes to rid the virus of these foreign elements "with waves".

"That does not make sense. These are very small elements that are found in other viruses of the same family, other coronaviruses in nature ", explains to AFP the virologist Étienne Simon-Lorière of the Institut Pasteur in Paris.

"These are pieces of the genome that actually look like lots of sequences in the genetic material of bacteria, viruses and plants," he says.

"If we take a word from a book and that word resembles that of another book, can we say that one has copied from the other?" "This is absurd," asserts this manager of the evolutionary genomic structure of RNA viruses at the Institut Pasteur.

The modifications of the virus which would seek to get rid of foreign elements (genetic pieces of HIV ...) and which would be observed in Seattle in the United States, according to the controversial Nobel, are false, adds Mr. Simon-Lorière who abstains from everything commentary on the "waves" of Professor Montagnier.

The theory that this virus originated from genetic manipulation has been circulating for a long time and has already been denied according to analyzes of the genome of the virus communicated by the Chinese, all the more since researchers around the world have since been able to isolate and analyze them. - even this virus from samples taken from patients on their own territory.

Dr. Montagnier, former Pasteur Institute, medicine Nobel laureate of 2008 to identify the virus that causes AIDS, with his colleague at the time, Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi.

In addition to his theories on the electromagnetic waves emitted by DNA and on the benefits of papaya, which attracted mockery, he appeared in 2017 alongside Prof. Henri
Joyeux, a figurehead of antivaccines, and a joined his voice to denounce the dangerousness of vaccines and compulsory vaccination, believing that there was a risk "with good will at the start, of poisoning the entire population little by little".