

COVID-19 Treatment The Risks of Hydroxychloroquine

The experimental use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 has been widely publicized. Yet, neither its effectiveness, nor its safety have been confirmed.

Simply said, there is not enough evidence to support its use. This is a potentially dangerous substance. Its side effects are both well-known and serious.

We follow the most up to date medical and scientific guidelines. We are also stringent about complying with the regulations set forth by federal agencies.

Their recommendation is clear: do not prescribe hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19. The benefits are debatable. The risks have been proven.

It is our priority to make sure our policies follow best clinical practices. We have considered the lack of evidence. We have weighed the known possibility of serious side effects.

For this reason, we will not prescribe hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 treatment.

This is a constantly evolving situation. As guidelines may change, we will study available recommendations and clinical evidence.

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^{1.} COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Treatment Guidelines. National Institutes of Health. Available at https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/. Accessed 06/09/2020.

^{2.} Interim Clinical Guideance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID019). Centers for Disease Control. Available at: https:// www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients. html. Accessed 06/09/2020

^{3.} FDA Safety Alert. MedWatch. FDA cautions against use of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for COVID-19 outside of the hospital setting or a clinical trial due to risk of heart rhythm problems. Food and Drug Administration website. https:// www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-cautions-against-use-hydroxychloroquine-or-chloroquine-covid-19-outside-hospital-setting-or. Accessed April 27, 2020

^{4.} Hydroxychloroquine. In UpToDate, Post TW (Ed), UpToDate Waltham, MA, 2020 5. Magagnoli J, Narendran S, Pereira F, Cummings T, Hardin JW, et al. 2020. Outcomes of hydroxychloroquine usage in the United States veterans hospitalized with Covid-19. Medrxiv doi 10.1101/2020.04.16.20065920