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# Statement on the Use of Ivermectin As Treatment for COVID-19

*Evidence reviewed by the Philippine COVID-19 Living CPG Reviewers of the UP-NIH ICE and Consensus Panel Representatives of FDA-DOH, PMA, PCP, PAFP, POGS, PCEM, PSGIM, PCCP, PSPHP and PSMID.*

## Ivermectin

Ivermectin is an anti-helminthic drug repurposed as a potential therapy for COVID-19 because of its anti-viral properties and immunomodulatory effects. Based on in vitro studies, it prevents viruses from suppressing the host's antiviral response. As an immunomodulator, ivermectin may reduce cytokine secretion.<sup>(1-2)</sup>

A systematic review of 6 randomized controlled trials<sup>(3-8)</sup> of good methodological quality showed that:

- Ivermectin DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE the risk of mortality (Relative Risk 0.74 [0.33, 1.63]) among patients with mild to severe COVID-19 disease.
- Ivermectin was NOT ASSOCIATED with a definite benefit in terms of other clinically important outcomes such as clinical improvement at Day 6-10 (RR 1.01 [0.87, 1.16])<sup>(3,5,9-10)</sup>, clinical deterioration (RR 0.70 [0.37, 1.33])<sup>(3-6,10)</sup>, and need for mechanical ventilation (RR 0.42 [0.10, 1.86])<sup>(4-5,11)</sup>.
- Ivermectin DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE the duration of hospitalization (Mean Difference 0.83 days [-0.86, 2.52])<sup>(6,8)</sup>, and the time to resolution of symptoms (MD -0.32 days [-1.51, 0.87])<sup>(3-4)</sup>.
- The rate of hospital discharge at Day 10-14 DID NOT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY between the ivermectin group and the standard of care or placebo group (RR 1.04 [0.95, 1.14])<sup>(4,5,8)</sup>.

The adverse events reported with the use of ivermectin, although not significantly increased (RR 0.99 [0.73, 1.32]), include dizziness, headache, rash, and gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea.

**Based on the current evidence from randomized control trials, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND the use of Ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19. It has not been proven to significantly reduce mortality or improve other clinical outcomes. This recommendation will be updated as more evidence is generated from ongoing trials.**

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