ASIA PACIFIC CENTER FOR EVIDENCE BASED HEALTHCARE

RAPID REVIEW GENERAL METHODS

Literature Search

We developed search strategies using both text words and medical subject headings (MeSH) related to COVID-19 and each intervention/diagnostic test/topic in question. Due to time considerations, only English articles were considered. We searched at least two electronic databases (MEDLINE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials). At least six trial registries were also searched for ongoing or recently completed relevant clinical trials (see Table 1). Grey literature from preprint databases (e.g chinaxiv.org, medrxiv.org) were also searched to augment yield. Interim guidelines on COVID-19 from CDC, WHO, and China were also reviewed for any recommendations for or against the intervention/diagnostic test.

Table 1. Clinical trial registries searched

Registry	Country
ClinicalTrials.gov https://clinicaltrials.gov/	USA
Chinese Clinical Trial Registry (ChiCTR) http://www.chictr.org.cn/searchprojen.aspx	China
EU Clinical Trials Register https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu/	Europe
Clinical Research Information Service (CRIS) https://cris.nih.go.kr/cris/en/use_guide/cris_introduce.jsp	Korea
Japan Primary Registries Network (JPRN) https://rctportal.niph.go.jp/en/	Japan
International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) https://apps.who.int/trialsearch/	WHO

Study Selection

A single reviewer screened abstract and citations. A second reviewer verified the screening and study selection whenever possible. Full reports were obtained for all titles that appeared to meet the following inclusion criteria:

- **Population:** Individuals with COVID-19 of any age, with any co-morbidities, any severity
- **Intervention:** specific intervention (any dose, any duration) or diagnostic test
- **Comparator:** placebo, any active control, no intervention
- **Outcomes:** any clinical outcomes
- **Study designs:** randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and quasi-RCTs, non-randomized studies (e.g., controlled before after, non-randomized trials), observational studies (e.g. cohort, case-control, cross-sectional)
- **Time period:** all periods of time and duration of follow-up

Data Extraction

The following data items were abstracted from each article: (a) study characteristics (e.g., author/s, year and month of publication, title, country where study was performed, study design), (b) participant characteristics (e.g., severity of disease, number, average age, age range, co-morbidities) (c) primary and

secondary outcomes (e.g., mortality, clinical improvement, diagnostic accuracy measures, etc.). For intervention studies, we extracted information related to the intervention (e.g., type of intervention, dose, route of administration, frequency, duration) and the comparison intervention. For studies related to diagnostics, we collected data on diagnostic performance measures, reference standard used, etc. At least one reviewer performed the data abstraction.

Critical Appraisal

At least one reviewer appraised the methodological quality of each included study. For randomized/non-randomized controlled trials, we used the appraisal tool by Dans et al., (2017). For observational studies, the Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale was used.

Synthesis

Results were synthesized using a narrative descriptions, detailed tables, and summary statistics. If applicable, a meta- analysis and/or network meta-analysis was conducted.

Deviation

Any deviation to the general methodology is found in the individual reviews.