

Pan-American Guidelines for the Treatment of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19: A Joint Evidence-Based Guideline of the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases (SBI) and the Pan-American Association of Infectious Diseases (API)

Alexandre Naime Barbosa

Universidade Estadual Paulista

Alberto Chebabo

Universidad Científica del Sur

Carlos Starling

Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo

Clevy Pérez

Fundación Universitaria Autónoma de las Américas-Institución Universitaria Visión de las Américas

Clóvis Arns Cunha

Lebanese American University

David de Luna

Lebanese American University

Estevão Portela Nunes

Lebanese American University

Gabriela Zambrano

Lebanese American University

Juliana Carvalho Ferreira

Lebanese American University

Júlio Croda

Oswaldo Cruz Foundation

Maicon Falavigna

HTAnalyze Consulting and Training

Monica Maria Gomes da Silva

Federal University of Paraná

Monica Thormann

Hospital Salvador Bienvenido Gautier

Sergio Cimerman

Instituto de Infectologia Emílio Ribas

Suena Medeiros Parahiba

HTAnalyze Consulting and Training

Suzana Tanni

Universidade Estadual Paulista

Wanderley Marques Bernardo

Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo

Alfonso J. Rodriguez-Morales (✉ arodriguezmo@cientifica.edu.pe)

Fundación Universitaria Autónoma de las Américas-Institución Universitaria Visión de las Américas

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Abstract

Background

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, therapeutic options for treating COVID-19 have been investigated at different stages of clinical manifestations. Considering the particular impact of COVID-19 in the Americas, this document aims to present recommendations for the pharmacological treatment of COVID-19 specific to this population.

Method

Fifteen experts, members of the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases (SBI) and the Pan-American Association of Infectious Diseases (API) make up the panel responsible for developing this guideline. Questions were formulated regarding prophylaxis and treatment of COVID-19 in outpatient and inpatient settings. The outcomes considered in decision-making were mortality, hospitalisation, need for mechanical ventilation, symptomatic COVID-19 episodes, and adverse events. In addition, a systematic review of randomised controlled trials was conducted. The quality of evidence assessment and guideline development process followed the GRADE system.

Results

Nine technologies were evaluated, and ten recommendations were made, including the use of tixagevimab + cilgavimab in the prophylaxis of COVID-19, tixagevimab + cilgavimab, molnupiravir, nirmatrelvir + ritonavir, and remdesivir in the treatment of outpatients, and remdesivir, baricitinib, and tocilizumab in the treatment of hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19. The use of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine and ivermectin was discouraged.

Conclusion

This guideline provides recommendations for treating patients in the Americas following the principles of evidence-based medicine. The recommendations present a set of drugs that have proven effective in the prophylaxis and treatment of COVID-19, emphasising the strong recommendation for the use of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir in outpatients as the lack of benefit from the use of hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin.

Background

The increased number of severe cases of viral pneumonia caused by SARS-CoV-2 in China in 2019 and its worldwide spread led the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020 [1]. As of February 2023, more than 673.9 million confirmed cases and more than 6.86 million

deaths from COVID-19 have been reported worldwide [2]. According to the WHO, more than 188.4 million cases have been recorded in the Americas, and the continent has the highest COVID-19 death rate in the world with 2, 909,286 death records [3]. These figures are due to the high incidence of cases and deaths in the largest countries in the Americas. The United States of America (USA) has recorded more than 102.3 million cases and 1.1 million deaths, followed by Brazil with more than 36.8 million cases and 696,892 deaths, which is then followed by Argentina with more than 10.0 million cases and 130,421 deaths, and Mexico with more than 7.4 million cases and 332,190 deaths, among others [2]. These rates have made COVID-19 a severe public health threat worldwide and in Latin America.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global scale of SARS-CoV-2 infection has risen considerably over time and with regional variation [4]. Numerous drugs related to the pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2, such as those with antiviral and immunomodulatory effects and inhibitors of the inflammatory cascade, have been proposed to minimise damage in patients with suspected or some degree of infection, with promising results, particularly in high-risk populations. This group includes individuals older than 65, individuals with obesity, cardiovascular or metabolic disease, or immunocompromising conditions, and individuals who are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated [5]. In addition, the overall increase in vaccination coverage has led to a substantial drop in the risk of hospitalisation and death [5]. However, increased transmissibility of new variants of concern would still result in a rise in cases leading to excessive hospitalisations associated with COVID-19 and its complications [6].

In light of new evidence, changes in the pandemic scenario and heterogeneity in clinical practice, it is necessary to evaluate the existing evidence and formulate recommendations so that health professionals can provide adequate treatment.

Methods

The guideline development group consisted of a group of coordinators, including one specialist in the proposed topic (ANB) and two methodologists (JCF, ST), and an expert committee (panel members), including experts from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and the Dominican Republic who represent the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases (SBI) and the Pan-American Association of Infectious Diseases (API). Videoconferencing and face-to-face recommendation meetings, including asynchronous written communication (i.e., e-mail), were held from May 27, 2022, to July 6, 2022. The guideline development process followed the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) system for assessing evidence and developing recommendations [7, 8].

The expert committee formulated ten questions related to the pharmacological treatment of COVID-19 according to the PICO framework (patients, intervention, comparator, and outcome). The outcomes of interest were defined *a priori* and classified as critical, important, or unimportant. Only critical and important outcomes were used for making the recommendations (Table 1).

Table 1
Guideline questions and outcomes of importance.

Question	Critical Outcomes	Important Outcomes
1. Should tixagevimab + cilgavimab be recommended for pre-exposure prophylaxis in people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19?	Symptomatic COVID-19 Adverse event with death	Serious adverse event
2. Should monoclonal antibodies be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19? ^a	Death	Hospitalisation Serious adverse event
3. Should molnupiravir be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?	Hospitalisation Death	Serious adverse event
4. Should nirmatrelvir/ritonavir be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?	Hospitalisation Death	Serious adverse event
5. Should remdesivir be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?	Hospitalisation Death	Serious adverse event
6. Should hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?	Hospitalisation Death	Serious adverse event
7. Should ivermectin be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?	Hospitalisation Death	Serious adverse event
8. Should remdesivir be recommended for hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19?	Mechanical ventilation Death	Serious adverse event
9. Should baricitinib be recommended for hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19?	Death	Serious adverse event
10. Should tocilizumab be recommended for hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19?	Mechanical ventilation Death	Serious adverse event

^a In this question, the following monoclonal antibodies were considered: bamlanivimab + etesevimab, casirivimab + imdevimab, sotrovimab, bebtelovimab, and tixagevimab + cilgavimab. During the panel, members decided not to make recommendations for bamlanivimab, casirivimab, etesevimab, imdevimab, regdanvimab, and sotrovimab due to a lack of evidence of effectiveness in the scenario of omicron variant circulation and for bebtelovimab due to lack of evidence of effectiveness.

Evidence Search And Synthesis

A team of experienced methodologists searched and synthesised evidence independent of the expert committee.

Searches were performed on MEDLINE, Embase, ClinicalTrials.gov and Google Scholar databases. The search strategy was restricted to phase III randomised controlled trials (RCTs), with keywords pre-established by the specialist coordinators, without limitations on language or publication date (Additional Table 1).

Two researchers independently screened titles and abstracts. If an abstract was considered relevant, the paper was included for full-text review to confirm eligibility. The reasons for inclusion or exclusion were recorded and presented according to the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) (Supplemental Figs. 1–10). Then, two reviewers independently abstracted the data from selected studies and performed meta-analyses whenever possible. The risk of bias was assessed using an adapted version of the Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool 2.0. Finally, the quality of evidence was assessed using GRADE (Table 2).

Table 2
Levels of evidence according to the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE).

Level	Definition	Implications
High ()	We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.	Future research is unlikely to change confidence in the estimated effect.
Moderate (O)	We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different.	Future research will likely have a major impact on confidence in the estimated effect and may change this estimate.
Low (OO)	Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: the true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.	Future research will likely have a major impact on confidence in the estimated effect and will likely change this estimate.
Very low (OOO)	We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.	Any estimate of an effect is very uncertain.

Adapted from: Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) Working Group. Handbook for grading the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations using the GRADE approach. Updated October 2013. Available from: <https://gdt.gradepro.org/app/handbook/handbook.html> [9].

Development Of Recommendations

On May 27, 2022, a recommendation meeting was held in São Paulo, Brazil, in a hybrid format (in person and remote). In the meeting, each question with the underlying evidence was presented to the panel of experts to develop recommendations. Before starting the meeting, all experts and methodologists declared and signed their relevant conflicts of interest pertinent to each of the 10 guideline questions. A second virtual meeting was required to finalise the process, held on July 6, 2022.

The GRADE Evidence to Decision (EtD) framework was used to evaluate the priority of the problem, the magnitude of undesirable effects, evidence of benefits and risks, quality of evidence, costs and use of resources, feasibility, and aspects related to equity, patient values and preferences, and acceptability. Finally, the panel made a recommendation, where the direction of the course of action was discussed (whether to recommend or not to recommend the use of the intervention), and the strength of recommendation was defined as strong or conditional according to the GRADE system (Table 3). The terminology "we recommend" and "we suggest" denote different degrees of emphasis on the strength of recommendation, as follows: "We recommend" represents a strong recommendation, which should be incorporated as a routine practice, either for or against the use of a given intervention; "We suggest" represents a conditional recommendation, which applies to most situations, but due either to the lack of robust evidence or to the expected variation in treatment effectiveness, other approaches may be justifiable.

Table 3
Implications of the strength of recommendation for clinicians, patients, and policymakers.

Target audience	Strong	Conditional
Policymakers	The recommendation should be adopted as a health care policy in most situations.	Substantial debate is required, with the involvement of stakeholders.
Clinicians	Most patients should receive the recommended intervention.	The health professional should acknowledge that different choices may be appropriate for individual patients and should help them make decisions consistent with their values and preferences.
Patients	Most individuals would want the intervention to be recommended, and only a small number would not accept this recommendation.	Most individuals would want the intervention to be recommended, although a considerable number would not accept this recommendation.
Source: Adapted from Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) Working Group. Handbook for grading the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations using the GRADE approach. Updated October 2013. Available from: https://gdt.gradeapro.org/app/handbook/handbook.html . [9]		

Members with a direct financial conflict of interest related to a given intervention did not vote for the related questions. The list of participants, their role in the guideline, and statement of conflicts of interest are provided in additional material (Additional Table 2).

Results

Ten recommendations were made. The guideline panel recommendations are summarised in Table 4 and Figure 1. Each recommendation with a summary of the underlying evidence is presented below. In addition, detailed information regarding the evidence supporting each recommendation is shown in additional material.

Table 4. Summary of recommendations.

Recommendation 1:	We suggest using tixagevimab + cilgavimab for prophylaxis in people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 2:	We suggest using tixagevimab + cilgavimab in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 3.1:	We suggest against using molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 and no risk factors for severe disease (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 3.2:	We suggest using molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 and risk factors for severe disease (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 4:	We recommend using nirmatrelvir/ritonavir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 5:	We suggest using remdesivir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, low certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 6:	We recommend against using hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 7:	We recommend against using ivermectin in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 8:	We suggest using remdesivir in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, low certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 9:	We suggest using baricitinib in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).
Recommendation 10:	We suggest using tocilizumab in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).

Recommendation 1: We suggest using tixagevimab + cilgavimab for prophylaxis in people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 13 references, and one RCT (Levin et al., 2022) evaluating the effectiveness of tixagevimab + cilgavimab in the population of interest was included [10]. The trial tested a monoclonal-antibody combination of tixagevimab and cilgavimab (AZD7442). A single 300 mg dose of AZD7442 (two consecutive 1.5 mL intramuscular injections, one containing tixagevimab and the other containing cilgavimab) was administered on day 1. Compared with placebo, tixagevimab + cilgavimab reduced the occurrence of symptomatic COVID-19 by 2% (one RCT, n = 5197, absolute risk difference of 2.0%; 95% CI, -2.7% to -1.1%; very low certainty in evidence). No significant difference was observed for adverse events.

Treatment of outpatients with COVID-19

Recommendation 2: We suggest using tixagevimab + cilgavimab in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 53 references, and one RCT (Montgomery et al., 2022) evaluating the effectiveness of tixagevimab + cilgavimab in the population of interest was included [11]. The trial tested the intramuscular administration of a single tixagevimab-cilgavimab 600 mg dose (two consecutive 3 mL intramuscular injections, one containing tixagevimab and the other containing cilgavimab) on day 1. Compared with placebo, tixagevimab + cilgavimab reduced hospitalisation by 5.1% (one RCT, n = 903, absolute risk difference of -5.1%; 95% CI, -8.2% to -1.9%; moderate certainty in evidence). No significant difference was observed for mortality or adverse events.

Recommendation 3.1: We suggest against using molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 and no risk factors for severe disease (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).

