

Background Summary

Ruling out hydroxychloroquine as a potential treatment for COVID-19



Trials in Progress

RECOVERY Trial (Oxford University)

The RECOVERY Trial team [stopped the hydroxychloroquine \(HCQ\) arm of the trial](#) on June 5, 2020.

- 1542 patients randomized to HCQ vs. 3132 patients control (usual care)
- No significant difference in primary endpoint of 28-day mortality (25.7% HCQ vs. 23.5% control; hazard ratio 1.11 [95% CI 0.98-1.26]; P=0.10)
- No evidence of beneficial effects on hospital stay duration or other outcomes

Solidarity Trial (World Health Organization)

The Solidarity Trial team [stopped the HCQ arm of the trial](#) on June 17, 2020. They based this decision on results from the Solidarity Trial, the RECOVERY Trial, and a Cochrane review of other evidence on HCQ.

Other trials

The COPCOV (Oxford-Brighton) and PRINCIPLE (Oxford) trials [have also halted their HCQ arms](#). This decision came earlier than the others (late May 2020) and was [based on findings in the Lancet](#) that have since [been retracted](#).

Evidence Syntheses

As of June 22, 2020, evidence syntheses produced by the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) at Oxford University **do not support the use of HCQ as a treatment for COVID-19**. Cochrane and JBI have not yet published on the subject.

Source	Title	Date	Link	Conclusions / Summary
CEBM	Hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19: What do the clinical trials tell us?	April 14, 2020	Link	"Current data do not support the use of HCQ for prophylaxis or treatment of COVID-19. There are no published trials of prophylaxis. Two trials of HCQ treatment that are in the public domain, one non-peer reviewed, are premature analyses of trials whose conduct in both cases diverged from the published skeleton protocols registered on clinical trial sites. Neither they, nor three other negative trials that have since appeared, support the view that HCQ is effective in the management of even mild COVID-19 disease."
CEBM	COVID-19 Clinical Trials Report Card: Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine	May 11, 2020	Link	Assessment of trial designs specified in national and international registry entries of chloroquine (CQ)/HCQ trials
CEBM	More about chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine	May 30, 2020	Link	"The hypothesis that ... CQ and HCQ may be beneficial in the treatment of COVID-19 is a weak one, based on poor mechanistic reasoning and inconsistent results of studies in vitro, in laboratory animals, and in humans."
Cochrane	Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for coronavirus	Launched March 25, 2020	Link	In progress; no results yet reported

Single Studies

[Epistemonikos](#) reports the following numbers of primary studies of HCQ for COVID-19:

# primary studies registered	346
# primary studies reporting data	114
# RCTs registered	186
# RCTs reporting data	6

The RECOVERY Trial is one of the 6 RCTs reporting data listed in Epistemonikos, even though the data has yet to be published.

Search Methods

- Search term: hydroxychloroquine
- Evidence syntheses: [CEBM](#), [Cochrane](#), [JBI](#)
 - Press releases/websites of major trials linked from CEBM
- [Epistemonikos L-OVE on COVID-19](#) - manual search

Please note: This summary is not being kept up to date, and reflects evidence up to and including June 22, 2020 only.