

## Interferon $\beta$ -1b vs Standard treatment for COVID-19

**Author(s):** Cruciani F, De Crescenzo F, Vecchi S, Saulle R, Mitrova Z, Amato L, Davoli M.

**Question:** Should Interferon  $\beta$ -1b compared to Standard treatment 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	Interferon $\beta$ -1b	Standard treatment	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
<b>All-cause mortality at 14 days</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	1/40 (2.5%)	3/40 (7.5%)	<b>RR 0.33</b> (0.04 to 3.07)	<b>50 fewer per 1.000</b> (from 72 fewer to 155 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW
<b>Number of patients discharged on day 14</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	26/40 (65.0%)	18/40 (45.0%)	<b>RR 1.44</b> (0.96 to 2.18)	<b>198 more per 1.000</b> (from 18 fewer to 531 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW

### Explanations

a. Downgraded of one level for high risk of performance bias and unclear risk of selection and attrition bias

b. Downgraded of one level for small sample size

### References

1. Rahmani H, Davoudi-Monfared E, Nourian A, et al. Interferon  $\beta$ -1b in treatment of severe COVID-19: A randomized clinical trial [published online ahead of print, 2020 Aug 24]. Int Immunopharmacol. 2020;88:106903. doi:10.1016/j.intimp.2020.106903