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Question: Should Pentoxifylline compared to Standard treatment 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	Pentoxifylline	Standard treatment	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
All-cause mortality											
1 ¹	randomised trials	very serious _a	not serious	not serious	very serious _b	none	3/36 (8.3%)	4/18 (22.2%)	RR 0.38 (0.09 to 1.50)	138 fewer per 1.000 (from 202 fewer to 111 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
Number of patients with significant improvement in lung disease on CT											
1 ¹	randomised trials	very serious _a	not serious	not serious	very serious _b	none	3/36 (8.3%)	3/18 (16.7%)	RR 0.50 (0.11 to 2.23)	83 fewer per 1.000 (from 148 fewer to 205 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
Number of patients with any adverse event											
1 ¹	randomised trials	very serious _a	not serious	not serious	very serious _b	none	1/36 (2.8%)	0/18 (0.0%)	RR 1.54 (0.07 to 36.04)	0 fewer per 1.000 (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW
Length of stay in hospital											
1 ¹	randomised trials	very serious _a	not serious	not serious	very serious _b	none	36	18	-	SMD 0.34 lower (0.91 lower to 0.23 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW

Explanations

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

b. Downgraded of two levels for very small sample size

References

1. Maldonado V, Hernandez-Ramírez C, Oliva-Pérez EA, Sánchez-Martínez CO, Pimentel-González JF, Molina-Sánchez JR, et al. Pentoxifylline decreases serum LDH levels and increases lymphocyte count in COVID-19 patients: Results from an external pilot study. *International Immunopharmacology*. 2021;90:107209..