

Mediquiz

Series - 9

Coronavirus trials



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Quiz Master

1. Which of the following was studied in the recently published COALITION II trial (Lancet)?

- a. Addition of hydroxychloroquine to standard therapy
- b. Addition of azithromycin to standard therapy
- c. Addition of Remdesivir to standard therapy
- d. The new Covid-19 vaccine

2. The RECOVERY trial (NEJM) tested a particular treatment strategy for Covid-19 infection. What was this strategy?

- a. Tocilizumab
- b. Ciprofloxacin
- c. Dexamethasone
- d. Ivermectin

3. On August 21, 2020, Spinner et al published the results of a trial in JAMA about a Covid-19 therapy. What did this trial study?

- a. Remdesivir
- b. Favipiravir
- c. Ivermectin
- d. Lopinavir

4. The SOLIDARITY trial was launched by the WHO and its partners to test therapies for Covid-19. What is the fate of the trial as of now (September 2020)?

- a. The hydroxychloroquine and Lopinavir arms stopped, rest continuing
- b. Hydroxychloroquine arm stopped, rest continuing
- c. All arms are under study
- d. Only the Vaccine arm is still active

5. Which if the following is NOT a therapy studied in the on-going DISCOVERY trial?

- a. Remdesivir
- b. Hydroxychloroquine
- c. Ivermectin
- d. Interferon β

6. Which country is hosting the COLCORONA study and which drug is tested in it?

- a. USA, prednisolone
- b. UK, Remdesivir
- c. Canada, anti-IL-6 therapy
- d. Canada, Colchicine

7. The Oxford vaccine is currently the most promising candidate undergoing trial for a successful Covid-19 vaccine. What is the chemical nature of this vaccine?

- a. Recombinant Covid-19 virus particles
- b. Adenovirus vector expressing Covid-19 spike protein
- c. Covid-19 surface antigen
- d. Inactivated Covid-19 virus

(Answer : next page)

Answer : Mediquiz

Answers :-

1. B

This Brazilian trial tested Azithromycin in addition to the standard of care in Covid-19 patients. The Azithromycin was given in a dose of 500 mg OD for 10 days. The primary end point was the clinical status on day 15 after randomization. This trial showed that **there was no significant effect of the addition of azithromycin.**

2. C

This trial, which was conducted in the UK, coordinated by the University of Oxford, published the first results regarding the use of steroids in Covid-19. The dose of Dexamethasone used was 6 mg OD for 10 days. The trial found that there was “lower 28-day mortality among those who were receiving either invasive mechanical ventilation or oxygen alone at randomization but not among those receiving no respiratory support” (NEJM July 17, 2020)

3. A

This was a Phase-3 trial of Remdesivir 5 day vs 10 day in Covid-19 infection. This was a multi-centre study. The dose of Remdesivir was 200 mg on Day 1 followed by 100 mg/day. Clinical status of day 11 was the end point. Mortality was not studied. Remdesivir 5-Day therapy was better than standard care in improving clinical status. But the 10-day therapy had no advantage.

4. A

On 6th July, 2020, the WHO posted an update on its website discontinuing the HCQS and lopinavir arms of this trial. These two drugs have been shown to have no effect on Covid-19 patients. The other arms of the trial will continue and even new arms may be added.

5. C

The DISCOVERY trial is a trial coordinated in France. This is supposed to be a prolonged study to test various therapeutic options in Covid-19 patients. Lopinavir/Ritonavir and Hydroxychloroquine arms have been discontinued. The primary end point is clinical status on day 15.

6. D

This study has recently been started in Montreal, Canada. It will test the efficacy of Colchicine to prevent lung complications in Covid-19.

7. B

This is the chemical nature of this candidate vaccine, as discussed in the Lancet publication on August 15, 2020. The Phases 1/2 have been completed. Volunteers are being given 5×10^{10} viral particles per shot.

Famous quotes:

- **The prime goal is to alleviate suffering, and not to prolong life. And if your treatment does not alleviate suffering, but only prolongs life, that treatment should be stopped. Dr Christian Barnard (the world’s first heart transplant surgeon)**
- **In practical life we observe that the best practical discoveries are obtained during the execution of practical work and that long academic discussions are apt to lead to nothing but academic profit. Dr Ronald Ross (Nobel Laureate in Medicine, 1902)**