

Chloroquine vs Lopinavir-Ritonavir for COVID-19

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Question: Should Chloroquine vs Lopinavir-Ritonavir be used for COVID-19?

Setting: Inpatient

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Chloroquine	Lopinavir-Ritonavir	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
SARS-CoV-2 clearance											
1 ¹	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	very serious ^b	none	9/10 (90.0%)	9/12 (75.0%)	RR 1.20 (0.82 to 1.77)	150 more per 1.000 (from 135 fewer to 578 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
Improvement of lung disease on CT											
1 ¹	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	very serious ^b	none	2/10 (20.0%)	1/12 (8.3%)	RR 2.40 (0.25 to 22.75)	117 more per 1.000 (from 63 fewer to 1.000 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
Number of patients discharged from hospital											
1 ¹	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	very serious ^b	none	10/10 (100.0%)	6/12 (50.0%)	RR 1.91 (1.09 to 3.34)	455 more per 1.000 (from 45 more to 1.000 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW

CI: Confidence interval; **RR:** Risk ratio

Explanations

a. Downgraded of two levels for high risk of reporting bias and unclear risk of selection and performance bias

b. Downgraded of two levels for low number of events and very small sample size

References

1. Huang M, Tang T, Pang P, et al. Treating COVID-19 with Chloroquine. J Mol Cell Biol 2020;12(4):322-325 <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmcb/mjaa014>