

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND – COVID-19 is declared a pandemic of international concern. Coronavirus infection has rapidly spread throughout the world and has infected more than 210 countries worldwide. Until now, there has been no approved specific treatment for COVID-19 or a vaccine to prevent coronavirus infection. Hydroxychloroquine has received attention as a potential therapeutic agent against COVID-19.

OBJECTIVE – To analyze and summarize the evidence related to the use of hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19.

METHOD – The research method is an electronic literature search using the PubMed database and Science Direct. The literature included in the search criteria was literature published from December 2019 to June 19, 2020. The literature obtained was extracted and analyzed critically.

RESULTS – A total of 4231 articles were screened, and six kinds of literature that match the inclusion criteria were obtained for a total sample of 3434 patients. Several studies have shown good virological. The clinical results are using hydroxychloroquine therapy with or without azithromycin and a relatively small risk of side effects. And the other studies have shown unfavorable results using hydroxychloroquine therapy.

CONCLUSIONS – The use of hydroxychloroquine with azithromycin can be used as a short-term solution for alternative therapies to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic with close monitoring for side effects. A randomized clinical study with a rigorous methodological design is needed to minimize the risk of bias and better validity regarding the evidence of the effectiveness and safety of using hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19.

KEYWORDS: COVID-19, coronavirus, hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin.