

## **Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat infections from COVID-19. A rapid systematic review.**

**Background:** Hydroxychloroquine is being used off-label to treat infections from COVID-19 based on results from preliminary studies of the drug.

**Objectives:** To find, systematically assess and summarize the best scientific evidence available regarding the efficacy and safety of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat infections from COVID-19.

**Methods:** Rapid review methodology.

**Results:** 17 studies were included following the selection process: one ongoing clinical study with partially published data, and 16 ongoing studies with no data published. Efficacy data was available in just one of the 17 studies, which assessed merely viral detection (intermediary endpoint) in 42 individuals. The study presented serious methodological limitations and serious risk of bias as assessed by the ROBINS-I tool. No safety data was presented in the study. No assessment of certainty of evidence using the GRADE approach was conducted due to the absence of relevant clinical endpoints.

**Conclusion:** Based on the findings of this rapid systematic review, the efficacy and safety of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine in COVID-19 patients is uncertain, and routine use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat COVID-19 patients is not recommended until the results from ongoing studies can properly assess the drugs' effects.

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