

AN UMBRELLA REVIEW ON TREATMENTS AND THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR COVID-19

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ЗОНТИЧНЫЙ ОБЗОР ЛЕЧЕНИЯ И ТЕРАПЕВТИЧЕСКИХ ВАРИАНТОВ ПРИ COVID-19

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Abstract

Introduction: As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a significant challenge to global health, effective therapeutic options for preventing and treating the disease have become increasingly important. We aimed to provide an update on current treatments and therapeutic options for COVID-19 patients.

Methods: The purpose of this umbrella review is to explore the current treatments and therapeutic options for COVID-19 patients. Keywords and their combinations were searched across online databases in Embase, PubMed/MEDLINE, Web of Science, and Scopus spanning from July 1, 2020, through March 3, 2023. Publications were selected for data extraction in two steps based on the study inclusion/ exclusion criteria. The study adheres to the PRISMA checklist as well as NIH bias risk and quality assessment tool.

Results: In this review, 28 relevant articles were selected for the final qualitative synthesis. The majority of included studies had reported on the efficacy of Lopinavir/Ritonavir (n=4), Ivermectin (n=3), Baricitinib (n=2), Tocilizumab (n=2), Remdesivir (n=2), ACEI / ARB (n=2), Vitamin D (n=2), Molnupiravir (n=2), Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) (n=2), Convalescent plasma transfusion (CPT) (n=2) and hydroxychloroquine (n=2) in treating COVID-19. It appeared that Baricitinib, Remdesivir, ACEI/ARB, TCM, and CPT may have beneficial effects on reducing mortality, hospitalization duration, and disease severity in COVID-19 patients. Other interventions, such as Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Ivermectin, and Vitamin D, and Hydroxychloroquine did not show clear benefits or had inconclusive results.

Conclusion: This umbrella review provides a comprehensive overview of the current evidence on the effectiveness and safety of various pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for COVID-19. These results provide an updated overview of the current landscape for COVID-19 treatments, highlighting potential avenues for further research and clinical practice. It is crucial to continue monitoring emerging evidence and conducting rigorous studies to guide the development and optimization of therapeutic strategies against COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, Treatments, Therapeutic, Medicine, Umbrella review

Резюме

Введение: Поскольку пандемия COVID-19 продолжает представлять собой серьезную проблему для глобального здравоохранения, все более важными становятся эффективные терапевтические варианты профилактики и лечения этого заболевания. Мы стремились предоставить обновленную информацию о современных методах лечения для пациентов с COVID-19.

Методы: Целью данного обзора является изучение современных методов лечения и терапевтических возможностей для пациентов с COVID-19. Поиск ключевых слов и их комбинаций проводился в онлайн-базах данных Embase, PubMed/MEDLINE, Web of Science и Scopus с 1 июля 2020 г. по 3 марта 2023 г. Публикации отбирались для извлечения данных в два этапа на основе критериев включения / исключения. Исследование соответствует контрольному списку PRISMA, а также инструменту оценки риска и качества NIH.

Результаты: Для окончательного качественного синтеза в настоящем обзоре было отобрано 28 соответствующих статей. В большинстве включенных исследований сообщалось об эффективности лопинавира/ритонавира (n=4), ивермектина (n=3), барицитиниба (n=2), тоцилизумаба (n=2), ремдесивира (n=2), иАПФ/ БРА (n=2), витамин D (n=2), молнупиравир (n=2), традиционная китайская медицина (ТКМ) (n=2), переливание плазмы выздоравливающих (ППВ) (n=2) и гидроксихлорохин (n=2)) при лечении COVID-19. Оказалось, что барицитиниб, ремдесивир, иАПФ/БРА, ТКМ и ППВ могут оказывать благотворное влияние на снижение смертности, продолжительности госпитализации и тяжести заболевания у пациентов с COVID-19. Другие вмешательства, такие как

лопинавир/ритонавир, ивермектин, витамин D и гидроксихлорохин, не показали явных преимуществ или имели неубедительные результаты.

Заключение: Мы предоставили всесторонний обзор текущих данных об эффективности и безопасности различных фармакологических и нефармакологических вмешательств при COVID-19, акцентируя потенциальных направлениях для дальнейших исследований и клинической практики. Крайне важно продолжать мониторинг новых данных и проводить тщательные исследования для разработки и оптимизации терапевтических стратегий против COVID-19.

Ключевые слова: COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, лечение, терапия, медицина, зонтичный обзор.

1 Introduction

2 The COVID-19 pandemic has posed a significant challenge
3 to global health, with millions of cases and deaths reported worldwide,
4 The COVID-19 pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2
5 has become a global public health emergency (30,39). As the world
6 continues to grapple with the pandemic, there has been a growing need for
7 effective therapeutic options to prevent and treat COVID-19 (28, 35).
8 Several potential therapeutic opportunities have emerged,
9 including antiviral drugs, monoclonal antibody therapies, anti-
10 inflammatory drugs, convalescent plasma therapy, and vaccines (7). In this
11 context, ongoing research and development of treatments and prevention
12 measures have become critical in managing the COVID-19 pandemic (12)
13 and effective therapeutic options for preventing and treating the disease
14 have become increasingly important (28, 24, 25).

15 The pandemic has highlighted the need to develop treatment guidelines based
16 on current and reliable evidence, rather than relying solely on past experiences and
17 theories. Although various potential therapeutic opportunities have emerged,
18 including antiviral drugs, monoclonal antibody therapies, anti-inflammatory
19 drugs, convalescent plasma therapy, and vaccines, it is essential to frequently review
20 and revise these guidelines due to the rapid pace at which new evidence can emerge
21 during a crisis (4). The rapidly changing nature of information during a crisis means
22 that guidelines can quickly become outdated, and it is important to stay up-to-date
23 on the latest developments in order to provide the best possible care. By continually
24 revising guidelines, healthcare professionals can ensure that they are providing the
25 most effective and evidence-based treatments to their patients (13, 17).

