

## Interferon alfa 2b vs standard treatment for COVID-19

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**Question:** Should Interferon alfa 2b 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 alfa 2b	Standard treatment	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
<b>All-cause mortality</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	very serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	No deaths reported				⊕○○○ VERY LOW
<b>SARS-CoV-2 clearance at 5 days</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	very serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	23/30 (76.7%)	17/33 (51.5%)	RR 1.49 (1.01 to 2.19)	<b>252 more per 1.000</b> (from 5 more to 613 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
<b>Number of patients with any adverse event</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	very serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	10/30 (33.3%)	8/33 (24.2%)	RR 1.38 (0.63 to 3.02)	<b>92 more per 1.000</b> (from 90 fewer to 490 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
<b>Number of patients discharged at 14 days</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	very serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	30/30 (100.0%)	30/33 (90.9%)	RR 1.10 (0.97 to 1.24)	<b>91 more per 1.000</b> (from 27 fewer to 218 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Interferon alfa 2b	Standard treatment	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
<b>Progression of COVID-19 disease</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	very serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	Non si riscontra progressione della gravità della malattia in nessun partecipante				⊕○○○ VERY LOW

### Explanations

- a. Downgraded of two levels 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. Idelsis E-M, Jesus P-E, Yaquelin D-R, Dania V-B, Monica B-R, Lisandra B-R, et al. Effect and safety of combination of interferon alpha-2b and gamma or interferon alpha-2b for negativization of SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA. Preliminary results of a randomized controlled clinical trial. medRxiv. 2020:2020.07.29.20164251.