Recommendation 3.2. We suggest using molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 and risk factors for severe disease (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 26 references and one RCT (MOVE-OUT study) evaluating the effectiveness of molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 and no risk factors for severe disease and one RCT (Tippabhotla et al., 2022) assessing the effectiveness of molnupiravir in the population of interest were included [12, 13]. Both trials tested the oral administration of 800 mg of molnupiravir twice daily for five days in addition to standard-of-care treatment. In patients without risk factors for severe disease, no significant difference was observed for molnupiravir as compared with placebo in hospitalisation (one RCT, n = 1220, absolute risk difference of -1.0%; 95% CI, -2.0% to 0.0%; moderate certainty in evidence), mortality (absolute risk difference of 0.0%; 95% CI, -0.0% to 0.0%; very moderate certainty in evidence), or serious adverse events (absolute risk difference of -0.0%; 95% CI, -4.0% to 3.0%; moderate certainty in evidence) [12]. In patients with risk factors for severe disease, molnupiravir, as compared with placebo, reduced mortality (one RCT, n = 1433, absolute risk difference of -1.0%; 95% CI,

-2.0% to -0.0%; high certainty in evidence) but did not reach statistical significance for hospitalisation (one RCT, n = 1433, absolute risk difference of -2.0%; 95% CI, -4.0% to 1.0%; high certainty in evidence). Molnupiravir did not increase serious adverse events (one RCT, n = 1433, absolute risk difference of -3.0%; 95% CI, -5.0% to 0.0%; high certainty in evidence) [13].

Recommendation 4: We recommend using nirmatrelvir/ritonavir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence)

Summary of evidence: The review identified 19 references, and one RCT (EPIC-HR study) evaluating the effectiveness of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir in the population of interest was included [14]. The trial assessed the administration of nirmatrelvir (300 mg) plus ritonavir (100 mg) twice daily for five days. As compared with placebo, nirmatrelvir/ritonavir reduced mortality (one RCT, n = 2246, absolute risk difference of -1.0%; 95% CI, -1.6% to -0.4%; moderate certainty in evidence) and hospitalisation (one RCT, n = 2246, absolute risk difference of -5.0%; 95% CI, -6.5% to -3.6%; high certainty in evidence). Patients who received nirmatrelvir/ritonavir had fewer serious adverse events than placebo recipients (one RCT, n = 2246, absolute risk difference of -4.9%; 95% CI, -6.5% to -3.3%; high certainty in evidence).

Recommendation 5: We suggest using remdesivir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, low certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 430 references, and one RCT (PINETREE study) evaluating the effectiveness of remdesivir in the population of interest was included [15]. The trial tested intravenous remdesivir, 200 mg administered on day one, followed by 100 mg on days 2 and 3. Compared with placebo, remdesivir reduced hospitalisation (one RCT, n = 562, absolute risk difference of -4.4%; 95% CI, -7.5% to -1.3%; moderate certainty in evidence). Serious adverse events were more frequently observed in the remdesivir group (one RCT, n = 562, absolute risk difference of -4.8%; 95% CI, -8.0% to -1.5%; moderate certainty in evidence). No deaths occurred during the study follow-up.

Recommendation 6: We recommend against using hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 783 references and six RCTs (ALBERTA HOPE COVID-19 study, COPE – COALITION COVID-19 Brazil V study, Mitjà et al., 2021, Omrani et al., 2020, Skipper et al., 2020, and TOGETHER study) evaluating the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine in the population of interest were included [16-21]. The largest trial (COPE – COALITION COVID-19 Brazil V study) tested the administration of 400 mg of hydroxychloroquine twice daily on day 1, followed by 400 mg once daily after that, for seven days [16]. As compared with placebo, hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine did not significantly reduce mortality (six RCTs, n = 2981, absolute risk difference of 0.0%; 95% CI, -1.0% to 0.0%; moderate certainty in evidence) or hospitalisation (six RCTs, n = 2981, absolute risk difference of -2.0%; 95% CI, -3.0% to 0.0%; moderate certainty in evidence). No impact was observed on severe adverse events (five RCTs, n = 2558, absolute risk difference of 0.0%; 95% CI, -2.0% to 1.0%; moderate certainty in evidence).

Recommendation 7: We recommend against using ivermectin in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, low certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 168 references, and three RCTs (ACTIV-6 study, López-Medina et al., 2021, and TOGETHER study) evaluating the effectiveness of ivermectin in the population of interest were included [22-24]. All trials assessed efficacy (death and hospitalisation) and safety outcomes (adverse events).

Two trials tested ivermectin 400 µg/kg of body weight administered once daily for three days [23, 24], and one trial tested ivermectin 300 µg/kg administered once daily for five days [22]. As compared with placebo, ivermectin did not reduce mortality (three RCTs, n = 3425, absolute risk difference of 0.0%; 95% CI, -1.0% to 1.0%; moderate certainty in evidence) or hospitalisation (three RCTs, n = 3425, absolute risk difference of -2.0%; 95% CI, -3.0% to 0.0%; moderate certainty in evidence). Ivermectin did not increase the incidence of serious adverse events (three RCTs, n = 3425, absolute risk difference of 0.0%; 95% CI, -2.0% to 1.0%; moderate certainty in evidence).

Hospitalised patients with COVID-19

Recommendation 8: We suggest using remdesivir in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, low certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 430 references and eight RCTs (Abd-Elsalam et al., 2021, ACTT-1 study, CATCO study, DISCOVERY study, Mahajan et al., 2021, SIMPLE-Moderate study, Wuhan-Hubei study, and WHO Solidarity study) evaluating the effectiveness of remdesivir in the population of interest were included [25-32]. A 200 mg dose of remdesivir was administered on day 1, followed by 100 mg once daily for 4 to 9 days. As compared with the standard of care, remdesivir significantly reduced progression to invasive mechanical ventilation (eight RCTs, n = 11857, absolute risk difference of -3%; 95% CI, -5% to -1%; low certainty in evidence) and showed a non-significant reduction in mortality (eight RCTs, n = 12608, absolute risk difference of -1%; 95% CI, -3% to 0%; moderate certainty in evidence). In addition, Remdesivir did not increase the incidence of serious adverse events (five RCTs, n = 2715, absolute risk difference of -3%; 95% CI, -8% to 2%; very low certainty in evidence).

Recommendation 9: We suggest using baricitinib in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 75 references, and one RCT (COV-BARRIER study) evaluating the effectiveness of baricitinib in the population of interest was included [33, 34]. The COV-BARRIER study assessed the administration of baricitinib 4 mg once daily (oral or nasogastric tube) for 14 days or until hospital discharge. As compared with the standard of care, baricitinib significantly reduced mortality (one RCT, n = 1525, absolute risk difference of -5.0%; 95% CI, -8.1% to -1.9%; moderate certainty in evidence). In addition, Baricitinib did not increase the incidence of serious adverse events (one RCT, n = 1525, absolute risk difference of -2.5%; 95% CI, -6.2% to 1.1%; low certainty in evidence).

Recommendation 10: We suggest using tocilizumab in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).

Summary of evidence: The review identified 358 references, and 14 RCTs evaluating the effectiveness of tocilizumab in the population of interest were included [35-47]. The intervention used in the most prominent trial (RECOVERY) consisted of the intravenous infusion of a single tocilizumab dose of 800 mg if weight > 90 kg, 600 mg if weight > 65 and ≤ 90 kg, 400 mg if weight > 40 and ≤ 65 kg, or 8 mg/kg if weight ≤ 40 kg, and a second dose could be administered 12 to 24 hours later if, in the opinion of the clinician, the patient's condition had not improved [35]. As compared with the standard of care, tocilizumab significantly reduced mortality (14 RCTs, n = 7866, absolute risk difference of -3.0%; 95% CI, -5.0% to -1.0%; moderate certainty in evidence) and progression to mechanical ventilation (seven RCTs, n = 6866, absolute risk difference of -2.0%; 95% CI, -4.% to -1.0%; moderate certainty in evidence). Tocilizumab did not increase the incidence of serious adverse events (11 RCTs, n = 2489, absolute risk difference of -1.0%; 95% CI, -5.0% to 2.0%; moderate certainty in evidence).

Discussion

This joint SBI-API evidence-based guideline was developed by a panel of experts based on a comprehensive systematic review with meta-analysis of RCTs focused on ascertaining the efficacy of therapies in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. The guideline provides ten recommendations that include tixagevimab + cilgavimab in the prophylaxis of COVID-19, tixagevimab + cilgavimab, molnupiravir, nirmatrelvir + ritonavir, and remdesivir in the treatment of outpatients, and remdesivir, baricitinib, and tocilizumab in the treatment of hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19. In addition, the use of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine and ivermectin was discouraged.

Some clinical treatments have been recommended in previous guidelines. Monoclonal antibodies (e.g., tixagevimab + cilgavimab), direct-acting antiviral agents (e.g., remdesivir), corticosteroids (e.g., dexamethasone), interleukin-6 antagonists (e.g., tocilizumab) and Janus kinase inhibitors (e.g., baricitinib) have been evaluated in guidelines for the treatment of patients with COVID-19 after RCT results became available indicating their benefit in specific populations [48, 49]. In Brazil, two guidelines were published for pharmacological treatment in outpatients and hospitalised patients. The Brazilian guidelines for the treatment of outpatients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 provide ten recommendations, most of which advice against the use of the candidate technologies, contraindicating the clinical treatment of COVID-19 with anticoagulants, azithromycin, budesonide, colchicine, corticosteroids, hydroxychloroquine/chloroquine alone or combined with azithromycin, ivermectin, nitazoxanide, or convalescent plasma [50]. Using monoclonal antibodies in outpatients was impossible because of their uncertain benefits and high costs, with availability and implementation limitations [50]. The Brazilian guidelines for the pharmacological treatment of hospitalised patients with COVID-19 provide 16 recommendations that include treatment with corticosteroids in patients receiving supplemental oxygen and the use of prophylactic doses of anticoagulants for venous thromboembolism. In contrast, several medications were not recommended for this population [51].

Close to the scope of the current guideline, the renowned Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) published guidelines on treating and managing patients with COVID-19 with 32 recommendations for prophylaxis in both outpatient and inpatient settings [52]. The IDSA guidelines apply to all patients with COVID-19, but some recommendations may differ based on disease severity [52]. The WHO definitions of disease severity for COVID-19 are as follows: (a) critical COVID-19 – defined by the criteria for acute respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis, septic shock, or other conditions that would generally require the provision of life-sustaining therapies such as mechanical ventilation (invasive or noninvasive) or vasopressor therapy; (b) severe COVID-19 – defined by oxygen saturation < 90% on room air, severe pneumonia, or signs of severe respiratory distress; and (c) non-severe COVID-19 – defined as an absence of any criteria for severe or critical COVID-19 [52].

Although substantial progress has been made in COVID-19 treatment, some gaps remain. These include recommendations for treatment given the new SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern [53], as recruitment preceded the emergence of the omicron variant in most trials. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) published an update on the emergence of omicron sublineages from SARS-CoV-2 recombination events [54]. In 2021, the omicron variant was introduced in the Americas and rapidly replaced delta and other lineages across the region and globally, becoming prevalent in all countries in the Americas since early 2022 [55–57]. The new emerging omicron sublineages carry additional S protein mutations, including BA.4.6 (with increasing incidence worldwide), BA.2.75.2 (with a growing incidence in India), BJ.1 (with increasing incidence mainly in India and Bangladesh), and BQ.1.1 (with a growing incidence in the USA and Europe) [53, 58]. On January 2023, the XBB.1.5 will be responsible for 61.3% of cases in the USA, following BQ.1.1 for 21.8% [59].

Emerging omicron sublineages resist some clinically used monoclonal antibodies, but preliminary data indicate complete resistance to XBB.1.5, BA.1.1 and BQ.1.1 to all monoclonal antibodies [53, 58, 60]. Therefore, in regions where this sublineage is spreading, patients may not respond well to clinical treatment with monoclonal antibodies alone, suggesting additional treatment options (e.g., nirmatrelvir/ritonavir or molnupiravir) should be considered for patients at high risk [58].

According to the FDA, over 90% of circulating variants are unlikely to be susceptible to tixagevimab-cilgavimab [60]. In this context, some organisations and societies remarked on neutralising antibodies. For example, on January 13, the IDSA added a remark to the neutralising antibodies for pre-exposure prophylaxis with tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld) recommendation due to resistance in the USA [52]. Also, the recommendation of neutralising antibodies for post-exposure prophylaxis with casirivimab/imdevimab was removed and replaced with a statement mentioning in vitro resistance to circulating strains in the USA [52].

Omicron sublineages BQ.1.1 and XBB1.5 can lead to a high volume of hospitalisations, which can strain healthcare systems and maintain a substantial number of deaths. That underscores the importance of preparing care units, specifically, hospital surge capacity and the ability to adequately staff health care systems and equip the health professionals who will care for these patients. In addition to vaccination,

following recommended prevention strategies is essential to prevent poor outcomes such as infections, severe illness, and death from COVID-19 [6].

Deciding on the best practice has been challenging, given the rapid generation of large amounts of data and sometimes conflicting clinical results [49]. Nevertheless, despite limited evidence, this guideline recommends using agents in the prophylaxis and treatment of outpatients and hospitalised patients, considering an application context encompassing the Americas. Thus, the scope of this guideline proved to be comprehensive by answering the main clinical questions based on a robust method such as GRADE.

The current guideline addresses pharmacological treatment in three different COVID-19 management scenarios contextualised in clinical practice in countries in the Americas. Further RCTs will be needed to update current recommendations as the pandemic still progresses in 2023.

Conclusions

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, studies have been conducted to provide the evidence necessary to formulate recommendations. This guideline presents a set of drugs that have proven effective in the prophylaxis and treatment of COVID-19 following the principles of evidence-based medicine, emphasising the strong recommendation for the use of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir in outpatients. Evidence has shown the lack of benefit of hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin, contraindicating their use in both outpatient and inpatient settings. It is strongly advised that these recommendations be adopted in the Americas to optimise the use of health resources and reduce the heterogeneity of procedures.

