Management of COVID-19: Diagnosis and Treatment

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Outline:

- Diagnosis
- Review of treatment
- Pharmacologic options
A SARS-CoV-2 viral infection of host airway cells

SARS-CoV-2 virion

Viral RNA

S protein

ACE2 receptor

TMPRSS2 activates viral S protein and cleaves ACE2 receptor to facilitate viral binding to host cell membrane.

HOST AIRWAY CELL

B Bronchial epithelial cells, type I and type II alveolar pneumocytes, and capillary endothelial cells are infected, and an inflammatory response ensues.

Infiltrated type II pneumocyte

Inflamed type I pneumocyte

Type I pneumocyte

Capillary endothelial cell

Cytokine release enhances inflammatory response

C Late-stage COVID-19

Continued inflammatory response results in alveolar interstitial thickening, increased vascular permeability, and edema.

Thickened interstitium

Hyaline membrane formation

Influx of monocytes and neutrophils

Activation of the kinin-kinin system can further contribute to local vascular leakage leading to angioedema.

Pulmonary edema

Increased vascular permeability

Increased T lymphocyte apoptosis

Activation of coagulation leads to microthrombus formation

Pulmonary thrombus

Virus enters host cell via endocytosis, releases its RNA, and uses cell machinery to replicate itself and assemble more virions.

One infected host cell can create hundreds of new virions, rapidly progressing infection.
COVID-19: infection and immunity

Immune Responses Leading to Recovery or Death[1]

- **Low virus titer**
  - **Mild**
  - **Normal immune response**
  - **Recovery**

- **High virus titer**
  - **Severe**
  - **Lung injury/septic shock/organ failure/coagulopathy**
  - **Death**

**Adequate immune responses[2]**

- Timely innate/adaptive responses
- **Quick type 1 IFN response**
- Activation of efficient antiviral response (clearance by macrophages)
- Activation of Th1 cells and B-cells for production of neutralizing antibodies

**Inadequate immune responses[2]**

- Delayed/limited type 1 IFN
- Endothelial cell death
- Epithelial/endothelial leakage
- Overactivation/exhaustion T-cells and NK cells
- Accumulation of activated macrophages → cytokine storm

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Slide credit: clinicaloptions.com
COVID-19 at Different Stages

**Stage I** (Early Infection)
- **Severity of Illness**
- **Viral Response Phase**
  - Clinical symptoms
    - Mild constitutional symptoms
    - Fever > 99.6°F
    - Dry cough
  - Clinical signs
    - Lymphopenia

**Stage II** (Pulmonary Phase)
- **Time Course**
  - IIA
  - IIB
  - Host Inflammatory Response Phase
  - Clinical symptoms
    - Shortness of breath without hypoxia (IIA)
    - Shortness of breath with hypoxia (IIB) (PaO₂/FiO₂ ≤ 300 mm Hg)
  - Clinical signs
    - Transaminitis
    - Low-normal procalcitonin

**Stage III** (Hyperinflammation Phase)
- **Severity of Illness**
- **Host Inflammatory Response Phase**
  - ARDS
  - SIRS/shock
  - Cardiac failure
  - Elevated inflammatory markers (CRP, LDH, IL-6, D-dimer, ferritin)
  - Troponin, NT-proBNP elevation

**Duration of viral shedding may depend on strain of SARS-CoV-2**

[Graph showing the timeline of viral shedding phases and the detection of antibodies (IgM and IgG) after infection.]

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-020-2228-9
Diagnosis

What Test

- Nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT), most commonly with a reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay, to detect SARS-CoV-2 RNA from the upper respiratory tract is the preferred initial diagnostic test for COVID-19

- Preferred types of specimens
  - Nasopharyngeal swab specimen
  - Oropharyngeal swab specimen
  - Saliva specimen
  - Sputum

Consideration:

- High analytic sensitivity and specificity in ideal settings.
- Clinical performance depends on the type and quality of the specimen and the duration of illness at the time of testing.
- Reported false-negative rate ranges from <5 to 40%, depending on the test used
Diagnosis

Nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT)-RT-PCR

Consideration: Test sensitivity

▪ **Type of specimen:** Lower respiratory tract specimens may have higher viral loads and be more likely to yield positive tests than upper respiratory tract specimens

▪ **Duration of illness:** Too early infection may cause false negative

▪ **NAAT assays:** There are differences in the limit of detection among the major commercial and retesting samples on different platforms may yield conflicting results

**Cautions:**
Negative RT-PCR may be false negative --
In patient with high suspicion of COVID-19, repeated test is recommended

Diagnosis

Nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT)

Cycle threshold — The cycle threshold (Ct)

- Refers to the number of cycles in an RT-PCR assay needed to amplify viral RNA to reach a detectable level.

  The Ct value can thus indicate the relative viral RNA level in a specimen (with lower Ct values reflective of higher viral levels)

- Laboratories generally do not provide the Ct value with the qualitative NAAT result, although it can be obtained upon request for some testing platforms.
Serology

- Serologic tests detect antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in the blood, and those that have been adequately validated can help **identify patients who previously had SARS-CoV-2 infection as well as patients with current infection who have had symptoms for three to four weeks**
- Detectable antibodies generally take several days to weeks to develop; **IgG usually develops by 14 days after onset of symptoms**
- **They have very limited utility for diagnosis in the acute setting**
- Individual results should be interpreted with caution in settings of low seroprevalence; serologic tests that have high specificity still have a low positive predictive value
Diagnosis

Antigen testing as an alternative to NAAT

- Tests that detect SARS-CoV-2 antigen can be performed rapidly and at the point of care and thus may be more accessible with a faster time to results than some NAATs.

- Antigen tests are typically less sensitive than NAATs

- Antigen tests may be useful alternatives to NAAT for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 symptomatic individuals who are thought to be in the early stages of infection

- Other situations: Asymptomatic individual with exposure or serial screening in congregate settings

**Practical points on diagnosis**

- Do not use serology for identification of acute infection
- Negative test from RT-PCR or antigen test does not mean no infection
- Repeated test may be needed on some individuals
- Previous infection of SARS-CoV-2 may cause persistent positive RT-PCR for weeks
- Symptomatic/severe COVID-19 may cause prolonged shedding with high probability of transmission
Clinical Management: Clinical parameters for prediction of severe COVID-19

Who is at risk for severe COVID-19
- Elderly
- **chronic health conditions** such as cardiovascular disease, DM, immunosuppression and obesity
- Men >> Women
- Some racial and ethnic groups such as Black and Hispanic

The mortality in the critically ill group was 49%.

Definition of severe COVID-19
- RR of 30 or more breaths per minute
- Blood oxygen saturation of 93% or less
- A ratio of the partial pressure of arterial oxygen to the fraction of inspired oxygen (Pao2:Fio2) of less than 300 mm Hg
- Pulmonary infiltrates in more than 50%
Key clinical manifestations of COVID-19

- Pathogenesis: infection and inflammation (early and late phase)
- Asymptomatic and presymptomatic transmission
- Most cases: asymptomatic and mild symptomatic infection
- Clinical course is dynamic with progression to severe disease in high-risk group
- Most of severe disease occurs after 1st week after symptoms
When the patient progress to severe COVID

Incubation Period
- Fever
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Anorexia
- Myalgias
- Diarrhea

Median Days from Infection to Onset of Symptoms

Median Days to Onset after Development of Initial Symptoms

Onset of Symptoms

Critical illness in 5% of symptomatic patients
Severe illness in 14% of symptomatic patients
Dyspnea in 40% of symptomatic patients
Management in severe COVID

Respiratory
- Oxygen supplement therapy
- Mechanical ventilation

Pharmacologic treatment
- Antivirals
- Anti-inflammatory agents

Supportive care
- Adequate fluid management
- Renal replacement therapy
- Thromboprophylactic therapy
Management of COVID-19 pneumonia:

**Virus**

**Antiviral agents:**
- Remdesivir
- Favipiravir
- HCQ&CQ
- IVIG
- Protease inhibitors
- Ribavirin
- IFN
- Convalescent plasma

