



## COVID-19 Update

- Remdesivir
- Masking
- Case discussion

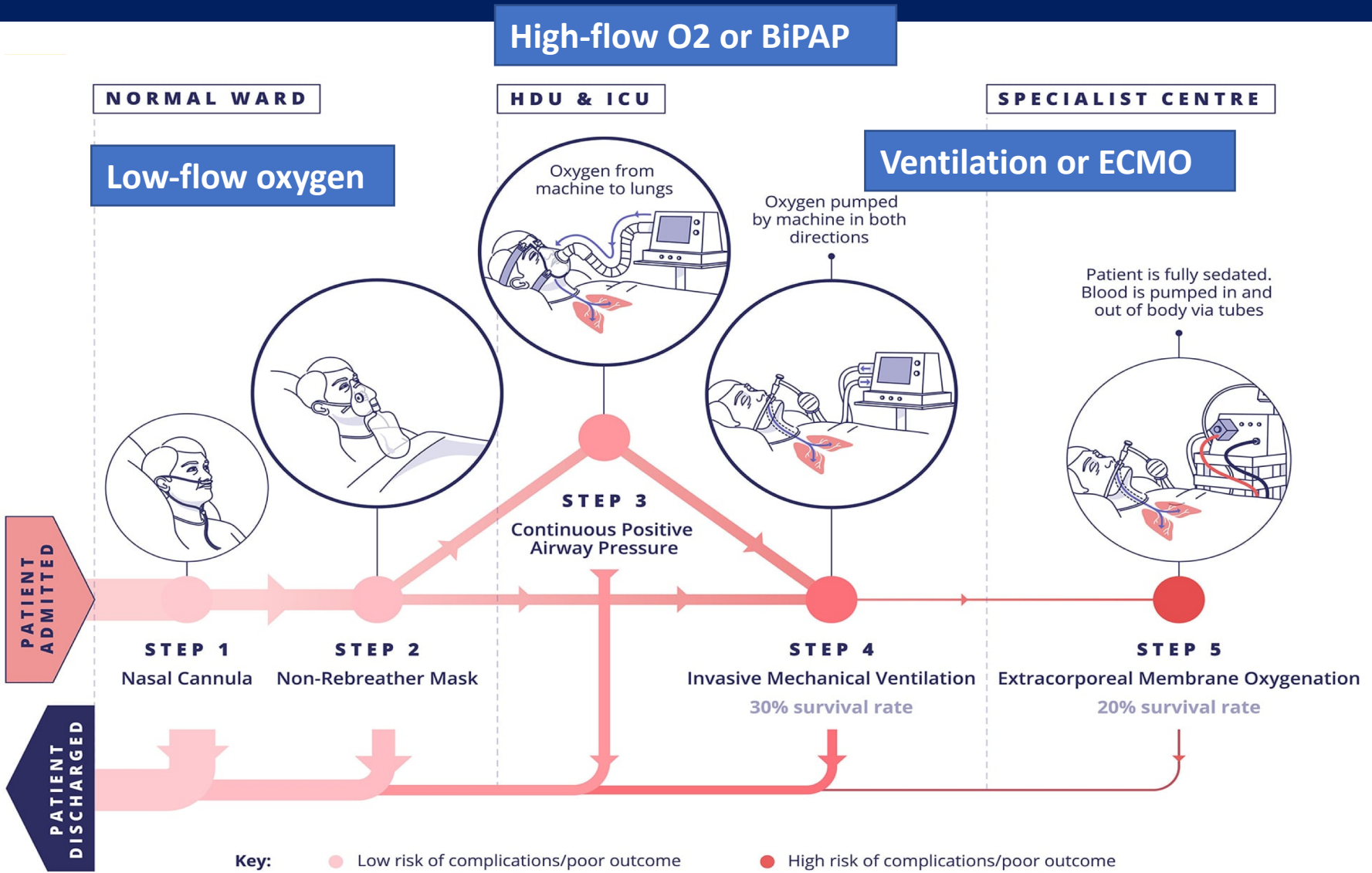
August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

# COVID-19 disease progression

	Asymptomatic or Presymptomatic	Mild Illness	Moderate Illness	Severe Illness	Critical Illness
<b>Features</b>	Positive SARS-CoV-2 test; no symptoms	Mild symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, or change in taste or smell); no dyspnea	Clinical or radiographic evidence of lower respiratory tract disease; oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$	Oxygen saturation $< 94\%$ ; respiratory rate $\geq 30$ breaths/min; lung infiltrates $> 50\%$	Respiratory failure, shock, and multiorgan dysfunction or failure
<b>Testing</b>	Screening testing; if patient has known exposure, diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing
<b>Isolation</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Proposed Disease Pathogenesis</b>	<p>Viral replication (blue arrow) spans from Asymptomatic to Severe Illness. Inflammation (red arrow) spans from Mild Illness to Critical Illness.</p>				
<b>Potential Treatment</b>	<p>Antiviral therapy (blue bar) spans from Asymptomatic to Moderate Illness. Antibody therapy (yellow bar) spans from Mild Illness to Severe Illness. Anti-inflammatory therapy (red bar) spans from Severe Illness to Critical Illness.</p>				
<b>Management Considerations</b>	Monitoring for symptoms	Clinical monitoring and supportive care	Clinical monitoring; if patient is hospitalized and at high risk for deterioration, possibly remdesivir	Hospitalization, oxygen therapy, and specific therapy (remdesivir, dexamethasone)	Critical care and specific therapy (dexamethasone, possibly remdesivir)

