

Global spotlight 11.2: Key additions for the second half of November 2021



There are five newly added syntheses and one update to a living evidence synthesis that is already included in the public-health measures parts of the COVID-END inventory of 'best' evidence syntheses*, 14 newly added syntheses and 21 updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, and two newly added syntheses 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	Low serum vitamin D levels may be associated with an increased risk of COVID-19 incidence [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-05-10	7/11	No
Public-health measures	Mask use in community settings appears to protect against adverse health outcomes related to COVID-19 infection [Review of ecological studies of variable quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-05	5/9	No
Public-health measures	No association has been found between mood disorders and the risk of getting a COVID-19 infection [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	9/11	No
Public-health measures	Contact-tracing apps have been widely used in East Asia during the COVID-19 pandemic, with government mistrust and a lack of mandatory use policies identified as the main barriers to implementing them [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added full review	2021-01-31	5/9	No
Public-health measures	There is probable evidence of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from presymptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who are infected, although there are important limitations with assessing symptom status and infectivity at a single point of time. [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added rapid review	2021-03-31	7/9	No
Public-health measures	Using PPE was found to be the strongest factor associated with reducing risk of coronavirus infection among healthcare workers, while wearing two filtering facepiece masks was associated with a reduced risk of COVID-19 infection, when compared to a single surgical mask [Review of observational studies]	Update to living review	2021-10-24	6/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Bamlanivimab] Bamlanivimab may reduce the risk of hospitalization, but does not appear to have an impact on mortality among severe patients, whereas its safety outcomes are currently uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-07-21	11/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and	[Bamlanivimab + etesevimab] Bamlanivimab + etesevimab may reduce the risk of hospitalization, but does not appear to have an impact on	Newly added living review	2021-07-21	11/11	Yes

pandemic-related health issues	mortality among severe patients, whereas its safety outcomes are currently uncertain				
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[REGEN-COV] REGEN-COV (casirimab + imdevimab) may reduce the risk of mortality in severe COVID-19 patients with detectable antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, but does not appear to have an impact on mortality among severe patients; it probably reduces the risk of hospitalization, whereas its safety outcomes are currently uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-07-21	11/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sotrovimab] Sotrovimab may reduce the risk of hospitalization, but does not appear to have an impact on mortality among severe patients, whereas its safety outcomes are currently uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-07-21	11/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	The effects of using convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-07-21	11/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] The effects of using ivermectin to prevent COVID-19 infection are currently uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-05-26	11/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Ivermectin may have little or no benefit in clinical improvement and duration of hospitalization among moderate to severe COVID-19 patients, whereas it may have little or no benefit in symptom resolution among COVID-19 outpatients; its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-05-26	11/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Integrating traditional Chinese and Western medicine for a duration of 5-21 days may act as an effective treatment for COVID-19 [Review of studies of moderate quality with important heterogeneity among some of their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-04-12	8/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	While the mental health of undergraduate students has been at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, student-support systems could a tool to combat the burden [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-04-05	6/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Fear of contagion, subjective overload, and perceived job insecurity were found to be the three major factors affecting the psychological health of dental professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added full review	2021-04-01	4/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Among hospitalized patients with COVID-19, bacterial co-infection has been reported in as many as 16% of patients, whereas fungal and other viral co-infections have been less frequently reported [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-03-31	7/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Case reports have shown a potentially beneficial effect of convalescent plasma administered to pregnant women with severe COVID-19 on maternal and fetal outcomes [Review of case reports of low quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	6/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and	Whereas a small proportion of COVID-19 patients with severe acute respiratory distress syndrome required extracorporeal membrane	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	8/11	No

pandemic-related health issues	oxygenation (ECMO), mortality rate seemed to be higher among those that received ECMO				
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Heart transplant recipients who have contracted COVID-19 continued their treatment with calcineurin inhibitors, corticosteroids and mTOR inhibitors, while half of transplant recipients treated with antimetabolites discontinued their use [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added full review	2021-01-11	4/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Baricitinib] Among hospitalized COVID-19 patients, using baricitinib probably reduces mortality at 28 days, and it may also reduce mortality at 60 days; it probably makes little or no difference in clinical improvement, it may slightly reduce disease progression, and it may not increase serious adverse events	Update to living review	2021-11-19	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Compared to prophylactic anticoagulants, using therapeutic anticoagulants may not have an effect on mortality, and it probably makes little or no difference in clinical improvement among hospitalized COVID-19 patients	Update to living review	2021-11-19	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 probably slightly increases the incidence of clinical improvement and it may slightly increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-11-19	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Aspirin] Among COVID-19 patients, aspirin probably does not have an effect on mortality or mechanical ventilation, and it probably does not increase symptom resolution or clinical improvement	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Baricitinib] Using baricitinib in patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 disease probably reduces mortality and time to symptom resolution, and it probably does not increase severe adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Calcitriol] The effects of using calcitriol to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Cannabidiol] The effects of using cannabidiol to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Compared to prophylactic dose of anticoagulants, using intermediate or full dose of anticoagulation may not have a difference in mortality, and they may decrease venous thromboembolic events, whereas they may increase major bleeding	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hesperidin] Hesperidin may not have an effect on symptom resolution among COVID-19 patients, and its effects on other outcomes are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Inhaled corticosteroids] Using inhaled corticosteroids probably improve time to symptom resolution, but their effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Interferon β-1a] Using interferon β-1a probably has no effect on mortality and invasive ventilation, whereas inhaled interferon β-1a may improve time to symptom resolution	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Levilimab] Levilimab may improve time to symptom resolution in COVID-19 patients, and its effects on other outcomes are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Nafamostat] The effects of nafamostat mesylate to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Opaganib] The effects of using opaganib to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[RD-X19 (light therapy)] The effects of using RD-X19 (light therapy) to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[REGEN-COV] REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab) may reduce mortality and mechanical ventilation, while it may improve time to symptom resolution; in patients with mild recent COVID-19 onset, it probably reduces mortality and mechanical ventilation without increasing severe adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Remdesivir] Using remdesivir may not have an important effect on mortality, and it may reduce the need for invasive ventilation, and it may improve time to symptom resolution	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[rhG-CSF] The effects of using inhaled rhG-CSF to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ruxolitinib] Ruxolitinib may not improve time to symptom resolution, and its effects on other outcomes are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sarilumab] Sarilumab may not reduce mortality and it probably does not improve time to symptom resolution, while it may reduce mechanical ventilation requirements without increasing severe adverse events in patients with severe COVID-19 disease	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tissue-plasminogen activator (tPA)] The effects of using tPA to treat COVID-19 patients are currently uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-11-12	7/11	Yes
Health-system arrangements	There is significant variation in the percentage of the population willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine across the world, and several factors may be associated with this phenomenon [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added full review	2021-05-08	5/9	No
Health-system arrangements	While the mental health of undergraduate students has been at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, student-support systems could a tool to combat the burden [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-04-05	6/9	No