

## **A Review of the Validity of Ivermectin for COVID-19 treatment or prevention**

Oanh Nguyen and Marc Nahmani

COVID-19 is a dangerous disease created by the acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SAR-CoV-2). COVID-19 is spread via airborne droplets with people who have close contact with you, spread via speaking, breathing, coughing, and sneezing. To date, five million people worldwide have passed away from COVID-19. Accumulating evidence suggests that getting vaccinated, staying distanced, wearing face masks, and washing hands which are the best way to prevent COVID-19 transmission in a scientific way and with approval by CDC and FDA. However, with so much information being circulated, people are also led to follow and listen to the wrong treatments or try to figure out the way to treat COVID-19. One of these pieces of misinformation about COVID-19 treatment has been the use of Ivermectin to treat and prevent COVID-19. In this review, I reviewed the evidence for the effectiveness of Ivermectin to treat or prevent COVID-19. Ivermectin is an anti-parasitic drug which is used to treat infections caused by the parasitic worms strongyloidiasis and onchocerciasis. According to the National Poison Data System, there was a 245% jump in reported exposure cases from taking Ivermectin from July to August 2021, due to false claims that it might treat or prevent COVID-19. Moreover, two people in New Mexico passed away after being hospitalized with ivermectin toxicity. Ivermectin works by increasing the activity of GABA receptors in parasites and helminth which is one of the types of parasitic tapeworm. This medication works as a blocker signal between the neuron and the muscle, thereby killing parasitic worms, however research has shown that it has no effectiveness in treating or preventing COVID-19. A recent meta-analysis of 8 randomized clinical trials of ivermectin to treat SARS-CoV-2 infection (1848 total patients) had 71 deaths (3.8% death rate), showing that treatment with the drug had no significant effect on survival. The misuse of information that people should use Ivermectin to prevent COVID-19 led to serious illnesses and death, strongly suggesting that people should follow the scientific information when treating their body. The best way to prevent COVID-19 is to follow the approved guidance of the CDC and FDA and to get vaccinated.