26 Against this background, It is crucial to emphasize the importance of ongoing
27 research to fully understand the effectiveness and safety of COVID-19 treatment and
28 prevention options. This review provides a brief overview of some of the potential
29 options for COVID-19, highlighting benefits and the need for ongoing research to
30 fully understand their effectiveness and the safety of current therapeutic options.

31 **1. Methods**

32 This review investigated currently available treatments and therapeutic
33 options for COVID-19 patients and elaborate on the implications and potential
34 adverse effects. This study adheres to items of the Preferred Reporting Items for
35 Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) checklist. **The risk of bias for**
36 **included studies was assessed by the National Institute of Health (NIH) quality**
37 **and bias risk assessment tool.**

38

39 **2.1. Data sources**

40 We performed a comprehensive search on the online database of Embase,
41 PubMed/ MEDLINE, Web of Science, and Scopus. Combining the relevant
42 keywords and search queries all the relevant articles published in the English
43 language were browsed and retrieved from July 1st, 2020, to March 3rd, 2023. The
44 comprehensive list of queries in different databases is provided in **Supplementary**
45 **Material 1**. Here is an example of a search query in the PubMed/MEDLINE
46 database,

47 (("COVID-19"[mesh] OR "SARS-CoV-2"[mesh] OR COVID-19[tiab] OR
48 SARS-CoV-2[tiab] OR coronavirus disease 2019[tiab] OR severe acute respiratory
49 syndrome coronavirus 2[tiab] OR 2019 nCoV [tiab] OR SARS Coronavirus 2[tiab])
50 AND ("Therapeutics"[mesh] OR Therapeutic [tiab] OR Therapy [tiab] OR
51 Therapies[tiab] OR Treatment[tiab] OR Medicine [tiab] OR Drug[tiab] OR
52 Medication[tiab]) NOT (Vaccine[ti] OR Vaccination[ti]))

53 **2.2. Study selection**

54 To ensure the selection of the most appropriate studies, we employed two
55 distinct selection steps. Initially, three research staff screened titles and abstracts of
56 the retrieved articles. In the next step, three other researchers conducted a thorough
57 full-text review of the initially selected articles. Pertinent publications that met the
58 inclusion/ exclusion criteria were included for data extraction. The inclusion criteria
59 were as follows: The study had to a systematic review, written in English, peer-
60 reviewed prior to publication, and published in the allocated time period (July 1st

61 2020- March 3rd 2023). Studies were excluded if they were original articles,
62 duplicated, non-human research models, ongoing experiments and/ or lacking
63 published data, conference abstracts or abstracts without accessible full texts,
64 preprint papers, editorial letters, case reports, or series.

65 **2.3. Data extraction**

66 Three researchers extracted the necessary data from the eligible articles. A
67 preplanned spreadsheet was used to record the detailed information, which is
68 presented in Table 2. Any potential duplicates were removed, and the accuracy of
69 the extracted data was verified by other members of the research team.

70

71

72 **2.4. Quality and bias risk evaluation**

73 The quality and precision of the studies and reported results
74 were assured by adhering to the items outlined in the Preferred
75 Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
76 (PRISMA) checklist. Additionally, the National Institute of Health
77 (NIH) quality and bias risk assessment tool was used to assess and
78 minimize the potential risk of bias in the selected studies. Table 1
79 presents the results of the quality assessment. The questionnaire at the
80 bottom of the table was used by two researchers to rate the included
81 studies.

82

82 **2. Results**

83 In this review, we identified a total of 4,717 relevant sources.
84 After an initial check, 805 duplicate articles were excluded, and the
85 remaining 3,912 articles were screened based on the relevancy of titles
86 and abstracts through which 3,561 resources were excluded. From the
87 remaining 351 articles, 323 were excluded as they have not met the
88 eligibility criteria. These excluded studies were non-English studies
89 (n=32), enduring studies (n=53), systematic review protocols (n=24),
90 non-human studies (n=85), studies unrelated to treatment and

91 **medicine (n=113), and non-full-text studies (n=16). Ultimately, 28**
92 **articles most relevant to the study objective were selected for the final**
93 **review.**

94

95

96 **Figure 1** -PRISMA 2020 flow diagram of study retrieval process

97

98

99 **3.1 Available Treatment for COVID-19**

100 A total of 28 potential treatment regimens were identified for COVID-19 as
101 shown in **Table 2**. The majority of included studies reported on the efficacy of
102 Lopinavir/Ritonavir (n=4), Ivermectin (n=3), Baricitinib (n=2), Tocilizumab (n=2),
103 Remdesivir (n=2), ACEI / ARB (n=2), Vitamin D (n=2), Molnupiravir (n=2),
104 Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) (n=2), Convalescent plasma transfusion (CPT)
105 n=2) and hydroxychloroquine (n=2) in treating COVID-19.

