

We have reached a decision regarding your submission to Microbes, Infection and Chemotherapy, "Covid-19: Effects of Azithromycin/Hydroxychloroquine/Ivermectin in ambulatory and hospitalized patients".

Our decision is: Revisions Required

Attached to this message are the corrections that the reviewers have made about their work, so we hope that they take them into account and can send us their corrected manuscript, with the changes marked in another color, together with a letter mentioning the changes made.

To expedite the editorial process, we require corrections within a maximum period of 30 calendar days.

Thank you for trusting us to evaluate your research.

Best regards,

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Reviewer A:

Recommendation: Revisions Required  
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1. Relevance of the title to the content of the article

Regular

Remarks

2. Summary: Presents the general idea of the topic, objectives, research methods, results and conclusions, written in an objective and concise manner; and are found according to the maximum number of words per section.

Good

Remarks

3. Introduction: Presentation of the subject, justification of the problem, objectives, hypotheses and methodological foundation, exposing the subject in an orderly and detailed manner

Good

Remarks

4. Methodology: Describes the procedure, methods and techniques used in data collection and analysis.

Regular

Remarks

Please, see comments in the manuscript file.

5. Ethical aspects. Does the manuscript have a paragraph on ethical aspects, where it mentions approval by the ethics committee, informed consent, and strict compliance with research ethics?

No

6. Results: They are presented adequately and it is not redundant with tables or graphs shown.

Good

Remarks

7. Discussion: They present a level of critical analysis in correspondence with the problem presented. Purposes of the article, scope, support theory and proposed methodological design.

Regular

Remarks

8. Conclusions: Presents the author's inferences and teachings in relation to the investigated topic, it must correspond to the objectives of the study.

Regular

Remarks

9. References. Quality of bibliographic references and if they are in accordance with the Vancouver format.

Regular

Remarks

10. Redaction. Is the manuscript correctly written? Does it contain any spelling or grammar mistakes?

Needs some language corrections

11. Contributions. What are the main weaknesses of the manuscript and how the author can do to improve it

The article is yet another review clearly aimed at addressing a line of thought about the use of HCQ and IVM in the treatment of COVID-19. The point is that the selected articles bring drug use errors in hospitalized patients and, in some cases, in need of oxygen supplementation. It would be much more useful if the authors carried out a comprehensive review of the literature and also showed the dozens of articles on the subject that show positive effects of early drug treatment. The point is that there seems to be a pre-selection of articles to reach a predefined goal.

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Reviewer B:

Recommendation: Revisions Required

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1. Relevance of the title to the content of the article

Good

Remarks

The review has a good number of papers analyzed and has huge relevance in the context of the pandemic and the means for treatment. There are some English problems in the text, but I think this is easily resolved, maybe with a review by an English speaker.

2. Summary: Presents the general idea of the topic, objectives, research methods, results and conclusions, written in an objective and concise manner; and are found according to the maximum number of words per section.

Good

#### Remarks

Please verify if it is COVID-19 or Covid-19, and standardize it throughout the manuscript.

3. Introduction: Presentation of the subject, justification of the problem, objectives, hypotheses and methodological foundation, exposing the subject in an orderly and detailed manner

#### Regular

#### Remarks

Page 2, third paragraph: cytokines are produced by the virus, or is it produced by cells after virus infection? Please verify that and correct it on the text.

4. Methodology: Describes the procedure, methods and techniques used in data collection and analysis.

#### Good

#### Remarks

The database described in the methodology is different from those described in the abstract. Please verify this difference.

In methodology, the authors named the paper as a systemic review, please correct it for systematic review, as it is defined by PRISMA.

Section "2.3. Study selection and data extraction": there is no need to write "The review was realized by the authors."

Did you use any statistical analysis? If yes, please describe what analysis was used and what software you used.

5. Ethical aspects. Does the manuscript have a paragraph on ethical aspects, where it mentions approval by the ethics committee, informed consent, and strict compliance with research ethics?

No

6. Results: They are presented adequately and it is not redundant with tables or graphs shown.

Regular

Remarks

Did not understand how the final study was added (from 16 to 17 studies)?

"Most of the articles come from authors from China (3/17), USA (2/17), Canada (4/17), Brazil (2/17), Spain (1/17), France (1/17), Colombia (1/17), Egypt (1/17), Iran (1/17), and United Kingdom (1/17). There were 16,970 patients with covid-19 who participated in the effect of azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine, the mean age of the men was 57.5 years and the majority of the participants were men 52% (Table 3 and Table 4)" - Would not it be better if you write: "Most of the articles was from..."?

Please verify citations all over the results.

"Prolongation of the corrected QT interval and elevation of liver enzymes were very common in groups that received hydroxychloroquine alone or with azithromycin, compared to the control group." What did you mean with QT in this sentence?

"All patients received hydroxychloroquine (400 mg twice a day for 10 days) because it was part of the standard treatment in Brazil for severe Covid-19 patients." Please verify if the treatment was part of a national policy for COVID-19 or it was used by some hospitals?

Boulware D and et al (15): please, verify this citation.

"Furthermore, hydroxychloroquine was not associated with a lower incidence of SARS-VOC-2 transmission than usual care (18.7% and 17.8%, respectively)." Please, correct the name of the virus in this sentence.

7. Discussion: They present a level of critical analysis in correspondence with the problem presented. Purposes of the article, scope, support theory and proposed methodological design.

Regular

Remarks

Although you discuss all the findings in the review, it could be better addressed and written.

8. Conclusions: Presents the author's inferences and teachings in relation to the investigated topic, it must correspond to the objectives of the study.

Poor

Remarks

"The quality of evidence on the effectiveness and benefits of azithromycin, hydroxychloroquine, and ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19 in ambulatory patients and hospitalized patients is low." With all the data accessed is that the only conclusion you get? Please make it more suitable to what you researched.

9. References. Quality of bibliographic references and if they are in accordance with the Vancouver format.

Good

Remarks

References are good.

10. Redaction. Is the manuscript correctly written? Does it contain any spelling or grammar mistakes?

Requires a thorough assessment of grammar and spelling

11. Contributions. What are the main weaknesses of the manuscript and how the author can do to improve it

The text would get better if not so separated and all the sentences initiated by the name of the authors in the results section. I think you should look for an English speaker to correct the text to get more understandable.

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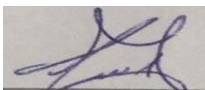
**LETTER OF CORRECTION OF THE ARTICLE " COVID-19: Effects of Azithromycin/Hydroxychloroquine/Ivermectin in ambulatory and hospitalized patients"**

Dear Editor: Med.

DR. Kovy Arteaga-Livias

Attached here, the correction with yellow marker on the reviewer's suggestions on the article entitled " COVID-19: Effects of Azithromycin/Hydroxychloroquine/Ivermectin in ambulatory and hospitalized patients" and I request that it be evaluated for publication in the Journal that you direct.

Without further ado and thanking your attention, I say goodbye.



HENRY WILLIAMS MEJIA ZAMBRANO (AUTOR PRINCIPAL)



**RECTIFICATION:**

1. Spelling and grammar were corrected
2. The word COVID-19 and citations were corrected in capital letters.
3. The abstract was corrected according to the study methodology
4. Section "2.3. Study selection and data extraction" was corrected.
5. The characteristics and the manuscript of the results were corrected.
6. The correction in the conclusion was taken as a suggestion