Abbreviations

API	Pan-American Association of Infectious Diseases
CI	confidence interval
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
EtD	Evidence to Decision
GRADE	Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation
IDSA	Infectious Diseases Society of America
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PICO	patients, intervention, comparator, and outcome
PRISMA	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
RCT	randomised controlled trial
SARS-CoV-2	severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
SBI	Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases
WHO	World Health Organization

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

The dataset supporting the conclusions of this article is within the manuscript and its additional file.

Competing interests

MF received consulting fees related to COVID-19 from Pfizer and MSD outside the context of the present study. AJRM, CP, DL, GZ, JCF, MT, SMP, ST, and WMB have no direct financial interests.

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Authors' contributions

SMP, ST, and WMB were involved in the evidence search and synthesis. ANB, AC, SC and AJRM made up the guideline coordination. AC, AJRM, ANB, CAC, CP, CS, DL, EPN, GZ, JC, JCF, MMGS, MT, SC, and ST were panel members. ANB, MF and SMP were involved to manuscript writing. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Figures

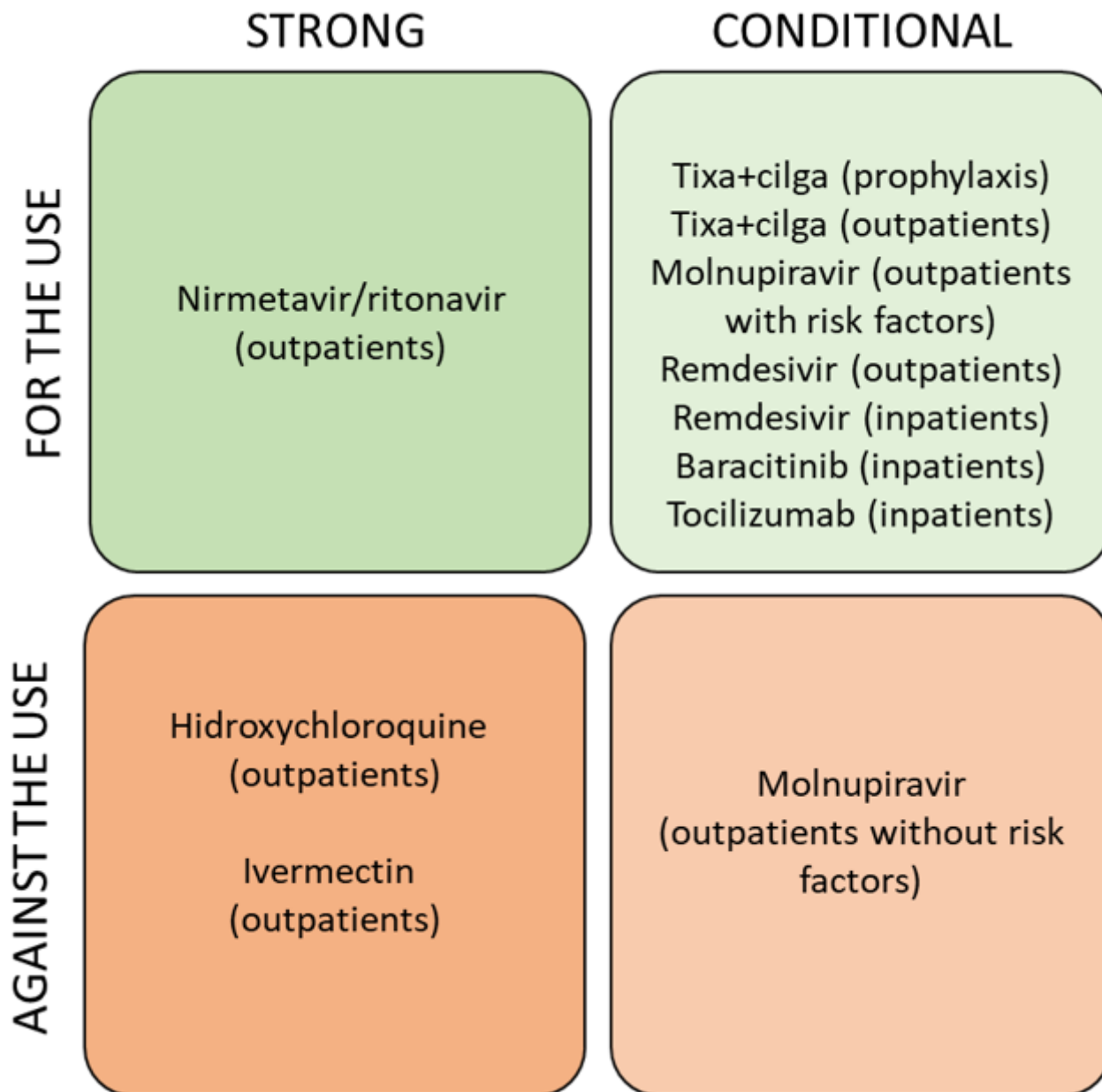


Figure 1

Summary of recommendations for the pharmacological treatment of COVID-19.

Tixa+cilga stands for tixagevimab + cilgavimab

Source: manuscript' authors.

Supplementary Files

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- [Supplement1.docx](#)

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Additional table 1. Search strategies for systematic reviews

Question	Search Strategy*
Question 1	(AZD7442 OR Tixagevimab OR Cilgavimab) AND (COVID-19 OR COVID OR coronavirus OR SARS-CoV-2) AND Random*
Question 2	(Casirivimab OR Imdevimab OR Bamlanivimab OR Etesivimab OR Sotrovimab OR Regdanvimab OR Tixagevimab OR Cilgavimab OR Bebtelovimab OR Monoclonal Antibodies OR Monoclonal Antibody) AND (COVID OR COV OR CORONAVIRUS OR SARS) AND Random*
Question 3	(Molnupiravir) AND (COVID OR COV OR CORONAVIRUS OR SARS) AND Random*
Question 4	(Nirmatrelvir) AND (COVID OR COV OR CORONAVIRUS OR SARS) AND Random*
Question 5	(Remdesivir) AND (COVID OR COV OR CORONAVIRUS OR SARS) AND Random*
Question 6	(IVERMECTIN) AND (COVID OR COV OR CORONAVIRUS OR SARS) AND Random*
Question 7	(Chloroquine OR Chlorochin OR Hydroxychloroquine OR Oxychloroquine OR Hydroxychlorochin) AND (COVID OR COV OR CORONAVIRUS OR SARS) AND Random*
Question 8	(Remdesivir) AND (COVID OR COV OR CORONAVIRUS OR SARS) AND Random*
Question 9	(sars cov 2 OR sars cov 2 OR covid OR covid 19 OR covid 19 OR COV OR coronavirus OR coronavirus OR coronaviruses OR SARS) AND (baricitinib) AND random*
Question 10	(sars cov 2 OR sars cov 2 OR covid OR covid 19 OR covid 19 OR COV OR coronavirus OR coronavirus OR coronaviruses OR SARS) AND (tocilizumab) AND random*

*Search update: July 6th, 2022.

Additional table 2. Disclosure of financial interests for panel members involved on recommendations

Name	Disclosure of interests	Questions with potential financial conflict of interest^a
Alberto Chebabo	-	1, 2 (tixagebimab + cilgavimab);
Alexandre Naime Barbosa	-	1, 2 (tixagebimab + cilgavimab); 3 (molnupiravir); 5, 8 (remdesivir)
Alfonso Javier Rodríguez-Morales	No direct financial interests	Not applicable
Carlos Starling	-	1, 2 (tixagebimab + cilgavimab)
Clevy Pérez	No direct financial interests	Not applicable
Clóvis Arns Cunha	-	1, 2 (tixagebimab + cilgavimab); 3 (molnupiravir); 5 (remdesivir)
David de Luna	No direct financial interests	Not applicable
Estevão Portela Nunes	-	5, 8 (remdesivir)
Gabriela Zambrano	No direct financial interests	Not applicable
Juliana Carvalho Ferreira	No direct financial interests	Not applicable
Júlio Croda	-	3 (molnupiravir); 4 (Nirmatrevir/ritonavir)
Monica Maria Gomes da Silva	-	3 (molnupiravir);
Monica Thormann	No direct financial interests	Not applicable
Sérgio Cimerman	-	1, 2 (tixagebimab + cilgavimab); 3 (molnupiravir); 5, 8 (remdesivir)
Suzana Tanni	No direct financial interests	Not applicable

^a Members with a direct financial conflict of interest related to a given intervention did not vote for the related questions

Additional table 3. Should Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab treatment be recommended for pre-exposure prophylaxis in people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19?

Certainty assessment							Number of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
Number of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Tixagevimab + cilgavimab	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Symptomatic COVID-19 episode												
1	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	20/3461 (0.6%)	44/1736 (2.5%)	not estimable	-	Low	CRITICAL
Adverse event with death												
1	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	4/3461 (0.1%)	4/1736 (0.2%)	not estimable	-	Very low	CRITICAL
Serious adverse event												
1	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	50/3461 (1.4%)	23/1736 (1.3%)	not estimable	-	Very low	IMPORTANT

CI: Confidence interval

Explanations

- a. Follow-up loss greater than 20%.
- b. Optimal Information Size not met.

Additional table 4. Should monoclonal antibody (Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab) treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?^a

Number of studies	Certainty assessment						Relative risk (95% CI)		Absolute risk (95% CI)		Certainty	Importance
	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Tixagevimab + cilgavimab	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality												
1	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	6/456 (1.3%)	6/454 (1.3%)	not estimable	0 fewer per 100 (from 1 fewer to 1 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Hospitalization												
1	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	17/456 (3.7%)	40/454 (8.8%)	not estimable	5 fewer per 100 (from 8 fewer to 2 fewer)	High	IMPORTANT
Serious adverse event												
1	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	22/456 (4.8%)	30/454 (6.6%)	not estimable	2 fewer per 100 (from 5 fewer to 1 more)	High	IMPORTANT

CI: Confidence interval

Explanations

a. Due to the lack of effectiveness for the omicron variant, the panel chose not to make recommendations for Bamlanivimab, Casirivimab, Etesivimab, Imdevimab, Regdanvimab and Sotrovimab. For Bebtelovimab, no recommendation was made due to lack of evidence.

b. Optimal Information Size not met.

Additional table 5. Should molnupiravir treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19 without risk factors for severe disease?

Number of studies	Study design	Certainty assessment					Molnupiravir vs Placebo		Effect		Certainty	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Molnupiravir	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality												
2	randomised trials	serious ^{a, b, c}	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	0/610 (0.0%)	0/610 (0.0%)	not estimable	10 more per 1.000 (from 10 fewer to 20 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Hospitalization												
2	randomised trials	serious ^{a, b, c}	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	7/610 (1.2%)	13/610 (2.1%)	not estimable	10 more per 1.000 (from 0 fewer to 30 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Serious Adverse Events												
2	randomised trials	serious ^{a, b, c}	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	78/610 (12.8%)	81/610 (13.3%)	not estimable	0 per 1.000 (from 40 fewer to 30 more)	Moderate	IMPORTANT

CI: confidence interval

Explanations

a. No blinding.

b. Absence of blinding, analysis by ITT and sample calculation.

b. No sample size calculation.

Additional table 6. Should molnupiravir treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19 with risk factors for severe disease?

Study ID	Study design	Certainty assessment					Comparison		Effect		Certainty	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Molnupiravir	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality												
1	randomised trial	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	1/716 (0.1%)	9/717 (1.3%)	not estimable	10 more per 1.000 (from 20 fewer to 0 fewer)	High	CRITICAL
Hospitalization												
1	randomised trial	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	47/716 (6.6%)	59/717 (8.2%)	not estimable	20 more per 1.000 (from 40 fewer to 10 more)	High	CRITICAL
Serious Adverse Events												
1	randomised trial	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	49/716 (6.8%)	67/717 (9.3%)	not estimable	30 more per 1.000 (from 50 fewer to 0 more)	High	IMPORTANT

CI: confidence interval
 Explanations

Additional table 7. Should Nirmatrelvir/ ritonavir treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?

Number of studies	Certainty assessment						Number of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Nirmatrelvir + Ritonavir	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality												
1	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	none	0/1120 (0.0%)	12/1126 (1.1%)	not estimable	-	Moderate	CRITICAL
Hospitalization												
1	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	8/1120 (0.7%)	65/1126 (5.8%)	not estimable	-	High	CRITICAL
Adverse Events												
1	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	18/1120 (1.6%)	74/1126 (6.6%)	not estimable	-	High	IMPORTANT

CI: Confidence interval

Explanations

a. Optimal Information Size not met.

Additional table 8. Should Remdesivir treatment be recommend for outpatients with mild COVID-19?

c Z studies	Certainty assessment						c Z d U h]		Effect		Certainty	Importance
	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Remdesivir	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolut (95% CI)		
Mortality												
1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	0/292 (0.0%)	0/292 (0.0%)	not estimable	-	Low	CRITICAL
Hospitalization												
1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	5/292 (1.7%)	18/292 (6.2%)	not estimable	-	Moderate	CRITICAL
Serious Adverse Events												
1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	5/292 (1.7%)	19/292 (6.5%)	not estimable	-	Moderate	IMPORTANT

CI: Confidence interval

Explanations

- a. Early discontinuation of the study.
- b. Optimal Information Size not met.

Additional table 9. Should Hydroxychloroquine treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?