106 Despite many studies on *Lopinavir/Ritonavir*, which have shown no specific
107 adverse effects, current research still lacks strong evidence regarding its antiviral
108 effects against COVID-19. *Ivermectin* shows potential effectiveness in mild-
109 moderate COVID-19 patients. However, further studies are needed. One study
110 indicated that in the absence of antiviral treatments, cautious administration of
111 Ivermectin can be considered. Studies showed that *Baricitinib* (which is a type of
112 JAK inhibitor) along with Sarilumab, served as a good alternative for COVID-19
113 treatment and it can lead to a reduction in mortality rate among hospitalized patients
114 with moderate-severe COVID-19. It appeared that *Molnupiravir*, which is a prodrug
115 for Hydroxycytidine, could reduce the hospitalization and mortality rates in high-risk
116 COVID-19 patients. Some studies have demonstrated the potential of *Chinese*
117 *traditional and herbal medicine* as an alternative for the prevention, treatment, and
118 rehabilitation of COVID-19 patients. Furthermore, recent studies have indicated that
119 certain drugs can be beneficial in specific subgroups of COVID-19 patients. For
120 instance, *ACE/ARB* has shown potential effectiveness in reducing ICU admission

121 and mortality rate among individuals with hypertension who were previously using
122 ACE/ARB. Additionally, *Convalescent Plasma Therapy (CPT)* has demonstrated
123 effectiveness in patients with hematological malignancies, while *Remdesivir* has
124 shown positive outcomes in non-ventilated hospitalized patients.
125 *Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir*, sold under the name *Paxlovid*, a combination of the SARS-
126 CoV-2 protease inhibitor nirmatrelvir, and ritonavir, a CYP3A4 inhibitor, is one of
127 the best therapeutic choices for high-risk patients in reducing all-cause mortality and
128 hospital admission. In people without prior or concomitant therapies low- to
129 moderate-certainty evidence revealed that nirmatrelvir/ritonavir can be safe.

130

131 **Table 1.** Quality/Bias risk ratings of the included studies according to the
132 NIH quality assessment tool

133 NIH = National Institutes of Health; CD = cannot determine; NR = not
134 reported; NA = not applicable

135 *The NIH Quality Assessment Tool for Systematic reviews and Meta-
136 Analysis (<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/study-quality-assessment-tools>)
137 contains 8 questions: 1 = Is the review based on a focused question?, 2=Were
138 eligibility criteria for included and excluded studies predefined and specified?, 3 =
139 Did the literature search strategy use a comprehensive, systematic approach?, 4 =
140 Were titles, abstracts and full-text articles dually and independently reviewed for
141 inclusion and exclusion to minimize bias?, 5 = Was the quality of each included
142 study rated independently by two or more reviewers using a standard method to
143 appraise its internal validity?, 6 = Were the included studies listed along with
144 important characteristics and results of each study?, 7 = Was publication bias
145 assessed?, 8 = Was heterogeneity assessed

146

147 **Table 2.** Description of the findings reported in the eligible studies

148 Discussion

149 The main objective of this umbrella review was to evaluate and summarize
150 the existing evidence on the potential treatments and therapeutic options for COVID-

151 19 patients. The review provides a comprehensive overview of the current
152 knowledge in this field. A total of 28 systematic reviews and meta-analyses were
153 included in this review and encompassed a wide range of treatment modalities,
154 including antiviral drugs, immunomodulators, JAK inhibitors, Convalescent plasma
155 transfusion (CPT), Traditional Medicine and Supplementary medicine. The most
156 frequently used therapies in selected studies were Lopinavir/Ritonavir (n=4),
157 Ivermectin (n=3), Baricitinib (n=2), Tocilizumab (n=2), Remdesivir (n=2), ACEI /
158 ARB (n=2), Vitamin D (n=2), Molnupiravir (n=2), Traditional Chinese medicine
159 (TCM) (n=2), Convalescent plasma transfusion (CPT) (n=2) and
160 hydroxychloroquine (n=2).

161 *Lopinavir/Ritonavir* is a combination of protease inhibitors that has been used
162 to treat HIV infection and was also effective against SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV in
163 vitro and in animal models (36). Some previous studies reported that there is no
164 significant difference between Lopinavir/Ritonavir and standard care in terms of
165 mortality, viral clearance, or adverse events (19). In our review, Lopinavir/Ritonavir
166 did not show clear benefits in terms of hospitalization duration and time to negative
167 PCR in mild diseases (27, 29, 32).

168 *Ivermectin* is an antiparasitic agent that inhibits the replication of viruses in
169 vitro. The molecular hypothesis of Ivermectin's antiviral mode of action suggests an
170 inhibitory effect on severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-
171 2) replication in the early stages of infection (33). One of three studies that evaluated
172 Ivermectin, indicated that it has potential effectiveness in treating mild to moderately
173 ill patients. However, its role as an antiviral drug against COVID-19 in clinical
174 setting is not clear yet as the other two studies were inconclusive (27, 33, 47).

175 *Baricitinib* is a Janus kinase (JAK1/JAK2) inhibitor developed to treat
176 patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. JAK-STAT signaling is critical to
177 multiple cellular processes, including survival, differentiation, and proliferation
178 (45). The conclusion of two studies that examined Baricitinib was in line, as they
179 concluded Baricitinib is an alternative to Tocilizumab -Which is a recombinant
180 humanized anti-IL-6 receptor monoclonal antibody that has been approved for use

181 in patients with rheumatologic disorders and chimeric antigen receptor T cell-
182 induced cytokine release syndrome (46) for reducing mortality in COVID-19
183 patients admitted to the hospital and undergoing corticosteroid treatment. Systemic
184 JAK inhibitors reduce all-cause mortality in hospitalized individuals with moderate-
185 severe COVID-19 (1, 15).

186 *Remdesivir* is a nucleotide analog that inhibits viral RNA polymerase and has
187 broad-spectrum antiviral activity against several RNA viruses, including SARS-
188 CoV-2 (3). Studies have shown that in non-ventilated hospitalized patients with
189 COVID-19 who did not require ventilation, Remdesivir can decrease mortality. It is
190 important to note that Remdesivir is associated with specific adverse effects, such
191 as significant bradycardia, so rigorous attention is needed during the administration
192 of this drug in COVID-19 patients (2, 27).