**Immune overactivity**

**Cytokine release syndrome:**
- Anti IL-6 monoclonal Ab: tocilizumab
- Extracorporeal therapies
- Corticosteroid

**Respiratory support**
- Mechanical ventilation
- ECMO
**Timing and interventions**

- **Fluids, rest, acetaminophen**
- **Monoclonal antibodies**
- **Oxygen**
- **Remdesivir**
- **Anticoagulants**
- **Immuno-suppressants**
- **Ventilator**
- **Dialysis**

**Hospitalization**
- Fever
- Cough
- Loss of smell
- Viral replication

**1 to 2 weeks**

- **Monoclonal antibodies** appear to reduce risk of hospitalization in outpatients at high risk of severe disease—provided patients can access them.

- **Oxygen**, delivered through nasal prongs, a mask, or an invasive breathing tube, is crucial to COVID-19 care. But how it's administered varies among hospitals.

**1 to 2 weeks or more**

- **The antiviral remdesivir** is widely used in hospitalized patients, but evidence is mixed on its ability to shorten hospital stays; it hasn't been shown to improve survival.

- **Anticoagulants** can prevent blood clots that are common in COVID-19 patients, but physicians must weigh the risk of bleeding when deciding the right dose.

- **The immunosuppressant drugs** dexamethasone and tocilizumab have both reduced mortality in large clinical trials of hospitalized patients, showing that it's possible to tame the potentially deadly inflammation that characterizes severe disease.

**Possible lingering symptoms**

- Death
- Discharge
- Recovery
Antiviral therapy for COVID-19

1. Attachment and entry
   - Miniproteins, CTC-445.2d
   - TMPRSS2, ACE2
2. Translation of viral proteins
   - Ribosomes
   - Polyprotein chains
3. Proteolysis
   - Main protease (NSP5)
   - Nonstructural proteins
   - PF-07304814, boceprevir, GC376
4. RNA replication
   - Replication transcription complex
   - zotatifin, plitidepsin
5. Transcription and translation of structural and accessory proteins
6. Assembly, packaging, and release

Remdesivir, favipiravir, triazavirin, ribavirin, galidesivir, molnupiravir, AT-527
WHO SOLIDARITY Trial: Antiviral Drugs to Treat Hospitalized Patients With COVID-19

- Adaptive, open-label, randomized phase III trial conducted in 405 hospitals in 30 countries

**Primary endpoint:**
28-day in-hospital mortality

**Secondary endpoints:**
ventilation and duration of hospitalization

- Adult patients ≥ 18 yrs of age; hospitalized with COVID-19 (N = 11,266)

- **Remdesivir IV QD**
  - Day 1 200 mg QD; Days 2-10 100 mg QD (n = 2750)

- **Hydroxychloroquine PO**
  - 800 mg at 0, 6, 12 hrs; 400 mg BID Days 2-10 (n = 954)

- **Lopinavir/Ritonavir PO**
  - 400/100 mg BID Days 1-14 (n = 1411)

- **Interferon-β1a SQ**
  - 44 μg on Days 1, 3, and 6 (n = 2063)

- **Standard of Care**
  - (n = 4088)

*If administered through nasogastric tube, loading dose of 600 mg BID followed by 400 mg QD for 9 days.

†Given with LPV/RTV until July 4, 2020 (n = 651). Patients on high-flow oxygen, ventilators, or ECMO were given 10 μg IV daily for 6 days.

Pan. MedRxiv. 2020;[Preprint]. Note: this publication has not been peer reviewed. NCT04280705.
**Favipiravir**

- In May 2020 the Russian Ministry of Health granted fast-track marketing authorization to RNA polymerase inhibitor AVIFAVIR (favipiravir) for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

- In the pilot stage of Phase II/III clinical trial, AVIFAVIR enabled SARS-CoV-2 viral clearance in 62.5% of patients within 4 days, and was safe and well-tolerated.

