

Novaferon+Lopinavir+Ritonavir vs Lopinavir+Ritonavir for COVID-19

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

Question: Should Novaferon+Lopinavir/Ritonavir versus 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	Novaferon+Lopinavir/Ritonavir	Lopinavir/Ritonavir	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
SARS-CoV-2 clearance											
1 ^{1,a}	randomised trials	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^c	none	21/30 (70.0%)	15/29 (51.7%)	RR 1.35 (0.89 to 2.06)	181 more per 1.000 (from 57 fewer to 548 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
Progression of COVID-19 severity											
1 ¹	randomised trials	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^c	none	0/28 (0.0%)	4/28 (14.3%)	RR 0.11 (0.01 to 1.97)	127 fewer per 1.000 (from 141 fewer to 139 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
Number of patients with adverse events											
1 ¹	randomised trials	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	serious ^d	none	3/30 (10.0%)	4/29 (13.8%)	RR 0.72 (0.18 to 2.96)	39 fewer per 1.000 (from 113 fewer to 270 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW

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

Explanations

- a. The study authors define Novaferon as a recombinant antitumor and antiviral protein
- b. Downgraded of one level for high risk of performance bias and unclear risk of selection bias
- c. Downgraded of two levels for imprecision: very few events and small sample size
- d. Downgraded of one level for small sample size

References

1. Zheng F, Zhou Y, Zhou Z, et al. A Novel Protein Drug, Novaferon, as the Potential Antiviral Drug for COVID-19. MedRxiv. 2020. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.24.20077735>