Number of studies	Study design	Certainty assessment					Relative risk [95% CI]		Effect		Certainty	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	HCQ	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality												
6	randomised trials	serious ^c	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	6/1514 (0.4%)	7/1467 (0.5%)	not estimable	0 fewer per 1.000 (from 0 fewer to 10 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Hospitalization												
6	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	71/1514 (4.7%)	93/1467 (6.3%)	not estimable	20 more per 1.000 (from 0 fewer to 30 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Serious Adverse Events												
5	randomised trials	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	41/1302 (3.1%)	45/1256 (3.6%)	not estimable	0 fewer per 1.000 (from 10 fewer to 20 more)	Moderate	IMPORTANT

CI: Confidence interval; HCQ: Hydroxychloroquine

Explanations

- a. Follow-up loss greater than 20%.
- b. Absence of analysis by ITT.
- c. Absence of blinding.

Additional table 10. Should Ivermectin treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?

Number of studies	Certainty assessment						Effect		Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance
	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Ivermectin	Placebo				
Mortality												
3	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	22/1734 (1.3%)	25/1691 (1.5%)	not estimable	0 fewer per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 10 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Hospitalization												
3	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	110/1734 (6.3%)	124/1691 (7.3%)	not estimable	10 fewer per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 20 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Serious Adverse Event												
3	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	50/1734 (2.9%)	53/1691 (3.1%)	not estimable	0 fewer per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 10 more)	Moderate	IMPORTANT

CI: Confidence interval

Explanations

a. Limitation on sample size calculation, ITT analysis and unclear risk of bias.

Additional table 11. Should Remdesivir treatment be recommended for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19?

Number of studies	Study design	Certainty assessment					Relative risk (95% CI)		Effect		Certainty	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Remdesivir	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality												
8	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	863/6451 (13.4%)	934/6157 (15.2%)	not estimable	10 more per 1.000 (from 0 fewer to 30 more)	Moderate	CRITICAL
Mechanical Ventilation or ECMO												
8	randomised trials	serious ^a	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none	677/6069 (11.2%)	822/5788 (14.2%)	not estimable	30 more per 1.000 (from 10 more to 50 more)	Low	CRITICAL
Serious Adverse Events												
5	randomised trials	serious ^a	very serious ^c	not serious	serious ^d	none	297/1399 (21.2%)	331/1316 (25.2%)	not estimable	30 more per 1.000 (from 20 fewer to 80 more)	Very low	IMPORTANT

CI: confidence interval

Explanations

a. Absence of blinding.

b. Heterogeneity 50% - 75%.

c. Heterogeneity > 75%.

d. Large 95% CI.

Additional table 12. Should Baracitinib treatment be recommended for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19?

Number of studies	Study design	Certainty assessment					Comparison		Effect		Certainty	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Baricitinib	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		

Mortality

1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	62/764 (8.1%)	100/761 (13.1%)	not estimable	5 fewer per 100 (from 8 fewer to 2 fewer)	Moderate	CRITICAL
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Serious Adverse Events

1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	111/764 (14.5%)	130/761 (17.1%)	not estimable	3 fewer per 100 (from 6 fewer to 1 more)	Low	IMPORTANT
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CI: confidence interval

Explanations

a. Follow-up loss greater than 20%.

b. Large 95% CI.

Additional table 13. Should Baricitinib treatment vs. dexamethasone be recommended for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19?

Study ID	Study design	Certainty assessment					Comparison		Effect		Certainty	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Baricitinib	Dexamethasone	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality												
1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	27/516 (5.2%)	30/494 (6.1%)	not estimable	1 fewer per 100 (from 4 fewer to 2 more)	Low	CRITICAL
Mechanical Ventilation or ECMO												
1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	57/516 (11.0%)	50/494 (10.1%)	not estimable	1 fewer per 100 (from 3 fewer to 5 more)	Low	CRITICAL
Serious Adverse Events												
1	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	95/516 (18.4%)	94/494 (19.0%)	not estimable	1 fewer per 100 (from 5 fewer to 4 more)	Low	IMPORTANT

CI: confidence interval

Explanations

a. Follow-up loss greater than 20%.

b. Large 95% CI.

Additional table 14. Should Tocilizumab treatment be recommended for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19?

Number of studies	Certainty assessment						Tocilizumab		Placebo		Effect	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance
	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Tocilizumab	Placebo							
Mortality															
14	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	1089/4365 (24.9%)	986/3501 (28.2%)	not estimable	1 fewer per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 50 fewer)	Moderate	CRITICAL			
Mechanical Ventilation															
7	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	389/3849 (10.1%)	282/3017 (9.3%)	not estimable	20 fewer per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 40 fewer)	Moderate	CRITICAL			
Adverse Events															
11	randomised trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	301/1436 (21.0%)	227/1053 (21.6%)	not estimable	10 more per 1000 (from 20 fewer to 50 more)	Moderate	IMPORTANT			

CI: confidence interval

Explanations

a. Absence of blinding.

Additional table 15. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab treatment of pre-exposure prophylaxis in people at high risk of developing COVID-19

1) Should Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab treatment be recommended for pre-exposure prophylaxis in people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High No included studies
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We suggest using Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab for prophylaxis in people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 16. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab treatment in outpatients with mild COVID-19

Should Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Pequena Moderada Grande Varia Desconhecido
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High No included studies
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We suggest using tixagevimab + cilgavimab for prophylaxis in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 17. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Molnupiravir treatment in outpatients with mild COVID-19

Should Molnupiravir treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Opções de resposta
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High No included studies
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We suggest using Molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 18. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir treatment in outpatients with mild COVID-19

Should Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We recommend using Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 19. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Remdesivir treatment in outpatients with mild COVID-19

Should Remdesivir treatment be recommend for outpatients with mild COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High No included studies
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We suggest using Remdesivir in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, low certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 20. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine treatment in outpatients with mild COVID-19

Should Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High No included studies
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We recommend against using Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 21. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Ivermectin treatment in outpatients with mild COVID-19

Should Ivermectin treatment be recommended for outpatients with mild COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High No included studies
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We recommend against using Ivermectin in outpatients with mild COVID-19 (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence)	

Additional table 22. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Remdesivir treatment in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19

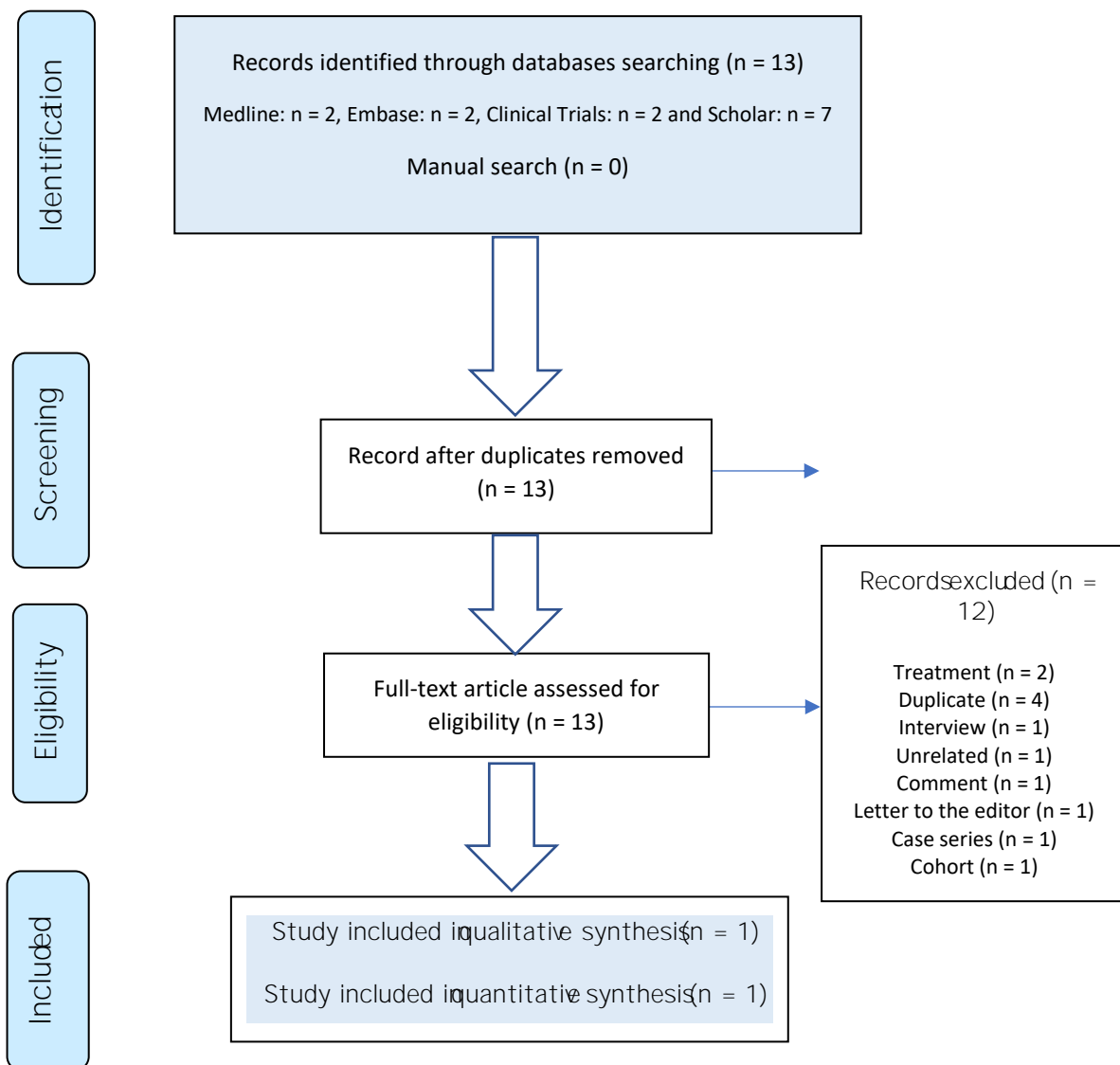
Should Remdesivir treatment be recommended for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Very low Low Moderate High No included studies
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We suggest using Remdesivir in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, low certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 23. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Baricitinib treatment in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19

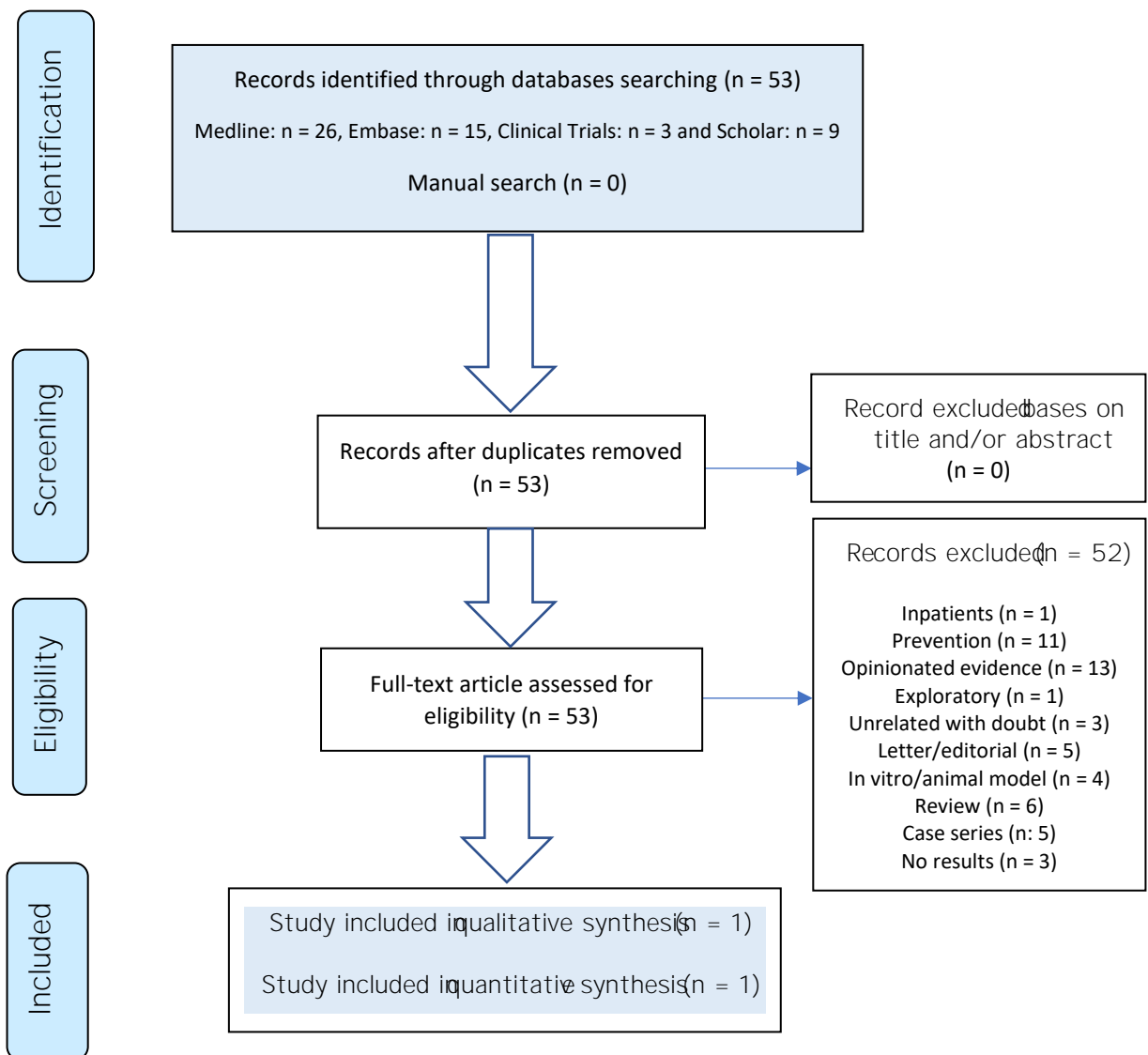
Should Baricitinib treatment be recommended for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We suggest using Baricitinib in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).	

