

Safety Profile of Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate vs Acetaminophen vs Ibuprofen in Adults: A Literature Review

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Abstract

Amid the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic, hydroxychloroquine sulfate (brand name Plaquenil or abbreviated HCQ) is being explored as a potential treatment for those affected with Covid-19 disease. Based on a limited in-vitro and anecdotal clinical data, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved emergency use of hydroxychloroquine sulfate as an off-label medication for hospitalized COVID-19 patients weighing 50kg or more.¹ Research Questions: 1. What is the safety profile of hydroxychloroquine sulfate compared to common outpatient medications such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen in terms of major and minor adverse effects? 2. Could hydroxychloroquine sulfate be used as an outpatient medication to treat COVID-19?

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