

Ivermectin for the prevention and treatment of covid-19

Frequently asked questions

FAQ 1: What is ivermectin?

- Ivermectin is a medication that has been widely used for around forty years to treat parasitic infections in adults and children. It is considered safe and effective and is notable for its antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties. More than 3.7 billion doses of ivermectin have been given worldwide. It is included in the World Health Organization's Model List of Essential Medicines and in 2015 its discoverers won a Nobel Prize in Medicine.
- In April 2020 scientists in Australia, having previously noticed that ivermectin displayed antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties against HIV and Dengue fever, experimented with it against covid-19. At first in test tubes (*in vitro*) where they used Green monkey liver cells, they saw that it destroyed the virus. The dominant mechanism of action of ivermectin as an anti-viral (against a wide class of RNA viruses) is believed to be the blocking of the nuclear import of viral proteins.(9) Researchers were concerned that large doses of ivermectin were needed in this experiment, more than is safe for humans (this is the study that is still being quoted by detractors!). When the experiment was conducted using human cells, researchers found that it worked perfectly in normal concentrations. Subsequently it has been tested in humans, and 46 trials later ivermectin in normal dosages has proved to be very effective against Covid-19.
- Ivermectin is effective, safe and cheap.

FAQ 2 - Is ivermectin safe?

- Ivermectin is one of the safest medications known to man. It is safer than aspirin.
- It has been taken over 3.7 billion times in over 30 countries.
- Its inventors won a Nobel Prize for its efficacy and safety in 2015.
- There have been many studies confirming its safety. Merck Pharmaceuticals (the then patent holders) published a study confirming it safe at 10 times the recommended dose.

An in-depth safety report based on the assessment of over 500 peer-reviewed articles on reported adverse events temporally associated with ivermectin treatment shows that the adverse effects of ivermectin used to be infrequent (< 2-5% of treated patients) and mild to moderate . They mainly consisted of dizziness,

tremor, tingling and sleepiness; fever, fatigue and headache; nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea; transient tachycardia and orthostatic hypotension; pruritus and rash. More severe neurological complications (e.g., seizures, confusion, encephalopathy) are possible, but rare. That ivermectin is routinely used throughout the world to treat scabies in elderly people without major safety issues is noteworthy. Several national pharmacovigilance networks and international organizations released information or opinions ascertaining ivermectin safety in human subjects treated with parasitic diseases. Likewise, no severe adverse reactions have seemingly so far been described in relation to off-label studies or clinical trials of ivermectin as a potential prophylactic or curative treatment of COVID-19.

FAQ 3: Does ivermectin prevent and treat covid-19?

- YES. The evidence is conclusive. Ivermectin helps not only treatment but prophylaxis as well.
- 100% of the 46 studies to date report positive effects (22 statistically significant in isolation).
- Random effects meta-analysis for early treatment and pooled effects shows a 79% reduction .
- Prophylactic use shows 89% improvement.
- Mortality results show 75% lower mortality for all treatment delays.
- For early treatment 84% lower was shown.
- Please go to www.ivmmeta.com or www.covid19criticalcare.com and see the evidence.

Ivermectin's potential therapeutic utility has expanded over the last decade as broad-spectrum anti-viral and even anti-neoplastic properties have been discovered [7, 8]. Since April 2020, the evidence base of observational and randomised trials of ivermectin for covid-19 has accumulated. A review [10] by the Front Line Covid-19 Critical Care Alliance (FLCCC) summarised findings from 27 randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and 16 observational studies on ivermectin both for prevention and treatment of covid-19. They conclude that ivermectin “*demonstrates a strong signal of therapeutic efficacy.*” Moreover, ivermectin is the sole therapeutic so far to have demonstrated efficacy at all stages of the very complex clinical course of the covid-19 disease, from prophylaxis through to critical care.

A recent systematic review and meta-analysis, conducted by a UK team of experts, led by Dr. Lawrie, includes 21 RCTs and shows that ivermectin reduces the risk of death from covid-19 to about *one-third* of the risk of death without using this medication [2]. In the long run, of every *nine* patients who would otherwise die from covid-19, *six* can now be saved by using ivermectin. Similarly the risk of contracting covid-19 is reduced to *one-seventh* of the risk faced by other healthy people with similar exposure, when using ivermectin as prophylaxis. For every *seven* people who would catch covid-19 from an infected person, only *one* is likely to catch the illness, when using ivermectin.

