Medication Treatments & Vaccine for COVID-19

There is no exact treatment for COVID-19. Here are medications that are currently being investigated as potential treatments for COVID-19.

**Remdesivir**
- An investigational antiviral agent originally developed to treat the Ebola virus
- Recent trial showed it reduced recovery time and deaths — more data analysis needed
- Current studies to determine efficacy and safety as a COVID-19 treatment

**Sarilumab, Tocilizumab**
- Human monoclonal antibody against the interleukin-6 receptor to treat rheumatoid arthritis
- Clinical trials to determine if it suppresses overactive immune response in COVID-19 patients
- Early results indicate it does not help hospitalized patients who are not using ventilators — they healed on their own
- Results pending as treatment for critical patients

**Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) & Azithromycin**
- Not recommended (by NIH) — potential abnormal heart rhythm and sudden death
- Small randomized trial (no control group) of hospitalized patients — 81% were sent home or to other health care units for continued treatment — 15% required oxygen therapy — 3.8% required transfer to the ICU — 1.2% died
- Clinical trials in development to test the safety and efficacy of this combination

**Chloroquine**
- Prevents and treats malaria
- Can treat a liver infection called extraintestinal amebiasis
- FDA cautions against using for COVID-19 outside the hospital setting — risk of heart rhythm problems
- Clinical trials do not show it effectively prevents or treats COVID-19

**Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®)**
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- Can treat lupus and rheumatoid arthritis
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**Vitamin C**
- No evidence that vitamin C prevents or treats COVID-19
- Taking more than 2000 mg per day of Vitamin C is not recommended — may cause diarrhea, nausea and abdominal pain

**Zinc**
- No evidence shows zinc supplements prevent or treat COVID-19
- Talk with doctor before starting or stopping drugs or supplements
Zinc may interact with prescription or over-the-counter drugs — too much can be harmful

Safety Concerns with non-COVID-19 Medications

Blood Pressure Medications (ACE-Inhibitors or ARBs)
- Treats high blood pressure by relaxing the blood vessels and decreasing blood volume
- Evidence does not support discontinuing blood pressure medicines with COVID-19 — American College of Cardiology
  - Dehydration, high potassium levels, high serum creatinine or other abnormal labs may indicate stopping these medications — IF doctor advises the change

Ibuprofen or Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory (NSAIDs) Medications
- Pain reliever and fever reducer
- No evidence indicates ibuprofen or other NSAIDs worsen COVID-19 symptoms
- WHO does not recommend against using ibuprofen

COVID-19 Vaccine

A vaccine injects parts of a virus into the cells near the injection site. The immune system recognizes those foreign cells and makes antibodies to fight and stop the virus from spreading. Currently, there is no vaccine for COVID-19. Vaccines can take years to create, but genetic engineering is being used to help create a vaccine for COVID-19 as quickly as possible.

  - National Jewish Health scientists and others around the world are working to develop a vaccine.
  - The U.S. government estimates that a COVID-19 vaccine is about 12-18 months away (from April 2020).
  - Here is a list of clinical trials are underway in the U.S. and other countries.

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