Additional table 24. Evidence to decision framework for recommending Tocilizumab treatment in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19

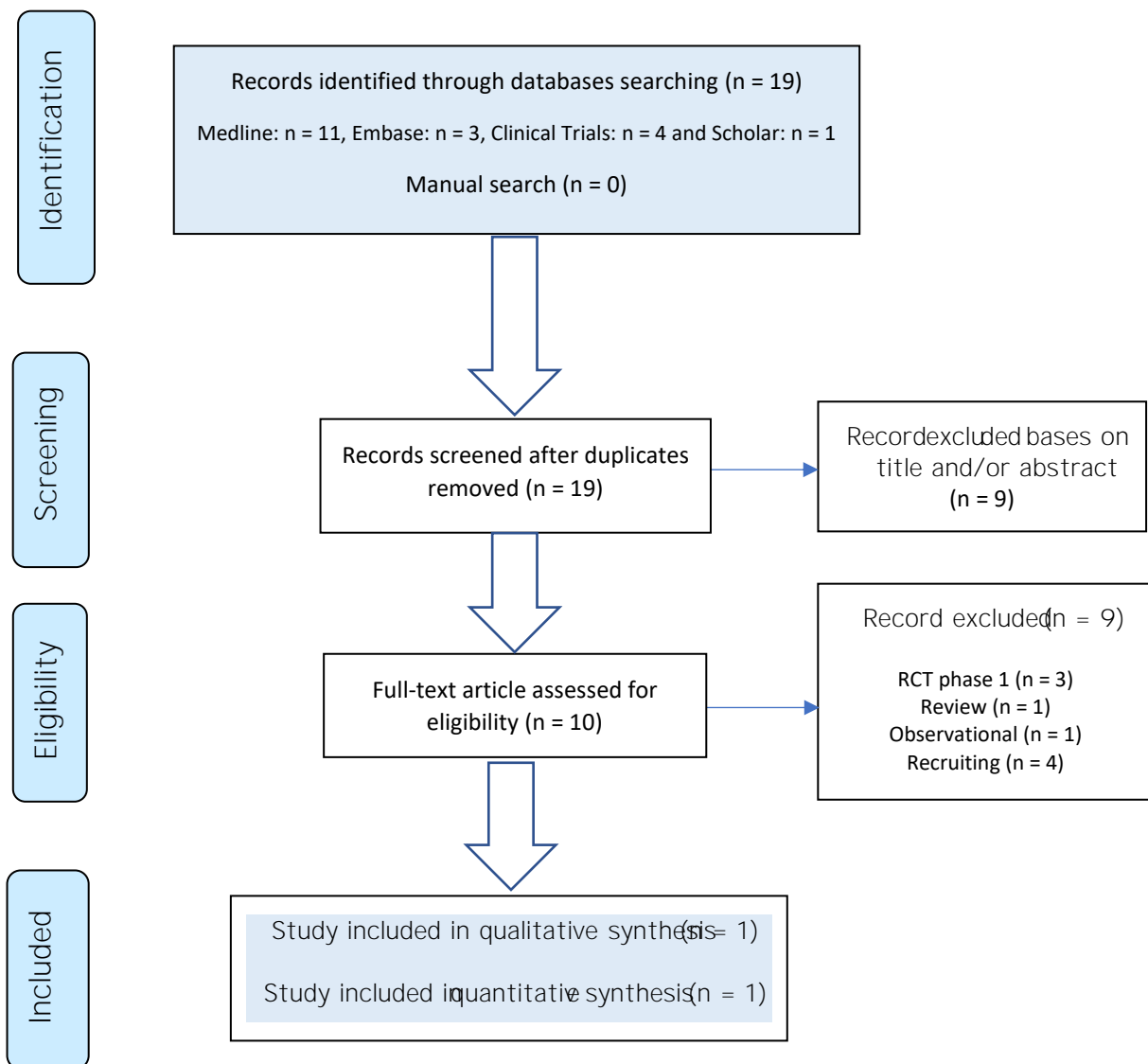
Should Tocilizumab treatment be recommended for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19?		
Domain	Question	Judgement
Problem	Is the problem a priority?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Desirable effects	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Undesirable effects	How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Certainty of evidence	What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?	Trivial Small Moderate Large Varies Don't know
Balance of effects	Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?	Favors the comparison Probably favors the comparison Does not favor either the intervention or the comparison Probably favors the intervention Favors the intervention Varies Don't know
Feasibility	Is the intervention feasible to implement?	No Probably no Probably yes Yes Varies Don't know
Recommendation	We suggest using Tocilizumab in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty in evidence).	



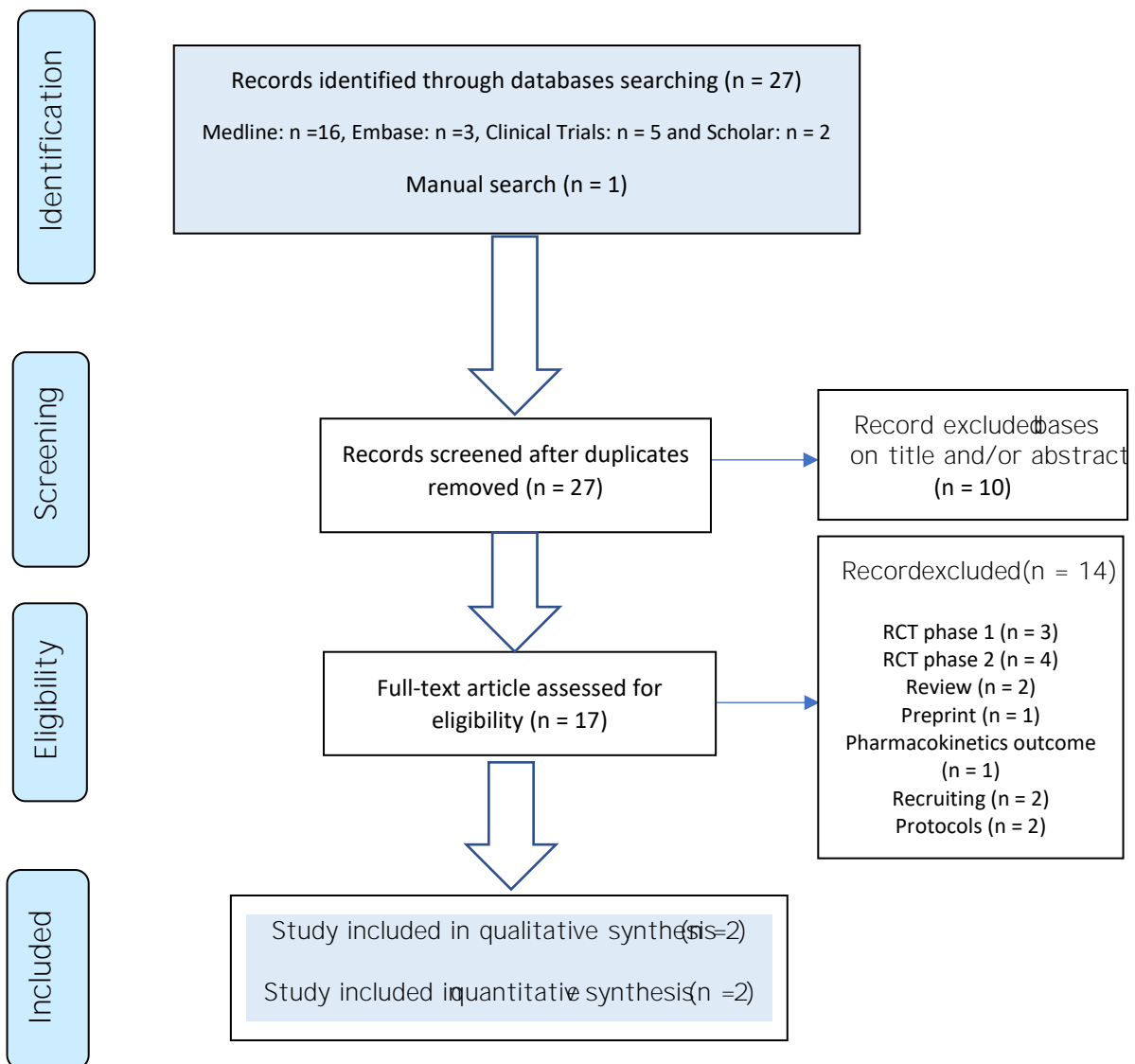
Additional figure 1. Flow chart of study selection of Tixagevimab and Cilgavimab in Covid-19 pre-exposure prophylaxis



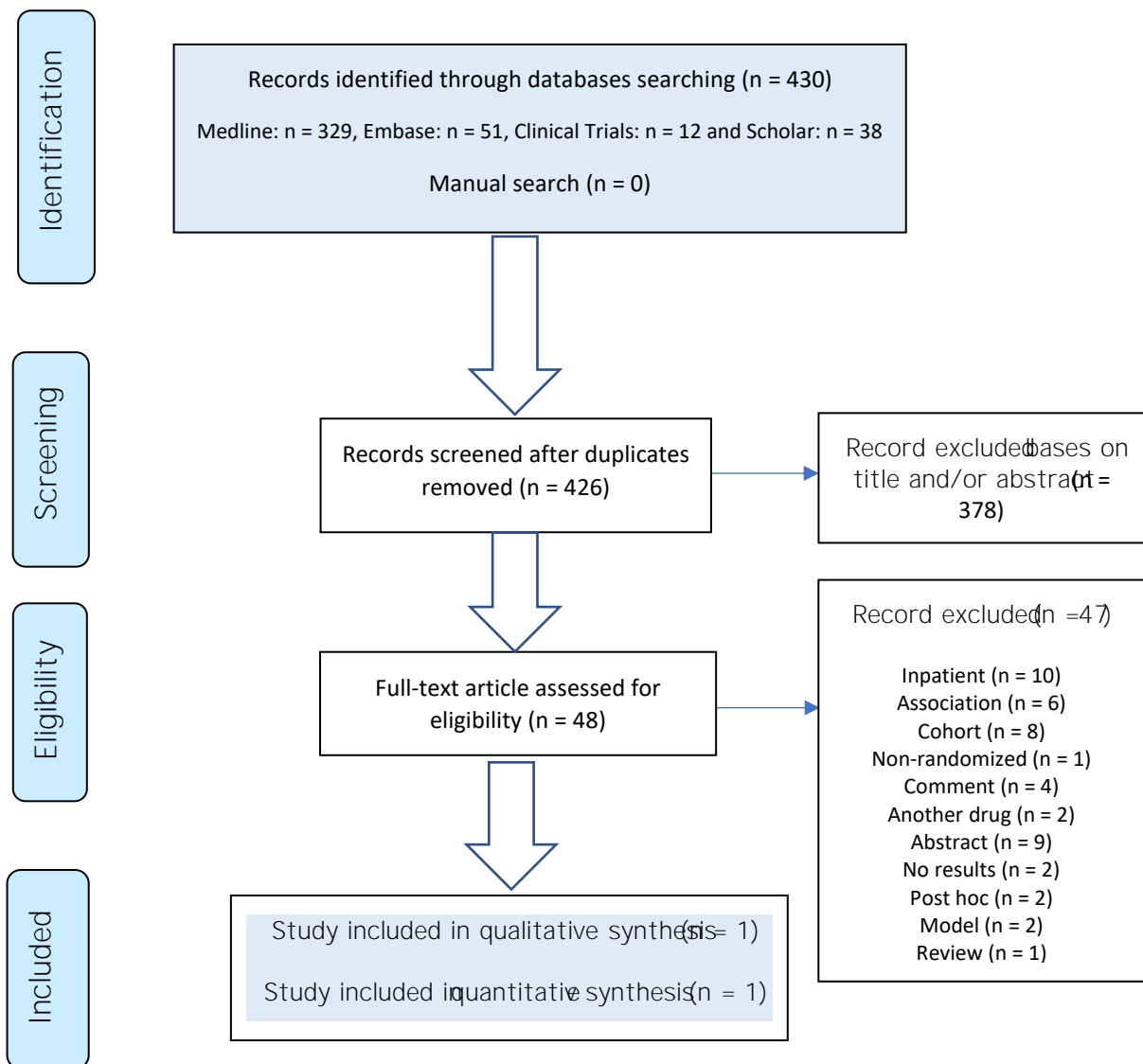
Additional figure 2. Flow chart of study selection of monoclonal antibody in outpatients with mild COVID-19



