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Question: Should Hydroxychloroquine + Azithromycin vs Hydroxychloroquine be used for COVID-19 patients?

Setting: Inpatient

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Hydroxychloroquine + Azithromycin	Hydroxychloroquine	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
All-cause mortality											
2 ^{1,2}	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	74/454 (16.3%)	68/431 (15.8%)	RR 0.87 (0.44 to 1.71)	21 fewer per 1.000 (from 88 fewer to 112 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
Number of patients with any adverse events											
1 ²	randomised trials	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	82/217 (37.8%)	74/221 (33.5%)	RR 1.13 (0.88 to 1.45)	44 more per 1.000 (from 40 fewer to 151 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
Number of patients with serious adverse events											
2 ^{1,2}	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	105/458 (22.9%)	77/419 (18.4%)	RR 1.12 (0.89 to 1.41)	22 more per 1.000 (from 20 fewer to 75 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
Length of stay in hospital											
1 ²	randomised trials	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	217	221	-	SMD 0.07 higher (0.12 lower to 0.26 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
Number of patients discharged											
2 ^{1,2}	randomised trials	serious ^a	very serious ^c	not serious	not serious	none	141/454 (31.1%)	128/431 (29.7%)	RR 1.04 (0.68 to 1.59)	12 more per 1.000 (from 95 fewer to 75 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
All-cause mortality (non-hospitalized patients)											
2 ^{3,4}	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	No deaths reported			⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	
SARS-CoV-2 clearance (non-hospitalized patients)											

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Hydroxychloroquine + Azithromycin	Hydroxychloroquine	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
2 ^{3,4}	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	70/203 (34.5%)	85/201 (42.3%)	RR 0.84 (0.65 to 1.09)	68 fewer per 1.000 (from 148 fewer to 38 more)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH

Number of patients with any adverse event (non-hospitalized patients)

1 ³	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	3/152 (2.0%)	6/152 (3.9%)	RR 0.50 (0.13 to 1.96)	20 fewer per 1.000 (from 34 fewer to 38 more)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH
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Number of patients with serious adverse events (non-hospitalized patients)

2 ^{3,4}	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	No serious adverse event reported				⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH
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Explanations

- Downgraded of one level for high risk of performance bias in both studies and unclear risk of attrition bias in one study
- Downgraded of one level for high risk of performance bias
- Downgraded of one level for $I^2=77\%$

References

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