FAQ 4: Can my GP prescribe ivermectin for covid-19?

Oral ivermectin is listed in the British National Formulary but it is not licensed and is infrequently prescribed. When it is prescribed the pharmacy that dispenses it has to obtain it from a specialist supplier. GPs may prescribe it off-licence (off-label), at NHS expense if they believe it is appropriate for the patient.

Note: If a GP is thinking of doing this

1. it would be wise to discuss it with local pharmacies first to ensure that they obtain a supply of ivermectin and patients do not end up going from one pharmacy to another.
2. It might be useful to look at the GMC guidance <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/prescribing-and-managing-medicines-and-devices/prescribing-unlicensed-medicines>

FAQ 5: How and where can I buy ivermectin?

Ivermectin is a prescription only medicine (POM) and so you will need to have a private prescription from your doctor. The pharmacy will then dispense the ivermectin and make a charge to cover the full cost of the medicine and a dispensing fee.

Note: If a GP is thinking of issuing private prescriptions for ivermectin it would be wise to discuss it with local pharmacies first to ensure that they obtain a supply of ivermectin and patients do not end up going from one pharmacy to another.

We recommend you print out a copy of the Front-line Covid-19 Critical Care Alliance (FLCCC) out-patient treatment protocol to present to your GP or pharmacist, as well as a copy of the BIRD 'Ivermectin for covid-19 Fact-sheet' with links to further information.

FAQ 7 - How can I help promote ivermectin?

- Please chip in to our Crowdfunder <https://tinyurl.com/hnvxxdex> as we want to get an emergency use authorisation for ivermectin.
- Convince reluctant people with proper evidence. Refer to ivmmeta.com. An excellent website run by doctors detailing all there is to know plus all the evidence.
- Please write to your MP, councillor or local government telling them that the public has a right to this medication. They are aware of it and it has now become a dereliction of their duty of care and it is not good enough to kick the can down the road with answers like “more research is needed...” because it is not true. There is enough good evidence to grant it an emergency use authorisation. Other drugs, such as Remdisivir, have been authorised on much less and weaker evidence (and at \$4000 per treatment). Why is ivermectin being vilified? Because it works, it is cheap and very safe!

- Please ask your GP to inform him/herself. Again refer to ivnmeta.com as it has all the studies and meta-analyses.
- You can write to newspapers and ask them to do their own homework re ivermectin and not spread current medical misinformation about it that could kill people unnecessarily. Ask the journalist to be brave and stand up for proper science and scientific debate.
- You can spread the word to friends' neighbours and anybody you think who could be influential and get the message across. We need a groundswell of people to demand their right to an effective cure and to coin a popular phrase - Get Covid Done.

FAQ 8 - My doctor won't prescribe ivermectin. What do I do?

- In the UK they are not allowed to, so ask them to help with the campaign to get ivermectin an emergency use license. If ivermectin doesn't work the authorities can always revoke the licence.
- Tell them to do some research for themselves and not rely on mandates from out-of-touch and conflict-of-interest-ridden health authorities.
- Remind them that the NIH (National Institute of Health) is not against ivermectin.
- If they cite the European Medicines Agency negative statement about ivermectin, point them to the very comprehensive rebuttals prepared by both the Front-Line Covid-19 Critical Care Alliance (FLCCC) and the British Ivermectin Recommendation Development (BIRD) group. (Available on: www.e-bmc.co.uk and <https://covid19criticalcare.com/>).
- Remind them of the Helsinki Declaration of 2013 to which 98% of the world are signatories to. It states: 'In the treatment of an individual patient, where proven interventions do not exist or other known interventions have been ineffective, the physician, after seeking expert advice, with informed consent from the patient or a legally authorized representative, may use an unproven intervention if in the physician's judgement it offers hope of saving life, re-establishing health or alleviating suffering'.
- It does not say that the authorities will decide.

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