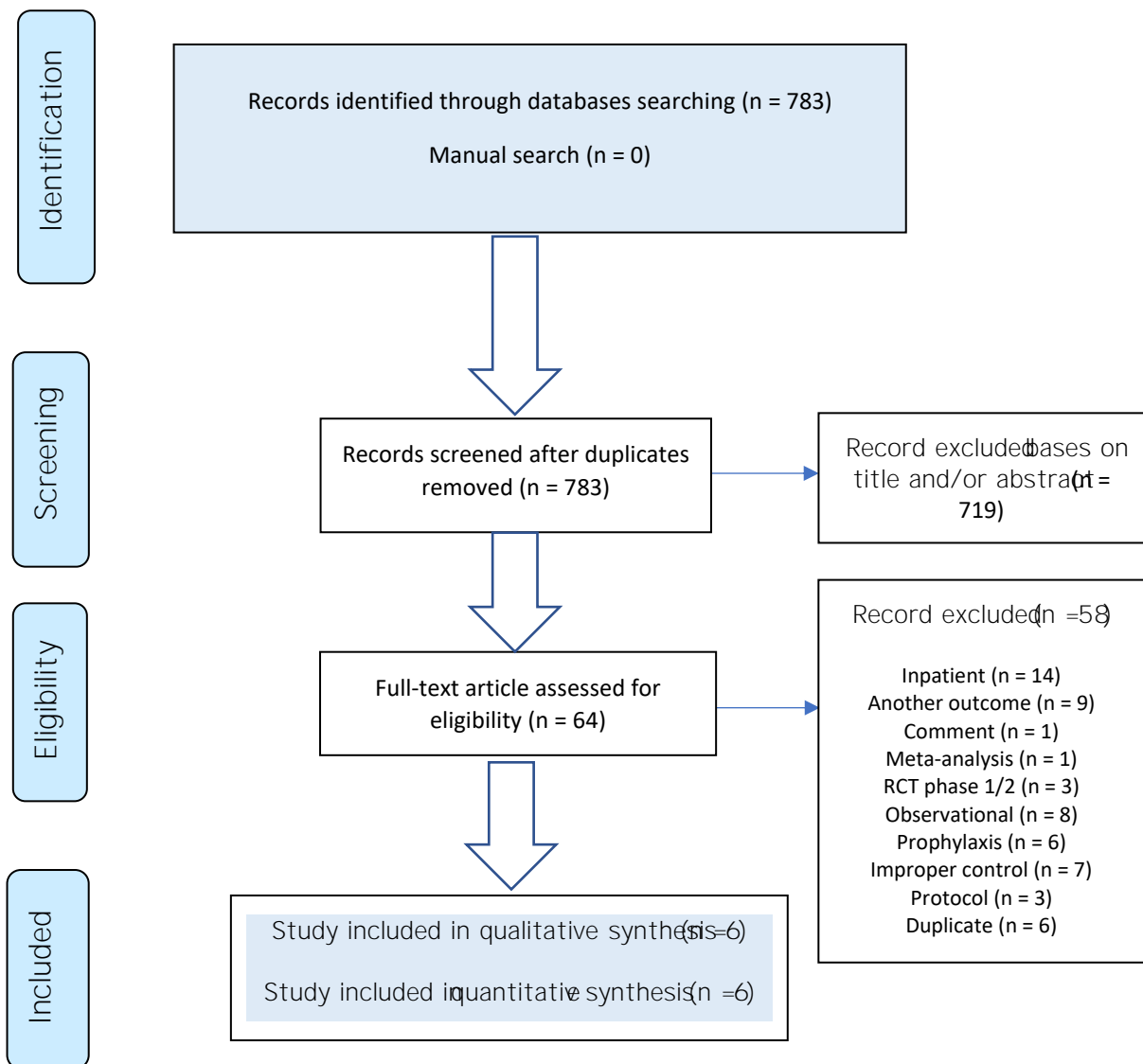
Additional figure 3. Flow chart of study selection of Nirmatrelvir plus Ritonavir in outpatients with mild COVID-19



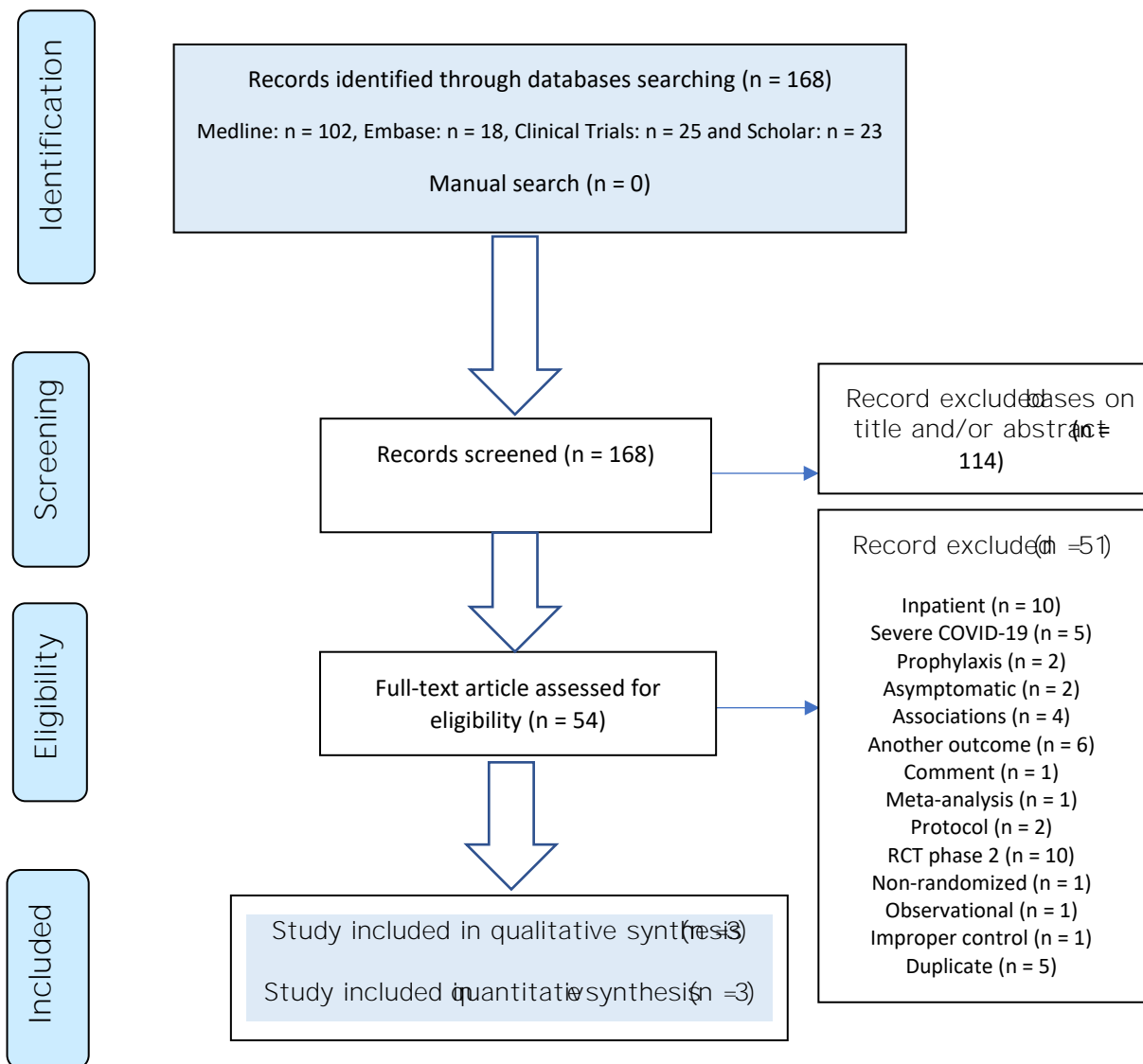
Additional figure 4. Flow chart of study selection of Molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19



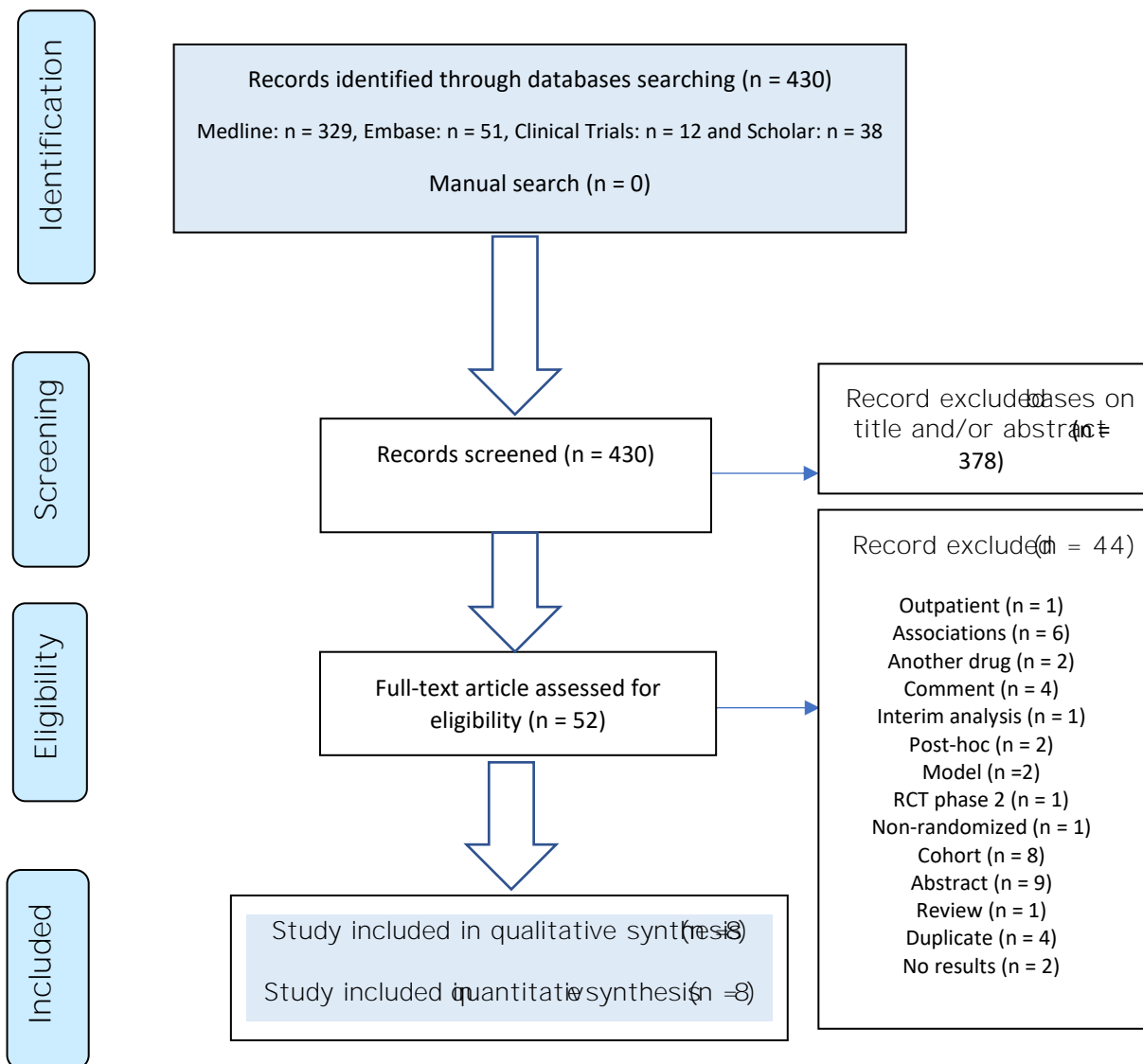
Additional figure 5. Flow chart of study selection of Remdesivir in outpatients with mild COVID-19



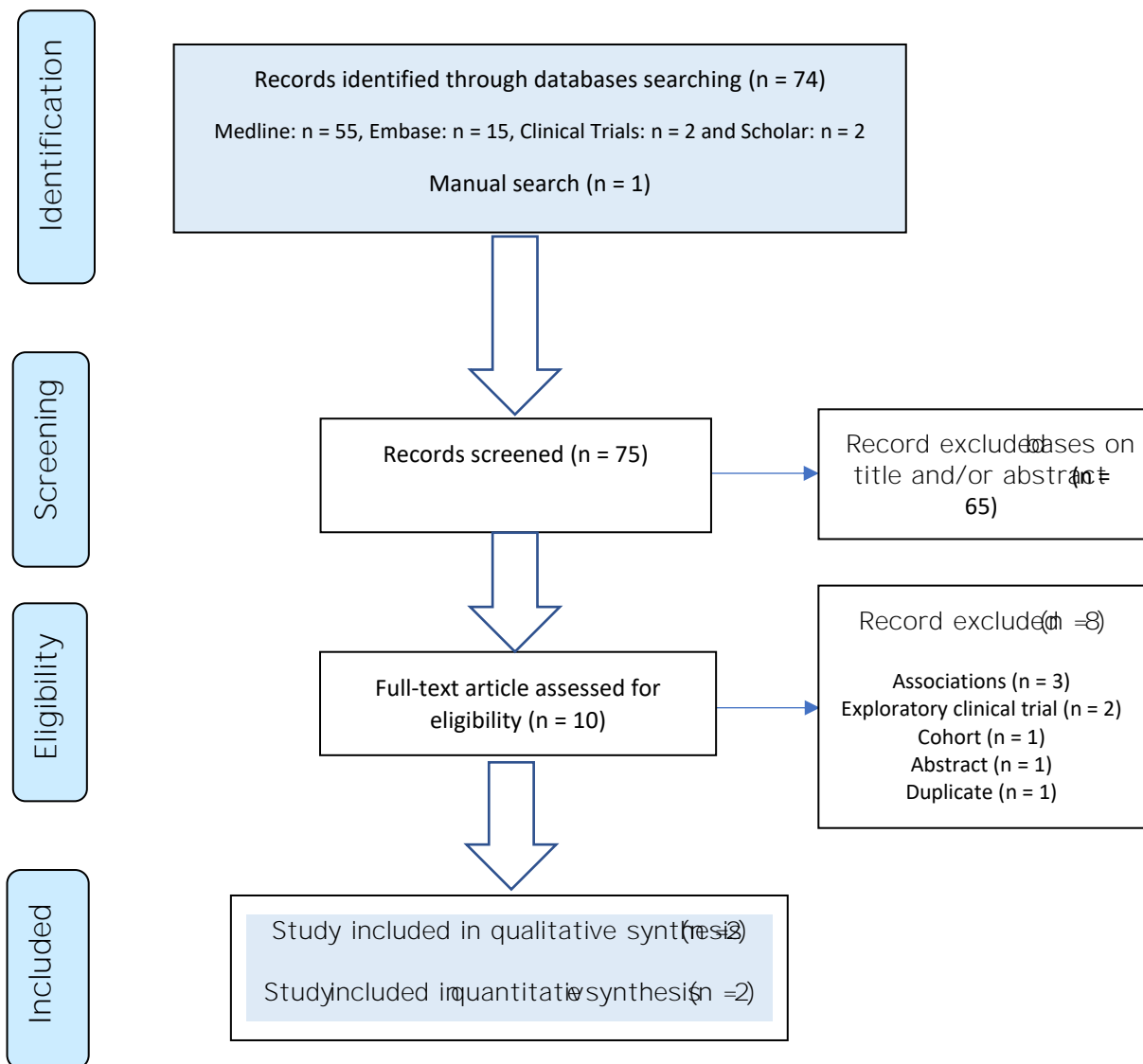
Additional figure 6. Flow chart of study selection of Hidroxychloroquine and Chloroquine in outpatients mild COVID-19



