

HOW TO (NOT) HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE COVID-19

The medical journal The Lancet published a study Friday which showed anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) – the same drug repeatedly pushed by Trump – does not work as intended against the virus which causes COVID-19.

NEW Research—No evidence of benefit for #chloroquine and #hydroxychloroquine in #COVID19 patients, urgent randomised trials are needed: finding from a large observational study of nearly 15,000 patients with #COVID19 & 81,000 controls
<https://t.co/P4YbYVhRDZ>

Thread (1/4) pic.twitter.com/dxo120ngy9

– The Lancet (@TheLancet) May 22, 2020

Hydroxychloroquine's precursor drug, chloroquine, has shown mild antiviral action *in vitro* against the Borna disease virus (an orthobornavirus), the minute virus of mice MVMp (a parvovirus), and the avian leukosis virus (a retrovirus) as well as the coronavirus which causes SARS. It has also shown promise against Hepatitis A (ahepatovirus).

But both hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine posed inherent risks to patients as they increased the risk of heart arrhythmia.

Ideally, HCQ's antiviral effect would prevent the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 from replicating, allowing the body to attack and remove the virus before it could attack human cells and spread through the body, resulting in earlier recovery from the infection.

Patients who received both HCQ, or its precursor chloroquine, with or without an additional

antibiotic, did not recover faster than the cohort which didn't receive chloroquine.

Further, the patients receiving the drug therapies were more likely to die than those who didn't.

- 1 in 11 patients in the control group died
- 1 in 6 patients treated with chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine alone died
- 1 in 5 treated with chloroquine and an antibiotic died
- 1 in 4 treated with hydroxychloroquine and an antibiotic died <https://t.co/mLtnZCaEWg>
- Ryan Struyk (@ryanstruyk) May 22, 2020

This study is the latest showing HCQ or chloroquine both didn't work and increased patient mortality. Previous negative studies included:

Effect of High vs Low Doses of Chloroquine Diphosphate as Adjunctive Therapy for Patients Hospitalized With Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Infection – A Randomized Clinical Trial
Mayla Gabriela Silva Borba, MD; Fernando Fonseca Almeida Val, PhD; Vanderson Souza Sampaio, PhD; et al
JAMA Network Open. 2020;3(4):e208857.
doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.8857
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2765499>

Of particular note:

Findings In this phase IIb randomized clinical trial of 81 patients with COVID-19, an unplanned interim analysis recommended by an independent data safety and monitoring board found that a

higher dosage of chloroquine diphosphate for 10 days was associated with more toxic effects and lethality, particularly affecting QTc interval prolongation. The limited sample size did not allow the study to show any benefit overall regarding treatment efficacy.

Outcomes of hydroxychloroquine usage in United States veterans hospitalized with Covid-19

Joseph Magagnoli, Siddharth Narendran, et al

Pre-print; posted April 23, 2020. medRxiv 2020.04.16.20065920; doi:

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.16.20065920>

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.16.20065920v2>

Of particular note:

CONCLUSIONS: In this study, we found no evidence that use of hydroxychloroquine, either with or without azithromycin, reduced the risk of mechanical ventilation in patients hospitalized with Covid-19. An association of increased overall mortality was identified in patients treated with hydroxychloroquine alone. These findings highlight the importance of awaiting the results of ongoing prospective, randomized, controlled studies before widespread adoption of these drugs.

We still don't know why Trump is pushing this drug. It's no longer under a patent and now a generic medication; it's cheap to produce. If there's money to be made by promotion of this medication it's not clear how Trump profits.

We still can't be certain he's taking it himself though he claims he is; the letter from his doctor does not clearly state that Trump has been prescribed HCQ and at what dosage for what

period of time nor has there been any information provided with regard to the nature of monitoring Trump receives while taking HCQ.



PHYSICIAN TO THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

May 18, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: KAYLEIGH MCENANY
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

FROM: SEAN P. CONLEY, DO, FACEP
PHYSICIAN TO THE PRESIDENT
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY *spc*

SUBJECT: HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE

As has been previously reported, two weeks ago one of the President's support staff tested positive for COVID-19. The President is in very good health and has remained symptom-free. He receives regular COVID-19 testing, all negative to date.

After numerous discussions he and I had regarding the evidence for and against the use of hydroxychloroquine, we concluded the potential benefit from treatment outweighed the relative risks.

In consultation with our inter-agency partners and subject matter experts around the country, I continue to monitor the myriad studies investigating potential COVID-19 therapies, and I anticipate employing the same shared medical decision making based on the evidence at hand in the future.

We don't know why Trump would claim to take HCQ on the advice of some unknown person alleging to be a doctor. We've no further information about the letter, the letter's author, whether a letter even existed since Trump has a proven propensity for making up shit.

"I happen to be taking it ... right now, yeah" – Trump claims he's taking hydroxychloroquine, a drug he's touted as a potential coronavirus treatment despite a lack of evidence that can lead to potentially fatal heart problems
pic.twitter.com/zxiNxlyfEs

– Aaron Rupar (@atrupar) May 18, 2020

All we can be sure of at this point is that more

patients with COVID-19 may have died, potentially because of HCQ's promotion by Trump, than may have died had he refrained from practicing medicine without a license by pushing HCQ.

In the case of the study of HCQ at Veterans Health Administration medical centers, former service persons who've already paid a price for our freedoms have been used in human experimentation in what might have been an attempt to validate Trump's claims about HCQ – and some of them died for it.

It seems odd VA doctors used it out of the clear blue when the Food and Drug Administration hadn't formally approved this drug for COVID-19 patients. (It's probably just a coincidence the Center for Disease Control lifted its guidance on off-label use of HCQ two weeks before the VA study was published, right?)

It'd be nice to know if Trump's three golf buddies at Mar-a-Lago – one of them a doctor – had anything to do with the use of HCQ and chloroquine at VA hospitals on COVID-19 patients.

There's simply no good reason for Trump's plugging this particular drug therapy except to harm and kill Americans.