

Ivermectin

[eye-ver-MECK-tin]



How are medications selected for the ACTIV-6 study?

ACTIV-6 is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) public-private partnership to develop a coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding up development of the most promising treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.

A selection committee was established to decide which medications to investigate in all ACTIV studies. This 20-member group included academic experts in COVID-19 research and anti-viral medications, members of non-profits supporting COVID-19 research, private-sector industry members, NIH employees, and employees from other U.S. government agencies.

The group identified existing medications for further investigation using pre-established review criteria, data from laboratory and clinical research studies, and safety information.

What are repurposed medications?

The ACTIV-6 study is looking at repurposed medications in the search for effective, safe treatments for people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are not hospitalized. Repurposed medications are those already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat other health conditions, have been shown to be safe in humans, and are being tested for use in treating other conditions such as COVID-19.

Why is this study important?

There are treatments for people with severe COVID-19 who are at high risk for hospitalization or death, but they are complex to administer. Currently, there are no approved prescription medications that can be easily given at home to treat mild-to-moderate symptoms of the virus early in its course to prevent worsening of COVID-19.

What is ivermectin?

Ivermectin is an oral anti-parasitic agent. The medication was introduced in 1971 as an animal de-wormer. It was approved for human use in 1986 to kill parasites that cause river blindness and other illnesses. It has been used safely in millions of people and has been used at doses as high as 800 mcg/kg either as a single dose or over a week period.

Note: Clinical guidelines do not currently recommend ivermectin to treat COVID-19. It should only be used or evaluated in the setting of a clinical research study such as ACTIV-6 so that researchers are able to understand ivermectin's potential for treating non-hospitalized people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19.

Why is this medication part of the ACTIV-6 trial?

Ivermectin has been studied in the laboratory and it appears to decrease replication of the COVID-19 virus. Based on this and additional information, clinicians began to use ivermectin early in the pandemic. There were data-quality issues with some of the earlier ivermectin trials, and to date, there are no definitive trials to support the use of ivermectin as part of standard care for treatment of COVID-19.

The surveys you complete about your COVID-19 symptoms will help to inform the scientific community if ivermectin is appropriate for use in people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are recovering at home.



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP PEOPLE
WITH COVID-19 FEEL BETTER FASTER.