SOC=hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine  
Favipiravir is indicated for high risk patients with mild infection or mild pneumonia

ผู้ป่วยที่ไม่มีอาการ หรือมีอาการไม่รุนแรง แต่มีปัจจัยเสี่ยงต่อการเป็นโรครุนแรง หรือมีโรครวมสำคัญ หรือผู้ป่วยที่มีปอดบวม (pneumonia) เล็กน้อย (COVID-19 with risk factors for severe disease or having co-morbidity or mild pneumonia) ปัจจัยเสี่ยงข้อใดข้อหนึ่งต่อไปนี้ ได้แก่ อายุ >60 ปี โรคปอดอุดกันเรื้อรัง (COPD) รวมโรคปอดเรื้อรังอื่น ๆ โรคไตเรื้อรัง (CKD) โรคหัวใจและหลอดเลือด รวมโรคหัวใจแต่กำเนิด โรคหลอดเลือดสมองเบาหวานที่ควบคุมไม่ได้ ภาวะถ้ำวัย (น้ำหนักมากกว่า 90 กก.) ตับแข็ง ภาวะถ้ำมีคุ้มกันต่ำ และ lymphocyte น้อยกว่า 1,000 เซลล์/ลบ.มม. หรือผู้ป่วยที่ไม่มีปัจจัยเสี่ยงแต่มีแนวโน้มที่จะมีความรุนแรงของโรคมากขึ้น

- แนะนำให้นอนโรงพยาบาลอย่างน้อย 14 วัน นับจากวันที่เริ่มมีอาการ หรือจนกว่าอาการจะดีขึ้น
- แนะนำให้ favipiravir โดยเริ่มให้ยาเร็วที่สุด ให้ยาทาน 5 วัน หรือ มากกว่า ซื้อกับอาการทางคลินิกตามความเหมาะสม หรือปรึกษาผู้เชี่ยวชาญ
- อาจพิจารณาให้ corticosteroid ร่วมกับ favipiravir ในกรณีที่มีผู้ป่วยมีอาการและสภาพถ้ำร้ายสืบคั้นที่แย่ลง คือ มี progression of infiltrates หรือค่า room air SpO₂ ≤96% หรือพบว่ามี SpO₂ ขณะออกแรงลดลง ≥3% ของค่าที่วัดได้ครั้งแรก (exercise-induced hypoxia)
Multinational, randomized open-label trial
- At 405 hospitals in 30 countries, N=11,330 adults underwent randomization; 2750 were assigned to receive remdesivir, 954 to HCQ, 1411 to LPV (without interferon), 2063 to IFN (including 651 to IFN plus LPV)
- 4088 to no trial drug
- Death occurred in 301 of 2743 patients receiving remdesivir and in 303 of 2708 receiving its control (rate ratio, 0.95; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.81 to 1.11; P=0.50)
- Remdesivir, HCQ, LPV, and IFN regimens had little or no effect on hospitalized patients with Covid-19, as indicated by overall mortality, initiation of ventilation, and duration of hospital stay.
Remdesivir was superior to placebo in shortening the time to recovery in adults who were hospitalized with Covid-19

Evidence for a clinical benefit of remdesivir is strongest for patients with severe disease who do not require high-flow supplemental oxygen or ventilatory support.

Remdesivir was superior to placebo in shortening the time to recovery in adults hospitalized with Covid-19 and evidence of lower respiratory tract infection.

A preliminary version of this article was published on May 22, 2020, at NEJM.org. This article was published on October 8, 2020, at NEJM.org.
อาจพิจารณาให้ Remdesivir แทน Favipiravir กรณีที่

• ผู้ป่วยมีอาการปอดอักเสบอย่างรุนแรง (SpO2 ที่ room air ฿94%) หรือ กรณีที่ต้องใช้อุปกรณ์ non-invasive หรือ invasive ventilation รวมทั้ง extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) ตามแนวทางของสมาคมโรคติดเชื้อ สำหรับ americana (Infectious Disease Society of America, IDSA) และสถาบันสุขภาพแห่งชาติ สำหรับ amerika (National Institute of Health, NIH)