193 The ACEI / ARB drug class was analyzed in two studies included in this
194 review. The findings of these studies were consistent. The first study examined the
195 use of ACE/ARB among COVID-19 patients of East Asian descent and found no
196 adverse outcomes. Additionally, ACEI/ARB use was associated with shorter
197 hospitalization and reduced mortality rates. The beneficial effects of ACEI/ARB
198 were more pronounced in individuals with hypertension, and the reduction in
199 hospitalization was greater in females compared to males. In the second study, it was
200 concluded that prior ACEI/ARB treatment was linked to lower hospital mortality,
201 ICU admission, and the need for Intermittent Mandatory Ventilation (IMV) in
202 COVID-19 patients (14, 20).

203 Two studies investigating the effects of *vitamin D* supplementation, with one
204 study combining it with vitamin C, were included in this review. Vitamin D plays a
205 role in modulating the innate immune response, while vitamin C possesses
206 antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antithrombotic, and immunomodulatory functions.
207 Administration of vitamins C and D to COVID-19 patients did not demonstrate any
208 influence on disease susceptibility, severity, or progression. Importantly, no adverse
209 events were observed in the trials, indicating the safety of vitamin D supplements at
210 the examined doses (26, 44).

211 *Molnupiravir* is an antiviral drug similar to Remdesivir, targeting the RNA-
212 dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) enzyme utilized by the coronavirus for
213 transcription and replication of its viral RNA genome (43). Two reviews
214 encompassing a total of 7 randomized controlled trials (RCTs) provide evidence that
215 Molnupiravir shows promise as a valuable agent, significantly reducing the risk of
216 hospitalization or death in high-risk/mild COVID-19 patients. Additionally, it may
217 benefit non-pregnant, unvaccinated adults with COVID-19 who face an elevated risk
218 of severity and hospitalization. Another advantageous feature of Molnupiravir is its
219 cost-effectiveness. The drug has demonstrated good tolerance and safety with no
220 significant adverse events reported in short-term use at doses ranging from 50-800
221 mg BID or a single dose up to 1600 mg (23, 42, 43).

222 *Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)* is a holistic approach that uses herbal
223 formulas, acupuncture, moxibustion, and other modalities to treat various diseases
224 based on the principles of yin-yang balance, qi circulation, and organ function. TCM
225 has been widely used in China to prevent and treat COVID-19 patients with different
226 disease stages and syndromes. Two comprehensive reviews, comprising a total of
227 76 randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and 101 reviews, have reached a consensus
228 that TCM shows promise as an alternative approach for treatment, rehabilitation,
229 and prevention. Furthermore, when used alone or in conjunction with conventional
230 medicine, TCM has demonstrated benefits in alleviating symptoms among patients
231 with acute respiratory infections. Notably, one intervention that emerged as
232 commonly utilized was Xuebijing (XBJ) injection (18, 21).

233 *Convalescent plasma therapy (CPT)* involves the use of plasma collected from
234 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19. This plasma contains neutralizing
235 antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. CPT has been utilized as a passive
236 immunotherapy for COVID-19 patients, aiming to transfer immunity from donors
237 to recipients (10). One study has demonstrated that CPT can serve as an effective
238 supportive therapy for COVID-19 patients with hematological malignancies. The
239 findings indicate that CPT may lead to improved clinical outcomes, including higher
240 survival rates, enhanced clearance of SARS-CoV-2, presence of anti-SARS-CoV-2

241 antibodies, shorter hospital discharge time, and better recovery after one month of
242 CPT. Importantly, the treatment did not show any association with adverse events.
243 (31, 41). Data on the effectiveness of *Hydroxychloroquine* as an antimalarial used
244 for treating COVID-19 patients were inconclusive (27, 31). While there has been an
245 umbrella study on the effects of Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine therapy in
246 COVID-19 (5), no umbrella review has compared different classes of therapeutic
247 options.

248 In addition to the above-mentioned treatments, this umbrella review discussed
249 other therapeutic options for COVID-19 patients. These include Thymosin alpha
250 (Ta1), anticoagulants, other antivirals (such as Nirmatrelvir, Saquinavir,
251 Favipiravir), Ultra-violet radiation therapy, Colchicine, Arbidol, N-acetyl cysteine
252 (NAC), Ayurvedic medicines, JAK inhibitors (such as Tofacitinib, Ruxolitinib,
253 Sarilumab), SSRI (Fluvoxamine), Clozapine, Quercetin and Anakinra
254 (immunomodulator). Among these treatment options, Ayurvedic medicines, JAK
255 inhibitors (such as Tofacitinib, Ruxolitinib, Sarilumab), SSRI (Fluvoxamine),
256 colchicine, and Quercetin have shown to be beneficial in treating COVID-19 (6, 9,
257 15, 22, 38). On the other hand, NAC, anticoagulants, Clozapine, and Anakinra were
258 non-beneficial (8, 11, 16, 34). In the case of Thymosin alpha1 (Ta1), the findings
259 suggest that Ta1 therapy does not have a statistically significant impact on mortality.
260 However, subgroup analyses indicated a beneficial effect on mortality in patients
261 over 60 years of age, with a proportion of females less than 40%, and with severe
262 COVID-19 (40).

