

Global spotlight 5.2: Key additions for the second half of May 2021



There are six newly added evidence syntheses in the public-health measures part of the COVID-END inventory of 'best' evidence syntheses*, 18 newly added evidence syntheses and 13 updates to syntheses already included in the clinical management 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	[BioNTech/Pfizer] Vaccination with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine reduces the risk of contracting COVID-19 substantially even after the first dose and it probably reduces the risk of severe COVID-19, whereas its effects on other outcomes are yet to be determined; the incidence of serious adverse events may slightly increase, whereas the incidence of any adverse event substantially increase	Newly added living review	2021-05-14	6/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[CoronaVac/Sinovac vaccine] Vaccination with the CoronaVac/Sinovac vaccine reduces the risk of contracting COVID-19 (even after the first dose) and it probably reduces the risk of severe COVID-19, whereas its effects on other outcomes are yet to be determined; the incidence of serious adverse events probably does not increase, whereas the incidence of any adverse event is higher	Newly added living review	2021-05-14	6/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[Gamaleya Research Institute vaccine] Vaccination with the Gamaleya vaccine probably reduces the risk of contracting COVID-19 substantially (even after the first dose) and it may reduce the risk of severe COVID-19, whereas its effects on other outcomes are yet to be determined; the incidence of serious adverse events may not be increased	Newly added living review	2021-05-14	6/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[Janssen vaccine] Vaccination with the Janssen vaccine reduces the risk of contracting COVID-19 substantially and reduces the risk of severe COVID-19, whereas its effects on other outcomes are yet to be determined; the vaccination increases the incidence of serious adverse events	Newly added living review	2021-05-13	6/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[ModernaTX vaccine] Vaccination with the ModernaTX vaccine reduces the risk of contracting COVID-19 substantially (but it may reduce this risk with the first dose) and reduces the risk of severe COVID-19, whereas its effects on other outcomes are yet	Newly added living review	2021-05-13	6/11	Yes

	to be determined; the vaccination probably does not increase the incidence of serious adverse events				
Public-health measures	[Oxford/AstraZeneca] Vaccination with the EU Nodes – Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine reduces the risk of contracting COVID-19 and may reduce the risk of severe COVID-19, whereas its effects on other outcomes are yet to be determined; the vaccination probably does not increase the incidence of serious adverse events	Newly added living review	2021-05-13	6/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Whereas limited evidence was found on the uses of ivermectin for COVID-19 prophylaxis in healthy populations, the evidence shows that it may slightly reduce COVID-19 infection	Newly added living review	2021-02-01	8/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Among the more than 200 therapeutic options that have been studied in clinical trials, evidence shows that steroids, tocilizumab, and colchicine are the only alternatives that may have an effect on mortality and other clinical outcomes among COVID-19 patients; remdesivir may improve time to symptom resolution, but its effects on other outcomes may be of small relevance, whereas more evidence is needed to confirm the early effects shown by baricitinib and lenzilumab	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Bamlanivimab] Using bamlanivimab may not have an important effect on time to symptom resolution, and its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	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	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Colchicine] Using colchicine in recently diagnosed COVID-19 patients may reduce mortality, mechanical ventilation and hospitalization rates, but these effects need to be confirmed when new trial results become available	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	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	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Favipiravir] Using favipiravir may not reduce mortality and mechanical ventilation, whereas it probably does not have an effect on time to symptom resolution	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hydroxychloroquine] Using hydroxychloroquine probably has no effect on COVID-19 patients, and some studies show a probable increase in mortality	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Inhaled steroids] Using inhaled steroids may reduce hospitalization rates and improve time to symptom resolution, but their effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Inferferon β-1a] Using inferferon β-1a probably has no effect on COVID-19 patients	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Lenzilumab] Using lenzilumab may reduce mortality and invasive ventilation rates in severe COVID-19 patients	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Lopinavir + ritonavir] Using lopinavir + ritonavir probably has no effect on COVID-19 patients	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Proxalutamide] Using proxalutamide may have an effect on time to symptom resolution in mild to moderate COVID-19 patients	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Regdanvimab] Using regdanvimab may improve time to symptom resolution, but its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Remdesivir] Using remdesivir may slightly reduce mortality and invasive ventilation, and it may improve time to symptom resolution	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sofosbuvir] Using sofosbuvir alone or in combination with daclatasvir or ledipasvir may not have an effect on mortality or mechanical ventilation, whereas it probably does not affect time to symptom resolution	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tocilizumab] Using tocilizumab in patients with severe COVID-19 disease probably reduces mortality and the need for mechanical ventilation, whereas it probably does not increase severe adverse events	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and	Using convalescent plasma in COVID-19 patients probably does not reduce mortality, the need for mechanical ventilation or time to symptom resolution	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-06	7/11	Yes

pandemic-related health issues					
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Adding convalescent plasma to standard care may slightly reduce mortality and disease progression, while it probably makes little or no difference in clinical improvement; it may not increase serious adverse events, and it probably slightly increases the frequency of any adverse event	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Enoxaparin] Using prophylactic anticoagulants such as enoxaparin may make little or no difference in clinical improvement, compared to therapeutic anticoagulants, and the differences on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Adding ivermectin to standard care may have no effect on clinical improvement, and it may not increase the risk of adverse events, but the effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Lopinavir + ritonavir] Adding lopinavir + ritonavir to standard care makes little or no difference on mortality, and may have a slight effect on the incidence of clinical improvement or viral conversion, whereas it may not substantially increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Peginterferon lambda-1] Using peginterferon lambda-1 in COVID-19 patients may increase viral negative conversion, but its effects on mortality are uncertain; its uses are probably associated with an increase in adverse events, but this may not entail an increase in serious adverse events	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Remdesivir] Remdesivir reduces disease progression at 28 days, probably makes little or no difference in mortality and it may increase clinical improvement; it does not increase the incidence of serious adverse events	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sarilumab] Adding sarilumab to standard care may make little or no difference in mortality and probably slightly increases adverse events in COVID-19 patients	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sofosbuvir/daclatasvir] Using sofosbuvir/daclatasvir may produce little or no difference in the incidence of clinical improvement, and its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Stem cells] The effects of using human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cell infusion are uncertain, and it may not increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Vitamin C] Using vitamin C in COVID-19 patients may make little or no difference In reducing mortality, and its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Vitamin D] The effects of using vitamin D are uncertain and it may increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-05-21	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Convalescent plasma does not reduce mortality and has little or no difference in clinical improvement in patients with moderate to severe COVID-19; the incidence of adverse events is uncertain	Update to living review	2021-03-17	8/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Remdesivir] Remdesivir probably makes little or no difference in mortality, and may slightly reduce the need for ventilation, while it probably improves recovery and reduce adverse events in patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19	Update to living rapid review	2020-12-07	7/10	Yes