



Patient Information Sheet: Hydroxychloroquine & Covid-19

Presently, there are no FDA approved treatments for Covid-19. Hydroxychloroquine is a medication that has been used over many years in the treatment of some forms of malaria and for some forms of arthritis and other autoimmune conditions.

Some preliminary studies in a laboratory environment have indicated that hydroxychloroquine may prevent the virus responsible for Covid-19 (Coronavirus) from infecting cells in a test-tube. To date, there is no solid evidence that this medication is an effective treatment for Covid-19 in humans however. There is great interest in studying this question and several human studies are underway.

Until more scientific studies become available, some healthcare providers are offering this medication to Covid-19 patients if they believe the potential benefit exceeds potential risks from the drug related to its side effects.

Adverse effects associated with hydroxychloroquine include diarrhea, irregularities with heart rhythm (which can lead to death in some instances), anemia and problems with low blood sugar.

If you have questions or concerns about use of hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19 treatment, you are encouraged to discuss these with your healthcare provider.