263 The main limitations of this systematic review are the heterogeneity of the
264 included studies in terms of design, population, intervention, comparator, outcome,
265 and quality; the lack of meta-analysis due to the scarcity and diversity of data; and
266 the possibility of publication bias due to the rapid emergence and dissemination of
267 COVID-19 literature. Therefore, the results of this review should be interpreted with
268 caution and updated regularly. Despite the extensive research conducted on
269 treatments for COVID-19, there are still gaps and areas of uncertainty in the existing
270 evidence. For example, there is limited evidence on the effectiveness of certain

271 antiviral drugs or immunomodulatory therapies. Additionally, the long-term effects
272 of these treatments and their impact on specific patient populations, such as pregnant
273 women or individuals with comorbidities, require further investigation. Therefore,
274 more high-quality RCTs are needed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of these
275 treatments and to identify the optimal dose, duration, timing, and combination of
276 interventions for different subgroups of COVID-19 patients.

277 **Conclusion**

278 In conclusion, this umbrella review offers a comprehensive overview of the
279 current evidence on the effectiveness and safety of various pharmacological and
280 non-pharmacological interventions for COVID-19. Based on the included studies,
281 we found that some interventions, such as Baricitinib, Remdesivir, ACEI/ARB,
282 TCM, and CPT may have beneficial effects on reducing mortality, hospitalization
283 duration, and disease severity in COVID-19 patients. However, the results should be
284 interpreted with caution due to the heterogeneity and potential bias of the studies.
285 Other interventions, such as Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Ivermectin, Vitamin D, and
286 Hydroxychloroquine did not demonstrate clear benefits or provided inconclusive
287 results. Therefore, additional high-quality randomized controlled trials are needed
288 to confirm the efficacy and safety of these interventions, while also investigating
289 optimal dosage, duration, and timing. Furthermore, future research should also
290 consider the potential interactions, adverse events, and cost-effectiveness of the
291 interventions, as well as the individual characteristics and preferences of the patients.
292 The results of this study can be useful for clinicians and physicians who need
293 evidence to choose the best treatment in a critical situation such as COVID-19.

294 **Declarations**

295 *-Ethics approval and consent to participate:* Not applicable

296 *-Consent to publication:* Not applicable

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298 provided in this article could be shared.

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ТАБЛИЦЫ

Table 1. Quality/Bias risk ratings of the included studies according to the NIH quality assessment tool

Reference	Questions								Rating by reviewers	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	#1	#2
(1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Good
(2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Good
(6)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Good
(8)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Good
(9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Good
(11)	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Fair	Good
(14)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Good
(15)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	NA	Good	Fair
(16)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	NA	Fair	Fair
(18)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Good
(20)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Good
(21)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	NA	Fair	Good
(22)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	NA	Fair	Fair
(23)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR	Yes	No	NA	Good	Good
(26)	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR	Yes	Yes	No	NA	Fair	Fair
(27)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Good	Good
(29)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	NA	Good	Good
(31)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	NA	Fair	Good
(32)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NR	No	Fair	Fair
(34)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NR	Yes	Fair	Fair
(33)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Good
(37)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Fair
(38)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Good
(40)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Fair
(41)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR	No	Fair	Fair
(42)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Good
(44)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Fair
(47)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	NA	Good	Fair

NIH = National Institutes of Health; CD = cannot determine; NR = not reported; NA = not applicable

*The NIH Quality Assessment Tool for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis (<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/study-quality-assessment-tools>) contains 8 questions: 1 = Is the review based on a focused question?, 2=Were eligibility criteria for included and excluded studies predefined and specified?, 3 = Did the literature search strategy use a comprehensive, systematic approach?, 4 = Were titles, abstracts and full-text articles dually and independently reviewed for inclusion and exclusion to minimize bias?, 5 = Was the quality of each included study rated independently by two or more reviewers using a standard method to appraise its internal validity?, 6 = Were the included studies listed along with important characteristics and results of each study?, 7 = Was publication bias assessed?, 8 = Was heterogeneity assessed?

Table 2. Description of the findings reported in the eligible studies

Reference	Country	Method (search date and searched databases)	Number of review studies	Current treatment/medicine	Therapeutic dose	Clinical considerations	Main findings
(1)	Brazil	Pubmed/ EMBASE/Cochrane library/MedRxiv October 7, 2020 – April 30, 2022	27 RCT	Baricitinib Sarilumab Tocilizumab	Not reported	Baricitinib has not been studied in severe renal failure and cannot be given in pregnancy	Baricitinib and Sarilumab are alternatives to Tocilizumab for reducing mortality in COVID-19 patients admitted to the hospital and undergoing corticosteroid treatment.
(2)	Switzerland	Pubmed/ EMBASE/Cochrane COVID-19 trial registry/ Clinical trial. gov/ International Clinical Trial Registry Platform/ preprint servers January 1, 2020 – April 11, 2022	9 RCT	Remdesivir	Not reported	Remdesivir has specific side effects (eg, severe bradycardia),	In non-ventilated hospitalized patients with COVID19 who did not require ventilation, Remdesivir demonstrated a decrease in mortality.
(6)	Pakistan	Pubmed/ The Cochrane Library / EMBASE Inception – October 5, 2022	6 RCT	Quercetin	Safe up to 500mg per day	Quercetin is a cheap and easily accessible therapeutic option for COVID-19 patient	The administration of Quercetin, especially in its phytosome formulation can provide benefits for COVID 19 patients by improving its bioavailability.
(8)	Germany	Medline/ EMBASE/Clinicaltrial.org/MedRxiv/WHO International Clinical Trial Registry Platform/CCSR Inception- December 13, 2021	5 RCT	Anakinra	Not reported	Anakinra might be beneficial in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 with low-flow/high-flow oxygen therapy and suPAR>6 ng/ml	When compared to placebo or standard care alone, Anakinra does not exhibit any impact on mortality, clinical improvement, worsening or safety outcomes in adult hospitalized patients with COVID 19
(9)	Canada	Medline/EMBASE/Pubmed/Web of science/CENTRAL/CINAHL/International pharmaceutical abstracts January 1, 2020- December 17, 2022	6 RCT 3 Cohort study 1 Case-Control 1 Non-randomized clinical trial	SSRI(Fluvoxamine)	50-100mg Bid	100mg bid is more effective than 50mg bid	Fluvoxamine is a potential therapy in COVID19 out-patients with medium doses showing more favorable results in comparison with low doses.
(11)	Australia	Medline/EMBASE/Pubmed/PsycINFO November 2021- July7, 2022	8 Retrospective cohort 2 Prospective cohort 3 Cross-sectional study 1 Case-Control 1 Case-Series 3 Retrospective chart review	Clozapine	Not reported	There was a reduction in neutrophil level in Covid19 positive clozapine users	There is no evidence suggesting that the immune system of Clozapine users put them at risk of COVID 19. It is still crucial to closely monitor these patients.
(14)	China	Pubmed/Embase/Cochrane Library January 2000- May 2022	26 Retrospective cohort 2 Prospective cohort	ACEI / ARB	Not reported	The effect of ACEI/ARB is more obvious in HTN population. The reduction of hospitalization in female is more than male	Use of ACE/ARB among EAST-Asian COVID 19 patients did not show any adverse outcomes and was associated with shorter hospitalization and reduced mortality rates

