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Study finds no benefit to taking ivermectin for COVID-19 symptoms

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A study led by the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI) in partnership with Vanderbilt University found no differences in relief of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 symptoms between participants taking

ivermectin and participants taking a placebo.

"There was no significant benefit in our primary endpoint of resolution of symptoms in mild-to-moderate COVID-19 illness," said Adrian Hernandez, M.D., the study's administrative principal investigator and executive director of the DCRI. "Overall, most people improved their symptoms whether they took ivermectin or not. Given these results, there does not appear to be a role for ivermectin outside of a clinical trial setting, especially considering other available options with proven reduction in hospitalizations and death."

There was also no difference observed in the number of hospitalizations or emergency room visits. Findings appear on medRxiv, a pre-publication server, and have been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

ACTIV-6—"The Randomized Trial to Evaluate Efficacy of Repurposed Medications"—is a nationwide double-blind study that has enrolled more than 4,000 participants. The trial continues to enroll with plans to include nearly 15,000 participants from across the United States.

Ivermectin, a medication used to treat parasitic infections, is one of three repurposed medications currently being tested in ACTIV-6. Repurposed medications are those already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for other medical indications.

The ivermectin arm of the study opened in June 2021 and enrolled 1,537 participants across the United States in eight months. During the study, participants took either a dose of 400 mcg/kg per day of ivermectin or a placebo for three days.

Ivermectin is not approved by the FDA to treat COVID-19 and should only be taken for COVID-19 as part of a clinical trial. ACTIV-6 continues to study a higher dose (600 mcg/kg) and longer duration (six

days) of ivermectin to better understand the medication's impact on time to recovery and hospitalization.

"Given the favorable safety profile and continued public interest in ivermectin, the ACTIV-6 team will continue to study this higher dose to determine whether it will make enough of a difference to be considered for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19," said Susanna Naggie, M.D., the DCRI principal investigator overseeing the study's clinical coordinating center. "We are committed to sharing these study results with participants, the public, and scientific community when they are available."

More information: Susanna Naggie, Ivermectin for Treatment of Mild-to-Moderate COVID-19 in the Outpatient Setting: A Decentralized, Placebo-controlled, Randomized, Platform Clinical Trial, (2022). DOI: 10.1101/2022.06.10.22276252

Provided by Duke University

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