

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Experimental Medicine*

Manuscript NO: 85302

Title: Ophthalmologic implications to consider when using hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 and induced arthritis

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06137947

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Iran

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-21 19:15

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-21 19:53

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1. Lack of clear evidence: The article mentions that HCQ has been proposed as a treatment for COVID-19, but there is no clear evidence to support this claim. The article does not provide any references or studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of HCQ in treating COVID-19. 2. Limited information on the mechanism of retinal toxicity: The article mentions that HCQ can cause retinal toxicity, but it does not provide a detailed explanation of the mechanism behind this toxicity. The article only mentions that it is thought to be due to the accumulation of the drug in the retinal pigment epithelium, without providing further details. 3. Lack of information on the study design: The article does not mention the design of any studies that have investigated the use of HCQ in treating COVID-19. It is unclear whether these studies were randomized controlled trials or observational studies, and whether they had any methodological limitations. 4. Limited information on the ophthalmological adverse events: While the article mentions that HCQ can cause ophthalmological adverse events, it does not provide a comprehensive list of these events. The article only mentions retinopathy, corneal deposits, and papilledema, without providing any information on their frequency or



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severity. 5. Limited information on monitoring and management: While the article mentions that patients receiving HCQ should be periodically monitored for potential ophthalmological side effects, it does not provide detailed guidance on how this monitoring should be conducted. The article also does not provide any guidance on how to manage patients who develop HCQ toxicity, other than immediate termination of the drug and consideration of alternative treatment regimens. Overall, the article lacks clear evidence and detailed information on the use of HCQ in treating COVID-19 and its potential adverse effects and management strategies. More research is needed to fully understand the risks and benefits of using HCQ in this context.

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Reviewer's code: 05315718

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MBChB

Professional title: Chief Doctor, Doctor, Junior Editor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-21

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-05-13 11:48

Reviewer performed review: 2023-05-13 11:59

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thanks for writing up this review. It is comprehensive. Please add in an additional citation for the Bull's eye maculopathy mentioned: Au SCL. Hydroxychloroquine retinal toxicity: The bull's eye in the human eye. Vis J Emerg Med. 2020 Oct;21:100818. doi: 10.1016/j.visj.2020.100818. Epub 2020 Jun 25. PMID: 32835115; PMCID: PMC7315151.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Iran

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-21

Reviewer chosen by: Jing-Jie Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-05-19 15:09

Reviewer performed review: 2023-05-19 15:32

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I think this article has no serious problem