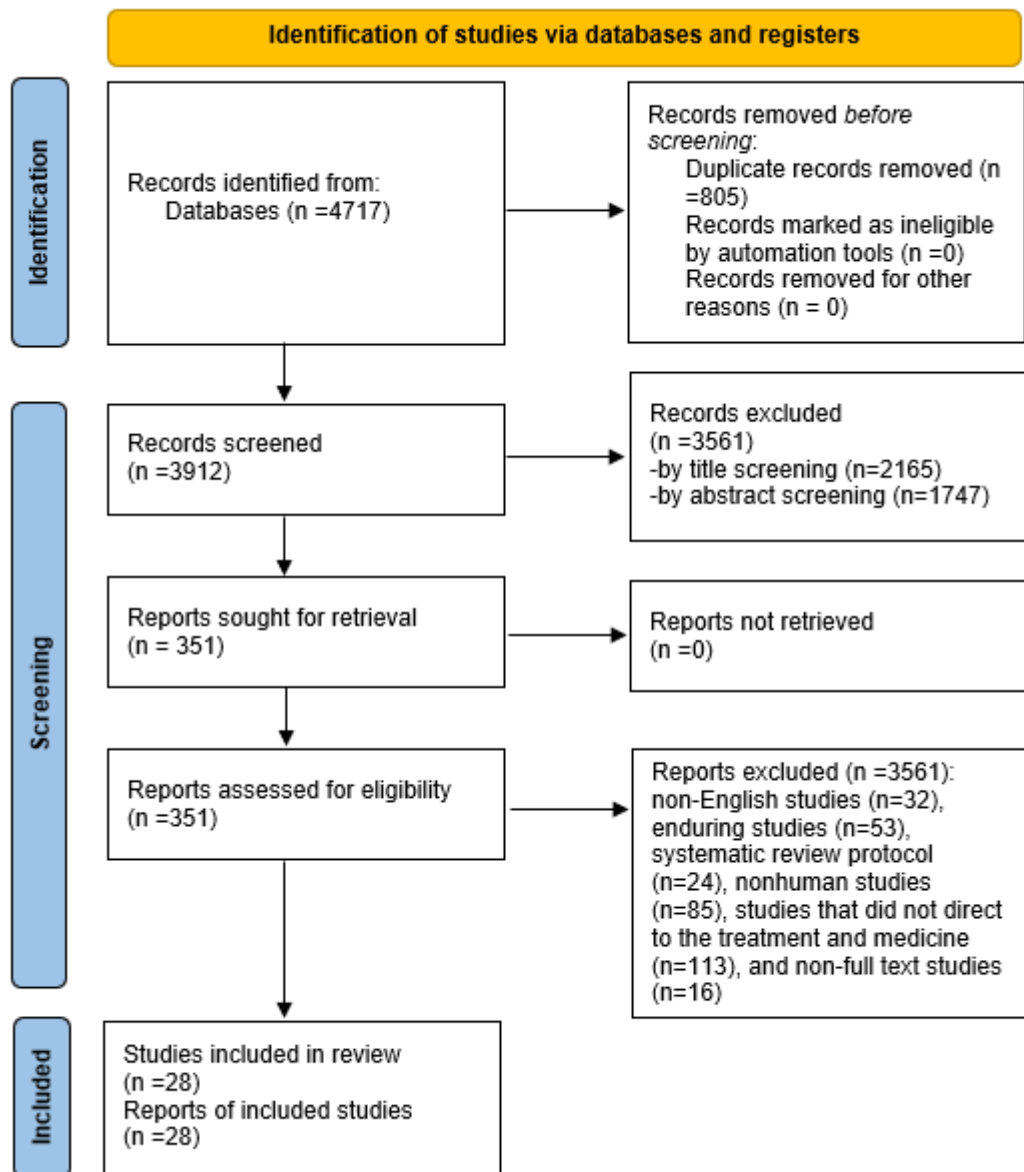
(15)	Germany	Medline/ EMBASE/ClinicalTrials.gov/ WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform/medRxiv/ Cochrane Central Register of controlled trials/VA ESP/WHO Covid-19Global Literature Inception- February 2022	6 RCT	Janus Kinase Inhibitors: Baricitinib Tofacitinib Ruxolitinib	Not reported	There is no evidence on the efficacy and safety of systemic JAK inhibitors for non-hospitalized individuals	Systemic JAK inhibitors reduce all-cause mortality in hospitalized individuals with moderate-severe COVID 19.
(16)	Indonesia	Pubmed/Science direct Inception – October 4, 2021	6 RCT	Anticoagulants in prophylactic vs. intermedial/therapeutic doses	Not reported	The incidence of bleeding at the intermediate/therapeutic doses compared to the prophylactic dose	There was no significant differences in thromboembolic events or all-cause mortality
(18)	China	Campbell Library/ Cochrane Library/ EMBASE/ PubMed/ Web of Science/ CBM/ CNKI/ CQVIP/ WanFang Data Inception – March 23, 2022	76 RCT 50 Systematic Review	TCMs (Traditional chinese medicine)	Not reported	XBJ as a TCM was the most common intervention	In terms of treatment, rehabilitation and prevention TCM is a promising alternative.
(20)	China	PubMed/ the Cochrane Library/ Ovid/ Embase December 1, 2019-April 30, 2022	4 RCT 5 Retrospective cohort 1 Prospective cohort 1 Non-experimental comparative study	ACEI/ARB	Not reported	The effects of continuing ACE/ARB treatment may have been influenced by factors such as male sex and the presence of D.M	Previous ACEI/ARB treatment was associated with lower hospital mortality, ICU admission, and IMV in patients with COVID-19
(21)	China	CBM/ CNKI/ Wanfang/ PubMed/ Cochrane Library/ EMBASE /preprint platforms Date of database creation- March 31, 2021	51 Systematic Reviews	CHM (Chinese Herbal Medicine)	Not reported	clinical evidence of the benefits of CHM for acute respiratory infections such as COVID-19, SARS, and H1N1 seems more sufficient than other acute infections	Chinese herbal medicine, used alone or in combination with conventional medicine has benefits in relieving symptoms of patients with acute respiratory infections.
(22)	India	LitCOVID/ Google Scholar/ Science Direct/ EBSCO/ Scopus / Web of Science/ EMBASE Search date not reported	11 RCTs 4 Case reports 1 Case-series 4 Retrospective cohort 3 Non-randomized clinical trial 2 Pilot and prosspective comparative studies	Ayurvedic medicines and formulations: Ayush-64 Guduchi Ghana vati Chyawanprash	Not reported 500mg BD 500mg BD 12-24gr BD	Ayurvedic medicines have antiviral, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and immunomodulatory properties	Ayurvedic medicines can be combined with standard treatments to aid in early virus detection, accelerate recovery from COVID-19, expedite hospital discharge, and prevent further deterioration.
(23)	India	PubMed/ MedRxiv/ BioRxiv/ FDA/ ClinicalTrials. Gov/ ctri.nic.in / Google Scholar January 2021- March 2022	6 RCT : 4 Published 2 Unpublished	Molnupiravir	50-800 mg Bid Or Single dose Up to 1600mg	The drug is well tolerated and safe with no significant adverse events on short-term use	Clinical studies provide evidence that Molnupiravir significantly reduces the risk of hospitalization or death in high-risk mild COVID-19 patients

