

**Question or request:**

1. Are there any updates based on recent studies or federal agency guidelines that would modify the previous recommendation for the use of **chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine**?

**Recommendation/s in bullet form:**

- Yes there are relevant updates. Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are no longer recommended for the treatment of COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 infection, with or without Azithromycin.

**Assessment:**

- Two recent meta-analyses showed that hydroxychloroquine had little or no benefit in treating other viral diseases and no benefit in treating COVID-19 patients.<sup>1, 2</sup>
- A National Institutes of Health panel updated the COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines<sup>3</sup> to reflect the results of large randomized controlled trials that enrolled hospitalized patients, and provided the following recommendations for hospitalized and nonhospitalized patients:
  - a. The Panel **recommends against** the use of **chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine** for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients.
  - b. In nonhospitalized patients, the Panel **recommends against** the use of **chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine** for the treatment of COVID-19, except in a clinical trial.

**Resources/Reference:**

<sup>1</sup> Wang, J., Yu, L., and Li, K., (2020) Benefits and Risks of Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine in The Treatment of Viral Diseases: A Meta-Analysis of Placebo Randomized Controlled Trials. medRxiv Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.13.20064295> [Accessed April 20, 2020]

<sup>2</sup> Shamshirian A, Hessami A, Hydari K, *et al.* Hydroxychloroquine versus COVID-19: a rapid systemic review and meta-analysis. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.14.20065276>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/antiviral-therapy/chloroquine-or-hydroxychloroquine-with-or-without-azithromycin/>