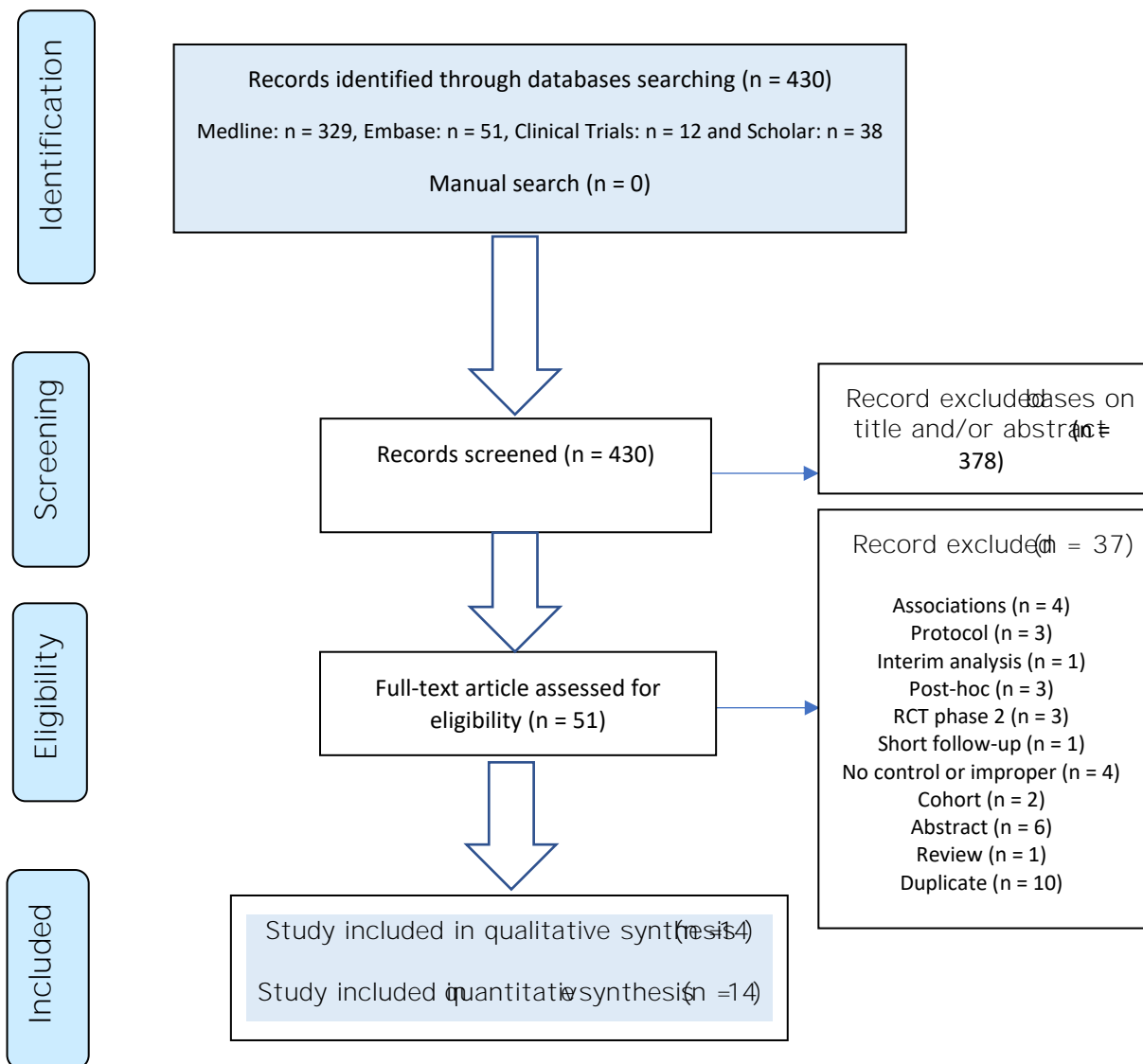
Additional figure 7. Flow chart of study selection of Ivermectin in outpatients mild COVID-19



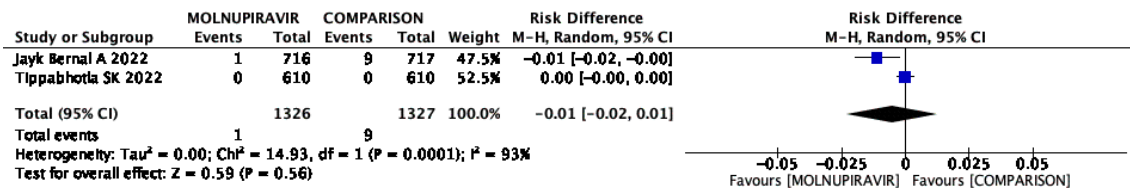
Additional figure 8. Flow chart of study selection of Rendesivir in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



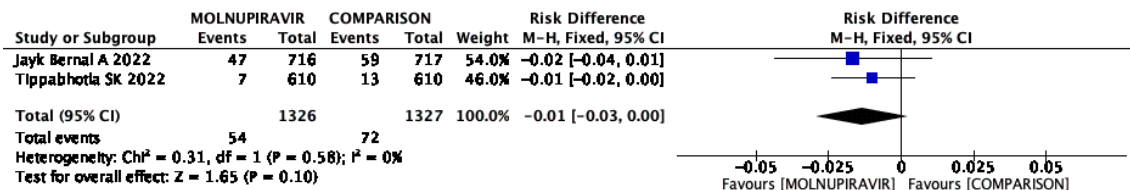
Additional figure 9. Flow chart of study selection of Baracitinib in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



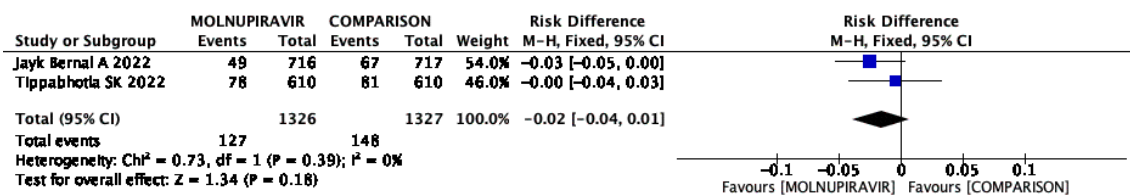
Additional figure 10. Flow chart of study selection of Tocilizumab in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



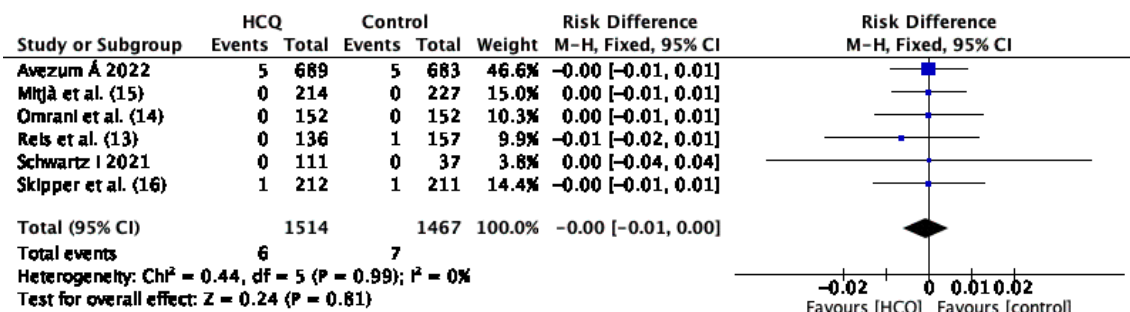
Additional figure 11. Effect of Molnupiravir compared to control on mortality of outpatients with mild COVID-19



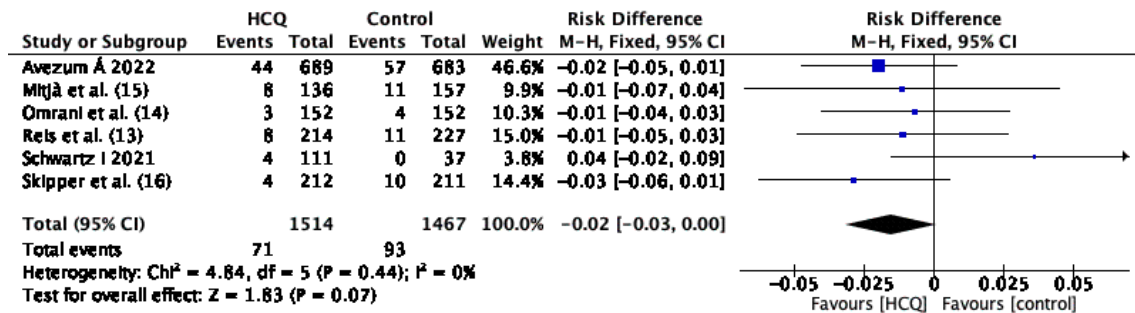
Additional figure 12. Effect of Molnupiravir compared to control on hospitalization of outpatients with mild COVID-19



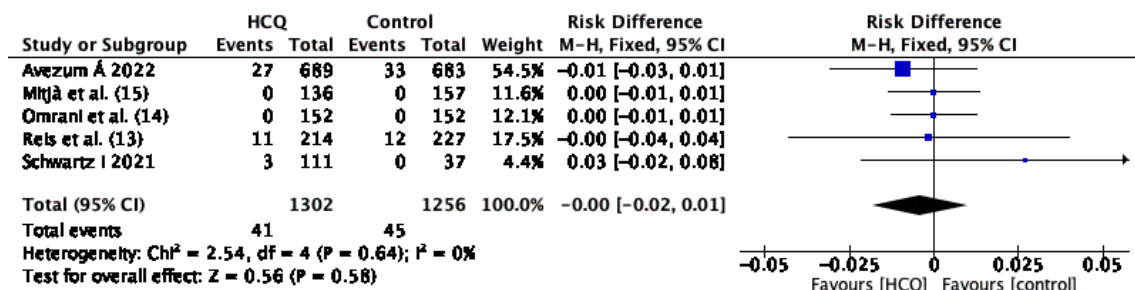
Additional figure 13. Effect of Molnupiravir compared to control on serious adverse events in outpatients with mild COVID-19



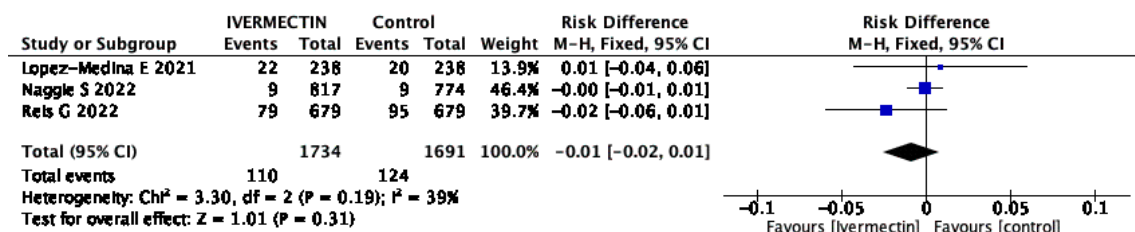
Additional figure 14. Effect of Hidroxychloroquine and Chloroquine compared to control on mortality of outpatients with mild COVID-19



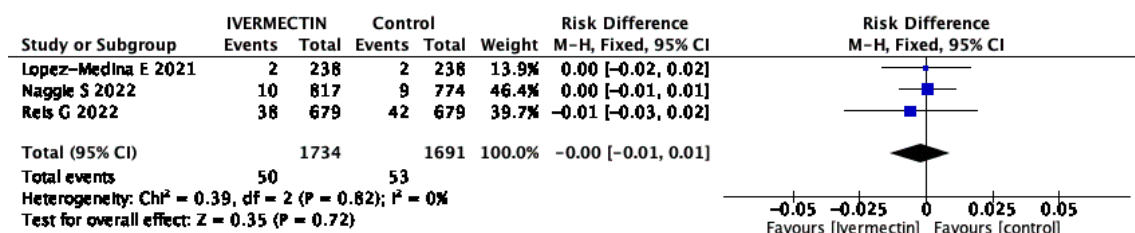
Additional figure 15. Effect of Hidroxychloroquine and Chloroquine compared to control on hospitalization of outpatients with mild COVID-19