• มีข้อห้ามบริหารยาทางปาก หรือ มีปัญหาการดูดซึม เป็นต้น

• ไม่ตอบสนองต่อการยั้งในระยะเวลาหลังให้ยา 72 ชั่วโมง

• ทั้งนี้การศึกษาขององค์การอนามัยโลก พบว่า Remdesivir ไม่ได้ช่วยลดอัตราตาย
RECOVERY Trial: Mortality With Dexamethasone + Usual Care vs Usual Care Alone

All Participants (N = 6425)

RR: 0.83 (95% CI: 0.75-0.93)  
\( P < .001 \)

Yes Oxygen (n = 6425)

Patients at Risk, n

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dexamethasone</th>
<th>Usual care</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dexamethasone</td>
<td>2104</td>
<td>1903</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usual care</td>
<td>4321</td>
<td>3754</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No Oxygen (n = 1535)

RR: 1.19 (95% CI: 0.91-1.55)

Patients at Risk, n

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dexamethasone</th>
<th>Usual care</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dexamethasone</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>478</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usual care</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECOVERY Collaborative Group. NEJM. 2020;[Epub].
Steroid and other anti-inflammatory agents
RECOVERY Trial: Mortality in Patients on Oxygen or Mechanical Ventilation ± Dexamethasone

**Oxygen Only (n = 3883)**

- Usual care
- Dexamethasone + usual care

RR: 0.82 (95% CI: 0.72-0.94)

**Invasive Mechanical Ventilation (n = 1007)**

- Usual care
- Dexamethasone + usual care

RR: 0.64 (95% CI: 0.51-0.81)

**Patients at Risk, n**

- Dexamethasone
  - Oxygen Only: 1279, 1135, 1036, 1006, 981
  - Invasive Mechanical Ventilation: 324, 290, 248, 232, 228

- Usual care
  - Invasive Mechanical Ventilation: 683, 572, 481, 424, 400

RECOVERY Collaborative Group. NEJM. 2020;[Epub].
WHO Living Guidance: Corticosteroids for COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of Illness</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical COVID-19</td>
<td>▪ ARDS, sepsis, septic shock</td>
<td>▪ Recommend systemic corticosteroids rather than no systemic corticosteroids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Other conditions that would normally require life-sustaining therapies (mechanical ventilation) or vasopressor therapy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe COVID-19</td>
<td>Any of the following:</td>
<td>▪ Recommend systemic corticosteroids rather than no systemic corticosteroids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ $O_2 &lt; 90%$ on room air*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ RR &gt; 30 breaths/min in adults and children aged &gt; 5 yrs; RR ≥ 40 in children aged 1-5 yrs; RR ≥ 50 in children aged 2-11 mos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Signs of respiratory distress (accessory muscle use, inability to complete full sentences; in children very severe chest wall indrawing, grunting, central cyanosis, etc)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-severe COVID-19</td>
<td>▪ Absence of any signs of severe or critical COVID-19</td>
<td>▪ Suggest no corticosteroids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that this threshold to define severe COVID-19 is arbitrary and should be interpreted cautiously when used for determining which patients should be offered systemic corticosteroids. Clinicians must use their judgement, and the panel suggests erring on the side of considering the illness as severe if there is any doubt.*
**IDSA Recommendations FOR Treatment of Patients With COVID-19**

- Overarching goal: recruit patients into ongoing trials to provide needed evidence regarding efficacy and safety of potential therapies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDSA Guidance</th>
<th>Patient Population</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommends</td>
<td>Hospitalized with critical* COVID-19</td>
<td>Dexamethasone† vs none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suggests</td>
<td>Hospitalized with severe‡ COVID-19</td>
<td>Dexamethasone† vs none</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitalized with severe*† COVID-19</td>
<td>Remdesivir§ vs no antiviral</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitalized with severe‡ COVID-19 and corticosteroids contraindicated</td>
<td>Baricitinib + remdesivir vs remdesivir alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommends only in clinical trial</td>
<td>Hospitalized with COVID-19</td>
<td>Convalescent plasma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitalized with COVID-19</td>
<td>Baricitinib + remdesivir + corticosteroids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mechanical ventilation or ECMO. Includes end organ dysfunction (eg, ARDS). †If unavailable, methylprednisolone and prednisone acceptable at equivalent total daily doses. ‡SpO₂ ≤ 94% on room air, including those on supplemental oxygen. §For patients on supplemental oxygen, 5 days suggested; for patients on mechanical ventilation or ECMO, 10 days.