(26)	Germany	Pubmed/ Embase/ Scopus / Google Scholar No time constrain	9 RCTs 9 Retrospective cohorts 2 Prospective cohorts 2 Cross-sectional study 1 Case-control	Vitamin C and D Supplementation	Not reported	Vitamin D modulates the innate immune response Vitamin C has antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antithrombotic, and immunomodulatory functions.	Administration of vitamins C and D in COVID-19 patients doesn't impact disease susceptibility, severity, and progression.
(27)	Iran	PubMed/ Scopus/ Web of Sciences Inception- January1, 2022	46 Reviews	Main intervention: Favipiravir Remdesivir Hydroxychloroq ine Ivermectin Lopinavir/Ritonavir Tocilizumab	Not reported	Not reported	The main limitations observed in the included studies were heterogeneity, sample size, follow-up, treatment variations, study design, definitions, synthesis, quality, and search methodology
(29)	Iran	PubMed/ Scopus/ Web of Sciences/Embase December 2019-March 2021	266 in Silico 34 in Vitro 15 in Vivo	Main intervention: Saquinavir Ritonavir Lopinavir Herbal medicine	Not reported	Discovering drugs that have multitarget antiviral and anti-inflammatory actions is crucial due to the nature of COVID19- Certain herbal medicine exhibit this potential.	For antiviral development, the main focus has been on targeting the protease and spike glycoprotein.
(31)	Greece	Pubmed/Medline and Embase September 2022	3 RCTs 4 Retrospective cohorts 1 Prospective cohort	N-acetyl cysteine (NAC)	The studies by Mousapour, Taher, and de Alencar used 1 g/12 h, 40 mg/kg/day, and 21 g (divided into two doses) respectively	Due to the limited certainty of evidence presented in the studies, it is not possible to provide recommendations for clinical practices.	In RCTs, the point estimates for hard clinical outcomes tend to be near the null effect line (lack of significant impact). Observational studies show heterogeneity, with certain studies suggesting positive outcomes.
(32)	India	Google Scholar January 2020 to May 2020	49 Studies	Hydroxychloroquine, Lopinavir and Ritonavir, Ultra-violet radiation therapy, Convalescent plasma transfusion (CPT) therapy.	Not reported	New drugs are in the premature stage of this pandemic. Further research is needed to fully understand the life cycle of n.COVID and expedite the development of drugs and vaccines.	ICMR and NIH provide guidelines for Hydroxychloroquine and other antiviral drugs. Ongoing research includes natural products, herbs, combination therapy, UV radiation, MD simulations for vaccine development, and CPT.
(34)	USA	Google Scholar and PubMed and medRxiv Search date not reported	3 Cohort 1 Case-control 1RCT 2 Comparative studies	Arbidol, Lopinavir/Ritonavir	Not reported	Adverse reactions were rarely reported including ECG changes, GI symptoms, bacterial infections, and hepatic and renal dysfunction.	Antiviral regimens did not show clear benefits in terms of hospitalization duration and time to negative PCR in mild diseases.
(33)	Germany	Cochrane COVID-19 Study Register, Scopus, and WHO COVID-19 Global literature on coronavirus disease database Inception- July 2022	1 RCT 8 Ongoing studies	Nirmatrelvir combined with Ritonavir	Not reported	Ritonavir's role as a CYP3A4 inhibitor, makes Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir prone to drug interactions, especially in patients with comorbidities.	Low certainty evidence suggests that Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir reduces the risk of all-cause mortality, and hospital admission/death in high-risk, unvaccinated COVID-19 patients with symptom onset within 5 days. Low –moderate certainty