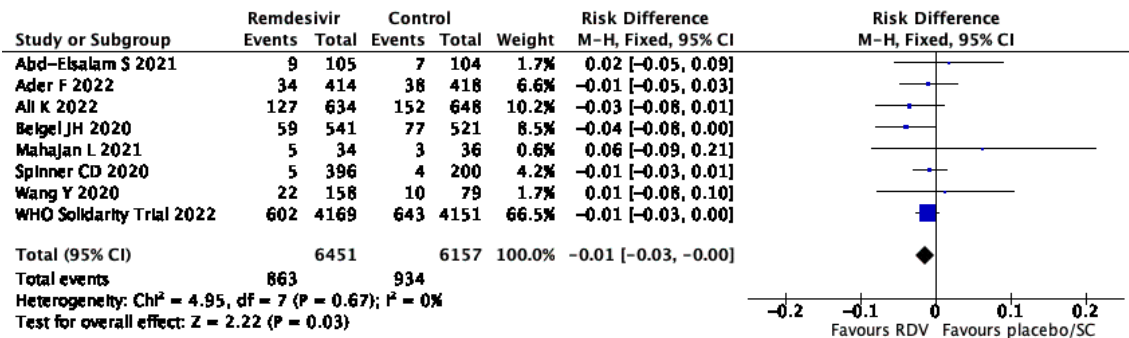
Additional figure 16. Effect of Hidroxychloroquine and Chloroquine compared to control on serious adverse events in outpatients with mild COVID-19



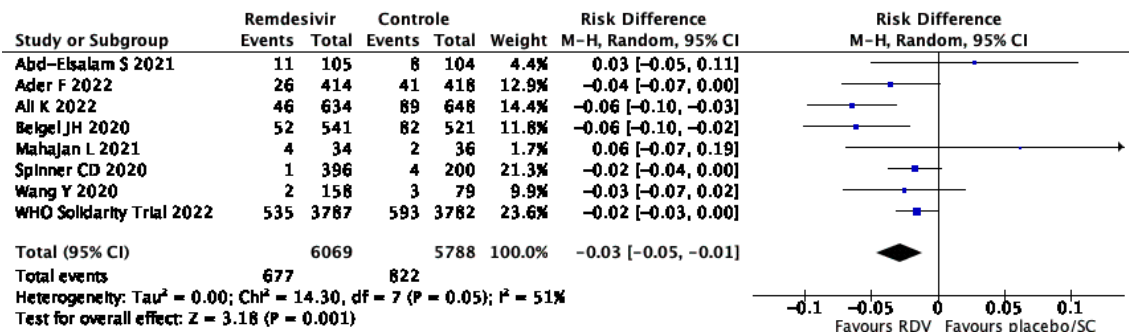
Additional figure 17. Effect of Ivermectin compared to control on hospitalization of outpatients with mild COVID-19



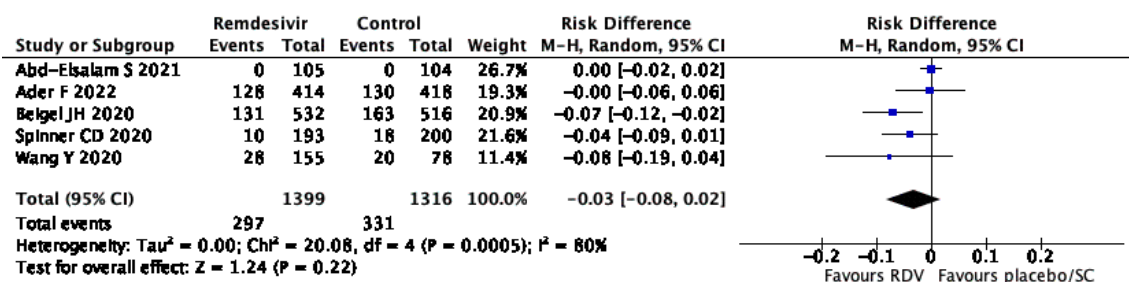
Additional figure 18. Effect of Ivermectin compared to control on serious adverse events in outpatients with mild COVID-19



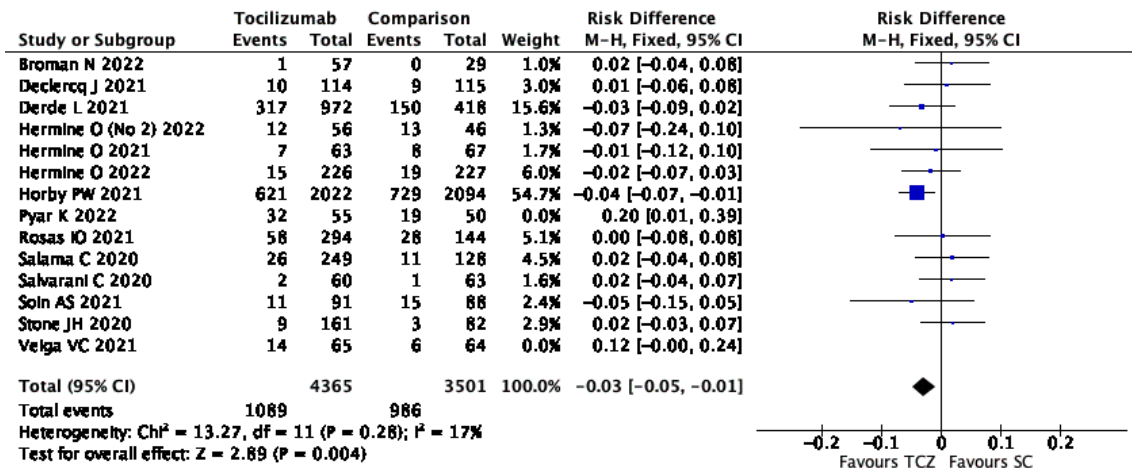
Additional figure 19. Effect of Remdesivir compared to control on mortality of hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



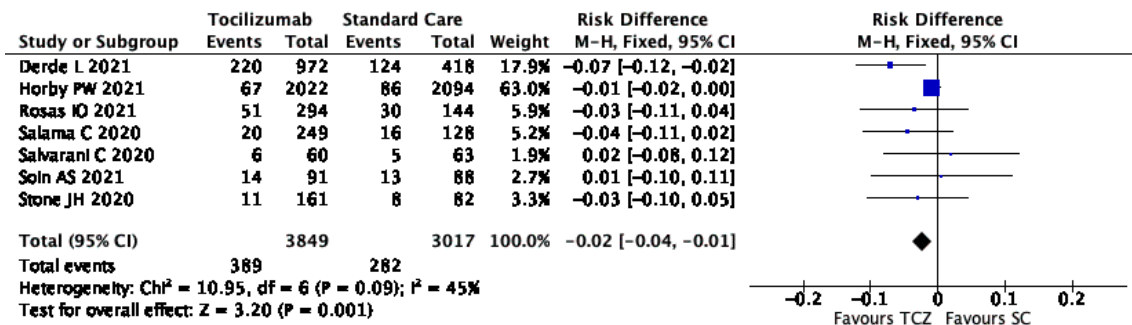
Additional figure 20. Effect of Remdesivir compared to control on mechanical ventilation of hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



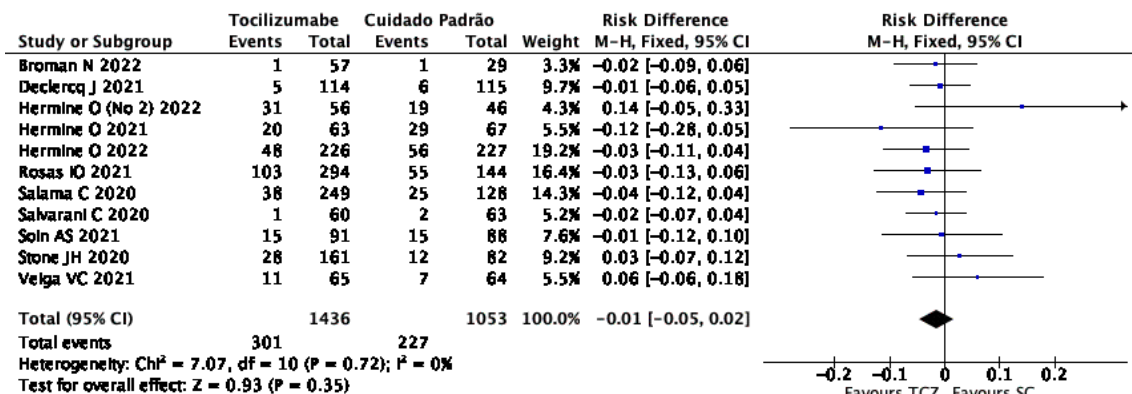
Additional figure 21. Effect of Remdesivir compared to control on serious adverse events in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



Additional figure 22. Effect of Tocilizumab compared to control on mortality in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



Additional figure 23. Effect of Tocilizumab compared to control on mechanical ventilation in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19



Additional figure 24. Effect of Tocilizumab compared to control on serious adverse events in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19

STUDIES	RANDOMIZATION	BLINDED ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	BLINDED EVALUATOR	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	OUTCOMES APPROPRIATE	ITT ANALYSIS	SAMPLE ESTIMATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
Levin MJ 2022	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS
SUBTITLE	LOW RISK OF BIAS			WITHOUT INFORMATION			HIGH RISK OF BIAS			

Additional figure 25. Risk of bias assessment for the study of Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab in COVID-19 pre-exposure prophylaxis

STUDIES	RANDOMIZATION	BLINDED ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	BLINDED EVALUATOR	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	OUTCOMES APPROPRIATE	ITT ANALYSIS	SAMPLE ESTIMATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
Montgomery H 2022	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS
SUBTITLE	LOW RISK OF BIAS			WITHOUT INFORMATION			HIGH RISK OF BIAS			

Additional figure 26. Risk of bias assessment for the study of Tixagevimab + Cilgavimab in outpatients with mild COVID-19

STUDIES	RANDOMIZATION	BLINDED ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	BLINDED EVALUATOR	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	OUTCOMES APPROPRIATE	ITT ANALYSIS	SAMPLE ESTIMATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
Jayk Bernal A 2022	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	WITHOUT INFORMATION	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS
Tippabhotla SK 2022	LOW RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS	HIGH RISK OF BIAS	LOW RISK OF BIAS
SUBTITLE	LOW RISK OF BIAS			WITHOUT INFORMATION			HIGH RISK OF BIAS			

Additional figure 27. Risk of bias assessment for the studies of Molnupiravir in outpatients with mild COVID-19

STUDIES	RANDOMIZATION	BLINDED ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	BLINDED EVALUATOR	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	OUTCOMES APPROPRIATE	ITT ANALYSIS	SAMPLE ESTIMATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
Gottlieb RL 2022										
SUBTITLE	LOW RISK OF BIAS			WITHOUT INFORMATION			HIGH RISK OF BIAS			

Additional figure 28. Risk of bias assessment for the study of Remdesivir in outpatients with mild COVID-19

STUDIES	RANDOMIZATION	BLINDED ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	BLINDED EVALUATOR	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	OUTCOMES APPROPRIATE	ITT ANALYSIS	SAMPLE ESTIMATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
Hammond J 2022										
SUBTITLE	LOW RISK OF BIAS			WITHOUT INFORMATION			HIGH RISK OF BIAS			

Additional figure 29. Risk of bias assessment for the study of Nirmatrelvir plus Ritonavir in outpatients with mild COVID-19

STUDIES PMID	First Author	Year	RANDOMIZATION	CONCEALMENT ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	EVALUATOR BLIND	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	APPROPRIATE OUTCOMES	INTENTION TO TREAT ANALYSIS	SAMPLING CALCULATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
35378952	Avezum A	2022										
34145052	Schwartz I	2021										
33885775	Reis G	2021										
33251500	Omrani AS	2020										
32674126	Mitjà O	2020										
32673060	Skipper CP	2020										

Additional figure 30. Risk of bias assessment for the studies of Hidroxychloroquine and Chloroquine in outpatients with mild COVID-19

ESTUDO	RANDOMIZAÇÃO	ALOCAÇÃO VENDADA	DUPLO CEGO	AVALIADOR CEGO	PERDAS/MIGRAÇÕES	CARACTERÍSTICAS PROGNÓSTICAS	DEFECHOS APROPRIADOS	ANALISE POR INTENÇÃO DE TRATAMENTO	CÁLCULO AMOSTRAL	INTERRUPÇÃO PRECOZE
López-Medina E 2021										
Naggie S 2022										
Reis G 2022										

Additional figure 31. Risk of bias assessment for the studies of Ivermectin in outpatients with mild COVID-19

STUDIES	RANDOMIZATION	BLINDED ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	BLINDED EVALUATOR	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	OUTCOMES APPROPRIATE	ITT ANALYSIS	SAMPLE ESTIMATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
Marconi VC 2021										
SUBTITLE	LOW RISK OF BIAS			WITHOUT INFORMATION		HIGH RISK OF BIAS				

Additional figure 32. Risk of bias assessment for the study of Baricitinib in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19

STUDIES	RANDOMIZATION	BLINDED ALLOCATION	DOUBLE BLIND	BLINDED EVALUATOR	LOSSES	PROGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS	OUTCOMES APPROPRIATE	ITT ANALYSIS	SAMPLE ESTIMATION	EARLY INTERRUPTION
Herrero D 2022										
Herrero N 2022										
Herrero O 2022										
Pyle R 2022										
Bachouq J 2021										
RECOVERY COHORTIVE STUDY 2021										
Soto AS 2021										
Rizzo D 2021										
Varga VC 2021										
Sabero C 2021										
Herrero D 2021										
Ramirez C 2021										
Chirba L 2021										
Wong JH 2020										
SUBTITLE	LOW RISK OF BIAS			WITHOUT INFORMATION		HIGH RISK OF BIAS				

Additional figure 33. Risk of bias assessment for the studies of Tocilizumab in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19