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POST-ACUTE OR PROLONGED COVID-19: TREATMENT WITH IVERMECTIN FOR PATIENTS WITH PERSISTENT, OR POST-ACUTE SYMPTOMS

Aguirre-Chang, Gustavo; Castillo Saavedra, Eduardo; Yui Cerna, Manuel; Trujillo Figueredo, Aurora; Córdova Masías, José. Reseach Gate. July 11, 2020. *English translation copy edited by Madeline Oh*

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION: It is estimated that between 10 to 45% of people who become ill with COVID-19 will present with symptoms after the acute stage of the disease. These symptoms will persist for weeks, developing what is called Persistent or Post-Acute Symptoms of COVID- 19. There is no consensus, nor has there been a publication on specific and effective treatment for these cases. Knowledge is quite lacking as to its etiopathogenesis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: 33 patients with Persistent or Post-Acute Symptoms of COVID-19, who were between weeks 4 and 12 from the onset of symptoms were enrolled in the present study. Patients whose main symptoms were musculoskeletal such as fatigue due to muscle weakness, diminished muscle strength and myalgia (muscle pain) were excluded. The following protocol was followed: in cases with mild symptoms, Ivermectin was administered at a dose of 0.2 mg per kilogram of body weight per day for 2 days. If patients still had symptoms after the 2 doses, 2 additional days of Ivermectin treatment were given at the same dose. For cases with moderate symptoms, a dose of 0.4 mg per kilogram of body weight was prescribed for 2 days, followed by 0.2 mg per kilogram of body weight for 2 additional days. If a patient continued to have symptoms after the fourth day of treatment, more doses of Ivermectin were indicated. Treatment then continued for additional days until either clinical improvement was observed, or there was no longer further clinical improvement with treatment.

RESULTS: 33 adult patients with Persistent or Post-Acute Symptoms of COVID-19 were treated with Ivermectin. In 94% of the 33 patients, clinical improvement to some degree (partial or total) was observed after 2 doses of Ivermectin. Total improvement (without any symptoms) was observed in 87.9% of the patients after the 2 daily doses of Ivermectin. In 12.1% of patients whose symptoms had not been completely resolved after the first 2 doses, additional doses of Ivermectin treatment were administered according to the protocol, and total clinical resolution of symptoms was observed in 94% of cases.

CONCLUSION: The result of the present study demonstrates that clinical improvement is observed in high percentage of patients with Persistent or Post-Acute Symptoms of COVID-19 who are treated with Ivermectin.

Given the high number of patients with Persistent Symptoms and a favorable clinical response seen after receiving this specific treatment, we recommend that additional clinical studies be carried out on the use of Ivermectin and other drugs to reduce and eliminate the viral load in these cases.

Key Words: Long hauler, Long COVID, COVID Long term, Persistent Symptoms, Long Term COVID, Persistent COVID-19, Post-acute COVID-19, Prolonged COVID-19, Subacute COVID-19, Chronic COVID-19, Ivermectin.