							evidence suggests the safety of Nirmatrelvir /Ritonavir in patients without prior-concomitant therapies that rely on CYP3A4
(37)	USA	EMBASE, PubMed, medRxiv, Scopus, Prospero, and Google Scholar inception - February 2021	4 RCTs 2 Retrospective cohorts 2 Case-controls	Colchicine	Not reported	The use of Colchicine for treating COVID-19 is not recommended. Additional high-quality, multicenter RCTs are needed.	3 observational studies showed a decrease in all-cause mortality. 1 observational study showed a decrease in the risk of mechanical ventilation. 2 RCTs showed a reduction in hospitalization.
(38)	Germany	Cochrane COVID-19 Study Register, Web of Science (Emerging Citation Index and Science Citation Index), medRxiv, and Research Square Inception -May 2021	11 RCTs	Ivermectin	Not reported	The existing reliable evidence does not support the use of Ivermectin as an effective treatment or preventive measure for COVID-19.	Evidence for the effectiveness of Ivermectin in treating COVID-19 is currently uncertain for both in-patients and out-patients with limited/no beneficial effects in different aspects such as viral clearance-clinical improvement and adverse events.
(40)	China	PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane Library, Web of Science databases Inception-October 25, 2022.	7 Retrospective cohorts 2 RCTs	Thymosin alpha (Ta1)	Not reported	This meta-analysis does not provide support for the utilization of Ta1 in hospitalized adult COVID-19 patients.	The meta-analysis results suggest that Ta1 therapy does not have a statistically significant impact on mortality. Subgroup analyses show a beneficial effect on mortality in patients >60 years with a proportion of females<40% and with severe COVID-19.
(41)	Australia	PubMed, Web of Science, ScienceDirect, and Scopus Inception- June 2022	5 Retrospective cohorts 12 Case reports 1 Case series	Convalescent plasma Therapy (CPT)	Not reported	CPT is an effective supportive therapy for COVID-19 patients with hematological malignancies	CPT may lead to improved clinical outcomes, including higher survival rates, enhanced clearance of SARS-COV-2, presence of anti-SARS-COV-2 antibodies, shorter hospital discharge time, and better recovery after one month of CPT. The treatment was not associated with adverse events.
(42)	India	PubMed, MedRxiv and Google Scholar October 2021- January 2022.	1 RCT 13 Preclinical studies	Molnupiravir	Not reported	Molnupiravir may benefit non-pregnant, unvaccinated adults with COVID-19 who face an elevated risk of severity and hospitalization.	Molnupiravir shows promise as a useful agent in reducing death and composite of hospitalization or death in high-risk adult patients with COVID-19. It offers the advantage of being cost-effective.
(44)	Spain	PubMed, Web of Science (WOS), the Cochrane COVID-19 Study Register, ClinicalTrials.gov-COVID-19 subset, and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) Inception- May 2022	27 RCT	Vitamin D	Not reported	No adverse events were observed in the trials, indicating the safety of Vitamin D supplements within the examined doses.	No adverse events were observed in the trials. It can be concluded that Vitamin D supplementation using the doses and preparations examined, is safe.
(47)	China	Studies were not restricted by the year of publication, study site, drug dose, or control group	9 RCT	Ivermectin (IVM)	Not reported	In the absence of superior alternatives, clinicians should use IVM with caution in the clinical setting. Self-medication is not recommended for patients.	IVM shows potential effectiveness in treating mild to moderately ill patients. Its role as an antiviral drug in COVID-19 is still in the early stages of clinical application.

РИСУНКИ

Figure 1 -PRISMA 2020 flow diagram of study retrieval process



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Блок 3. Метаданные статьи

AN UMBRELLA REVIEW ON TREATMENTS AND THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR COVID-19 ЗОНТИЧНЫЙ ОБЗОР ЛЕЧЕНИЯ И ТЕРАПЕВТИЧЕСКИХ ВАРИАНТОВ ПРИ COVID-19

Сокращенное название статьи для верхнего колонтитула:

TREATMENTS AND THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR COVID-19
ЛЕЧЕНИЕ И ТЕРАПЕВТИЧЕСКИЙ ВАРИАНТ ПРИ COVID-19

Keywords: COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, Treatments, Therapeutic, Medicine, Umbrella review

Ключевые слова: COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, лечение, терапия, медицина, зонтичный обзор.

Обзоры

Количество страниц текста – 10, количество таблиц – 2, количество рисунков – 1.

15.07.2023.

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