SHOULD BARICITINIB BE USED TO TREAT COVID-19?

Rapid Review for COVID-19

THE KEY REVIEW QUESTION

This review aimed to determine the benefits and harms of baricitinib for treating patients hospitalised with COVID-19 on supplemental oxygen.

This review incorporates additional evidence. View full rapid review of baricitinib.

WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN REVIEW?

- This review summarised data from three randomised placebo-controlled trials (RCTs) pooled in a Cochrane living review.
- Data was gathered from 9 782 hospitalised adult patients, comparing baricitinib to the standard of care/placebo.

BACKGROUND

Baricitinib is registered for the treatment of several dermatological conditions, rheumatoid arthritis and COVID-19.

Several studies of COVID-19 patients showed evidence of clinical improvement with baricitinib. It reduces levels of multiple cytokines associated with the pathophysiology of COVID-19 disease, as well as having anti-viral activity.

ADDITIONAL RAPID COVID-19 REVIEWS CAN BE FOUND HERE

RECOMMENDATION OF THE NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 THERAPEUTICS ON USE OF BARICITINIB

The trials were assessed as high quality and the benefits of baricitinib outweigh the risks.

NEML MAC recommends the use of baricitinib in hospitalised patients with confirmed COVID-19 who require supplemental oxygen.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Baricitinib reduced mortality
- It is not associated with an increased risk of adverse events
- It is cheaper than tocilizumab
- It may be administered orally or via a nasogastric tube
- Its cost may result in inequitable access
- There is uncertainty regarding supply

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Desirable effects do not outweigh the undesirable effects

Desirable effects do outweigh the undesirable effects