

COVID-19 Research Watch

June 3, 2020

PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS

[Remdesivir for 5 or 10 Days in Patients with Severe Covid-19¹](#)

In this randomized, open-label, phase 3 trial, 397 patients with confirmed severe Covid-19 who did not require mechanical ventilation, received intravenous remdesivir either for a 5 or 10-day course. Patients were randomly assigned to these two treatment groups and clinical status was evaluated on day 14 using a 7-point ordinal scale. The authors found there was no significant difference in clinical status at day 14 between the 5-day course and 10-day course treatment groups, after baseline adjustment. Without including a placebo control group, the authors note that the benefit of remdesivir cannot be determined from these results.

NON-CLINICAL TRENDS

[Association of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Outbreak With Enrollment in Cancer Clinical Trials²](#)

Clinical trial enrollment is necessary to advance cancer treatments; however, COVID-19 has caused serious disruptions to clinical trial enrollment. The authors conducted a cohort study to assess initial enrollment in studies coordinated by the SWOG Cancer Research Network between January 1 and April 25, 2020. The authors found that a total of 1,870 patients were enrolled during weeks 1-11, and 439 were enrolled during weeks 12-17; enrollment into control and prevention trials decreased more than treatment trials. In response to this decrease in trial enrollment, the National Cancer Institute and the Food and Drug Administration issued guidelines to provide greater flexibility in enrollment to limit the risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure during the pandemic, such as allowing remote consent and virtual visits.

NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS

[Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Transmission in a Skilled Nursing Facility³](#)

The researchers aimed to evaluate the adequacy of symptom-based screening to identify infections in residents of a skilled nursing facility in King County, Washington. They conducted two serial point-prevalence surveys, 1 week apart, to test assenting residents for SARS-CoV-2 by rRT-PCR on naso- and oropharyngeal swab specimens. Despite early adoption of infection-control measures, SARS-CoV-2 prevalence among residents was 64%, with a case fatality rate of 26%. It took 3.4 days to double the total number of cases in the facility as compared to 5.5 days in the surrounding community. Over half of all residents who tested positive were asymptomatic at the time of testing, suggesting that symptom-based infection control strategies were not sufficient to prevent transmission. In addition, 26 (19%) staff members were diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2, highlighting the importance of face mask usage.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

[Phenotypic characteristics and prognosis of inpatients with COVID-19 and diabetes: the CORONADO study⁴](#)

CORONADO is a nationwide multicentre observational study in France which assesses factors associated with disease severity and mortality risk in people with type 1 diabetes hospitalized for COVID-19. This paper is an early look at 1,317 eligible patients with diabetes hospitalized between March 10 and 31, focusing on the primary outcome of tracheal intubation for mechanical ventilation and/or death within seven days of admission. The authors found that 20.3% of the study population required tracheal intubation and 10.6% died seven days after admission. Among patients older than 75 years, death on day 7 was more frequent than intubation. Metformin usage was associated with reduced risk of early death, likely reflecting a less advanced stage of diabetes with fewer comorbidities. No association was found between the primary outcome and HbA_{1c} levels, nor between glucose-lowering drugs and COVID-19 infection and prognosis. No deaths were identified in participants with type 1 diabetes younger than 65 years.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[UCSF Library COVID-19 Research and Information Resources](#)
[UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences COVID-19 Resources](#)
[UC Davis One Health Institute COVID-19 FAQs](#)
[Harvard Viswanath Lab Myths vs Facts](#)

Note on this Document: This document was assembled by graduate and doctoral students attending the University of California, San Francisco with the intent of facilitating the rapid dissemination of information to the global community in order to help during this time. Sunya Akhter and James Feng contributed to these summaries. This work is volunteer based.

References:

- 1 Goldman JD, Lye DCB, Hui DS, *et al.* Remdesivir for 5 or 10 Days in Patients with Severe Covid-19. *N Engl J Med* 2020; : NEJMoA2015301.
- 2 Unger JM, Blanke CD, LeBlanc M, Hershman DL. Association of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak With Enrollment in Cancer Clinical Trials. *JAMA Netw open* 2020; **3**: e2010651.
- 3 Arons MM, Hatfield KM, Reddy SC, *et al.* Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Transmission in a Skilled Nursing Facility. *N Engl J Med* 2020; published online April 24. DOI:10.1056/nejmoa2008457.
- 4 Cariou B, Hadjadj S, Wargny ; Matthieu, *et al.* Phenotypic characteristics and prognosis of inpatients with COVID-19 and diabetes: the CORONADO study. *Diabetologia* 2020; **IN PRESS**: 1–16.