

Metformin

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How are medications selected for the ACTIV-6 study?

A selection committee was established to decide which medications to investigate in all studies that are part of the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) public-private partnership. ACTIV-6 is part of this National Institutes of Health (NIH) coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding up development of the most promising treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.

The selection committee 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, including existing data from laboratory and clinical research studies and safety information.

What are repurposed medications?

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 for those conditions, and are being tested for use in treating other conditions such as COVID-19.

Why is this study important?

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.

There are effective treatments for people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk for hospitalization or death. However, there are not many 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 metformin?

Metformin hydrochloride is an oral medication commonly used to treat diabetes. It works by preventing the production of glucose in the liver, reducing absorption of glucose, and improving the body's response to insulin.

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

Data suggests that metformin reduces inflammation and may inhibit SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The dose chosen was considered least likely to cause side effects, while more likely to have an effect in treating COVID-19. Because of this, ACTIV-6 is studying metformin to determine if there is a benefit for people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19.

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