Anti–IL-6 Receptor Antibodies

In hospitalized patients with Covid-19 pneumonia who were not receiving mechanical ventilation, tocilizumab reduced the likelihood of progression to the composite outcome of mechanical ventilation or death, but it did not improve survival.
How convalescent plasma works

Donors Recovered From COVID-19

Matching: ABO Compatible

Donor Apheresis

Plasma Infusion (1-2 Units)

Convalescent Plasma

SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibodies

Patients With COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibodies
Early High-Titer Plasma to Prevent Severe Covid-19

**DOUBLE-BLIND, RANDOMIZED, CONTROLLED TRIAL**

**Convalescent plasma**  
(IgG titer >1:1000)  
_160_ Older adults with confirmed Covid-19  
(≥75 yr of age or 65–74 yr with ≥1 coexisting condition)  
N=80

**Placebo**  
(0.9% normal saline)  
N=80

Severe respiratory disease  
(≥30 breaths per min, oxygen saturation <93% while breathing ambient air, or both)

**13 patients**  
(16%)  
Relative risk, 0.52; 95% CI, 0.29 to 0.94; P=0.03

**25 patients**  
(31%)

High-titer convalescent plasma administered to older adults within 72 hours after the onset of mild Covid-19 reduced progression to severe disease.

R. Libster et al. 10.1056/NEJMoA2033700
Pulmonary post-mortem findings in a series of COVID-19 cases

- Capillary congestion (in all 38 cases)
- Necrosis of pneumocytes (in all 38 cases)
- Hyaline membranes (in 33 cases)
- Interstitialintra-alveolar oedema (in 37 cases)
- Type 2 pneumocyte hyperplasia (in all 38 cases)
- Squamous metaplasia with atypia (in 21 cases)
- Platelet–fibrin thrombi (in 33 cases)
# Guidance on Thromboprophylaxis

## Recommending Organization*

|--------|--------|
| - Hospitalized adults with COVID-19 should receive VTE prophylaxis per the SoC for other hospitalized adults  
  - Anticoagulant or antiplatelet therapy should not be used to prevent arterial thrombosis outside of the usual SoC for patients without COVID-19  
  - Currently insufficient data to recommend for or against the use of thrombolytics or increasing anticoagulant doses for VTE prophylaxis in hospitalized COVID-19 patients outside of clinical trial  
  - Hospitalized patients should not be routinely discharged on VTE prophylaxis (extended VTE prophylaxis can be considered in patients with low bleeding risk and high VTE risk) | - All hospitalized adults with COVID-19 should receive thromboprophylaxis with low-molecular-weight heparin over unfractionated heparin, unless bleeding risk outweighs thrombosis risk  
  - Fondaparinux is recommended in the setting of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia  
  - In patients in whom anticoagulants are contraindicated or unavailable, use mechanical thromboprophylaxis (eg, pneumatic compression devices)  
  - Encourage participation on clinical trials rather than empiric use of therapeutic-dose heparin in COVID-19 patients with no other indication for therapeutic dose anticoagulation |

*Additional recommendations available from the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis[3], and CHEST.[4]

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Summary: Treatment for COVID-19

“COVID-19 always keeps us surprised”

- COVID-19 is a systemic disease caused by viral invasion and immune response to virus
- Treatment: supportive treatment in mild case, antiviral and antiinflammatory agent(s) in moderate/severe case plus respiratory care
- Data from clinical studies suggested the benefits of corticosteroid and remdesivir
- Other potential treatment: anticytokines, IVIG, convalescent plasma
Future of pandemic

Short-term

Mutation

Transition phase to mild endemic virus

Milder form of infection

Crisis phase

Long-term

Herd immunity
- Infection-reinfection
- Vaccination & booster