

Get the Facts About Ivermectin and COVID-19

Some people believe that a medicine called ivermectin can be used to treat COVID-19. Atrium Health, following FDA guidance, is not using ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19, and misuse of this drug comes with major risks. Here's what you need to know.



Atrium Health

What is ivermectin?

Ivermectin is a drug that's used to treat certain diseases caused by parasites. In humans, it can be prescribed to treat parasites like worms and lice. It's also used as a veterinary medicine to de-worm livestock like cows and horses.

Should I take ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19?

No. Rumors have been going around that very high doses of ivermectin can be used to treat COVID-19 in humans. But, data doesn't show this is effective. Misuse of the drug can be life-threatening.

Isn't ivermectin FDA-approved?

Ivermectin is not approved by the FDA to prevent or treat COVID-19. It has not received an emergency use authorization (EUA) for this purpose. Ivermectin products are approved by the FDA for humans and animals only for very specific diseases. These products are formulated (put together) in a different way.

How do you know it doesn't work for COVID-19?

To date, Atrium Health researchers and doctors have reviewed 21 clinical studies of the use of ivermectin to treat COVID-19. Our experts found that none of these studies showed valid evidence that this treatment works.

I saw a study that says it works. Why do Atrium Health experts disagree?

Of the 21 studies our experts reviewed, every study that said ivermectin works to treat COVID-19 had major flaws or limitations. This means we can't trust the results. In fact, one of the most widely discussed studies included false data. This study is now under investigation for ethical concerns.

What's the worst that could happen?

Even when used in the proper way, ivermectin may cause side effects like headache, dizziness, muscle pain, nausea or diarrhea. When humans take very high doses of ivermectin, there is a greater risk of more severe side effects. This includes coma or death.

To learn more about care and treatment for COVID-19, visit AtriumHealth.org/Coronavirus or speak to your healthcare provider.