

Global spotlight 17.2: Key additions for the second half of May 2022



There are six updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the public-health measures parts of the COVID-END inventory of ‘best’ evidence syntheses*, 24 updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, and one newly added evidence synthesis in the health-system arrangement part of the inventory

**COVID-END assigns ‘best’ status to evidence syntheses based on an assessment of how up-to-date they are (i.e., the date of the last search, with priority given to living reviews), quality (using the AMSTAR tool), and whether there is an evidence profile available (e.g., GRADE).*

Taxonomy section	Title	Type of synthesis	Criteria for best evidence synthesis		
			Date of last search	Quality (AMSTAR) rating	Evidence profile (e.g., GRADE) available
Public-health measures	Evidence suggests that chest CT scan and lung ultrasound are sensitive but have moderate specificity to diagnose COVID-19, whereas X-rays are moderately sensitive with low specificity [Review mainly based on low quality studies with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Update to living review	2021-02-17	10/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Pfizer against variants of concern] Two doses of BNT162b2 [Pfizer] vaccine may prevent symptomatic infection from the Omicron variant of concern in adolescents aged 12 to 17 years (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-09	5/9	Yes
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Pfizer against variants of concern] Three doses of BNT162b2 [Pfizer] vaccine may prevent symptomatic infection from the Omicron variant of concern in adolescents aged 16 to 17 years (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-09	5/9	Yes
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Pfizer against variants of concern] One dose of BNT162b2 [Pfizer] vaccine may provide limited protection to prevent infection and symptomatic infection from the Omicron variant of concern in adolescents aged 12 to 17 years (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-09	5/9	Yes
Public-health measures	[CoronaVac/Sinovac vaccine against variants of concern] Two doses of Coronavac/Sinovac vaccine may provide limited protection against infection and ICU admission from the Omicron variant of concern in children aged 3 to 5 years, while it may provide limited protection for symptomatic infection from the Omicron variant of concern in children age 6 to 11 years (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-09	5/9	Yes
Public-health measures	[CoronaVac/Sinovac vaccine against variants of concern] One dose of Coronavac/Sinovac vaccine may provide limited protection to infection from the Omicron variant of concern in children aged 6 to 11 years (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-09	5/9	Yes

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Corticosteroids] Adding corticosteroids to standard care among hospitalized COVID-19 patients reduces mortality and increases clinical improvement, while it may slightly increase adverse events	Update to living review	2022-05-13	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[REGEN-COV2] In hospitalized COVID-19 patients, REGEN-COV2 (casirimab + imdevimab) probably slightly reduces mortality and increases clinical improvement, it may slightly reduce disease progression, while no information on safety outcomes is available; in outpatients, it may slightly reduce hospitalization or death and it may not increase serious adverse events, while its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2022-05-13	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tocilizumab] Among hospitalized patients, tocilizumab slightly reduces mortality at 28 days and may also slightly reduce mortality at 60 days; it increases the incidence of clinical improvement, it may reduce disease progression, and it may slightly increase adverse events	Update to living review	2022-05-13	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Atazanavir/ritonavir] The effects of using atazanavir/ritonavir to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Baricitinib] Using baricitinib in patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 disease reduces mortality, it probably reduces mechanical ventilation requirements and time to symptom resolution, and it probably does not increase severe adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Camostat] Using camostat to treat COVID-19 patients may not reduce time to symptom resolution, while its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[CD24Fc] In patients with severe COVID-19, CD24Fc (soluble CD24 appended to heavy chains 2 and 3 of human immunoglobulin G1) may reduce mechanical ventilation and increase symptom resolution; its effects on other outcomes are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Corticosteroids] Low- or moderate-dose treatment with corticosteroids probably reduces mortality in severe COVID-19 patients, while higher-doses may be more effective than standard dose schemes	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Degarelix] The effects of using degarelix to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Dornase alfa] The effects of using dornase alfa to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Dupilumab] The effects of using dupilumab to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	10/11	Yes

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Gimsilumab] Using gimsilumab to treat COVID-19 patients may not reduce mortality and symptom resolution, while its effects on other outcomes are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hydroxychloroquine] Hydroxychloroquine may slightly reduce the risk of infection in individuals exposed to COVID-19, while its effects on other outcomes are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Inhaled corticosteroids] Using inhaled corticosteroids probably improves time to symptom resolution, but their effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Ivermectin probably does not improve time to symptom resolution, and it does not have an important effect on reducing hospitalizations; its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Pembrolizumab] The effects of using pembrolizumab to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Potassium canrenoate] The effects of using potassium canrenoate to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ruxolitinib] In patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 disease, ruxolitinib may reduce mortality, and its effects on other outcomes are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Senicapoc] The effects of using senicapoc to treat COVID-19 patients are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tixagevimab–Cilgavimab] Using tixagevimab-cilgavimab in exposed asymptomatic individuals probably reduces symptomatic infections and it may not increase severe adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tranilast] The effects of using tranilast to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Vitamin C] Using vitamin C to treat COVID-19 patients may increase symptom resolution, while its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Vitamin D] Using vitamin D in exposed asymptomatic individuals probably does not reduce symptomatic infections	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Vitamin D] Using vitamin D to treat COVID-19 patients may not reduce hospitalizations, while its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2022-05-04	7/11	Yes
Health-system arrangements	The interruption of fertility care during the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted mental health, which includes increases in rates of anxiety and low mood	Newly added full review	2021-04-10	4/9	No