Using Ivermectin for COVID-19 virus

There have been many reports recently about oral ivermectin treating COVID 19 infections, reducing mortality, speeding recovery and possibly preventing infections after exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
Ivermectin is a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved antiparasitic drug that is used to treat several neglected tropical diseases, including onchocerciasis and helminthiases.
Oral Ivermectin is well-tolerated when used as directed for its approved indication, strongyloidiasis an infection caused by roundworm or off-label for lice and scabies. Adverse effects include nausea, diarrhea, dizziness, itching [1]

In vitro studies of Ivermectin has been shown to inhibit the replication of SARS-CoV-2 virus in cell cultures.[2]
However pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies show achieving this level for its antiviral effect would require doses up to 100-fold higher than those approved in humans.[3]
Overdose, can cause vomiting, hypotension, ataxia, seizures, coma, and death.

Several meta-analyses have highlighted that the effect of ivermectin in patients with COVID-19 remains uncertain because of a lack of high-quality data. The studies could not find benefit for mortality, recovery, or viral clearance or as prophylaxis. [4,5]

The American Medical Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the American Pharmacists Association oppose ivermectin use for COVID-19 except in a clinical trial. The National Institute of Health (NIH) guidance recommends neither for nor against ivermectin for COVID-19 treatment due to insufficient evidence.[1]

Aetna Medicaid covers Ivermectin in doses and durations consistent with FDA-approved indications. Uses that are not approved, i.e. off-label and that are not supported in standard reference compendia as accepted safe and effective treatments are considered experimental and/or investigational. Such therapies are not a covered benefit.

References

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