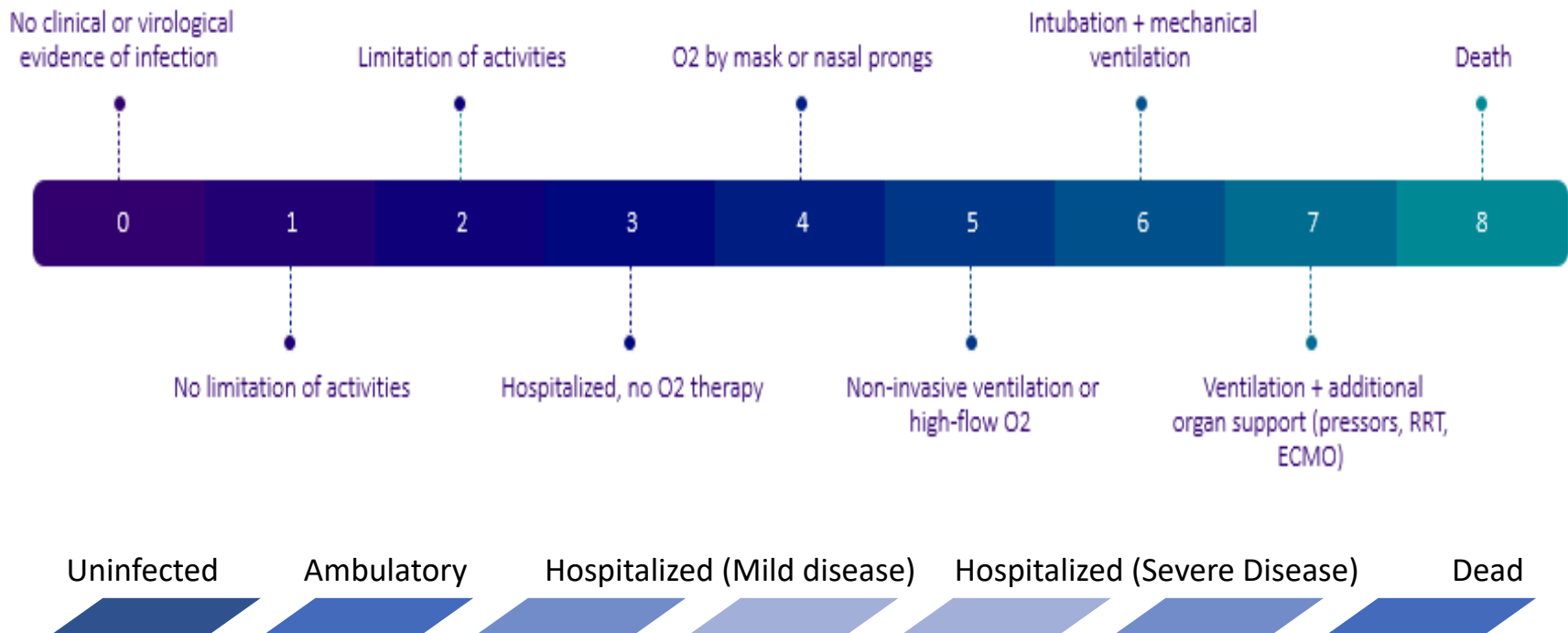


# Respiratory progression



How is coronavirus disease treated in hospital? - Coronavirus: the science explained - UKRI. (n.d.). Retrieved May 5, 2021, from <https://coronavirusexplained.ukri.org/en/article/vdt0008/>

# WHO Ordinal Scale for Clinical Improvement



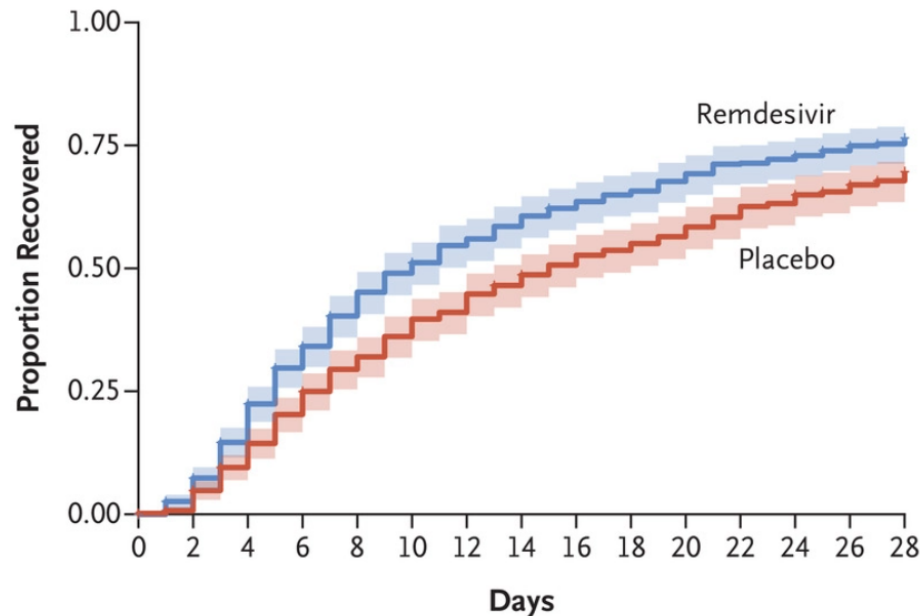
# Remdesivir: ACTT-1

ACTT: Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial

N = 1062, 541 RDV/521 Placebo

Time to Recovery: 10 days RDV vs. 15 days placebo (RR 1.29, 1.12-1.49)

A Overall



**Bottom line:**  
Remdesivir shortened time to recovery vs. placebo in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 with lower respiratory tract disease

No. at Risk

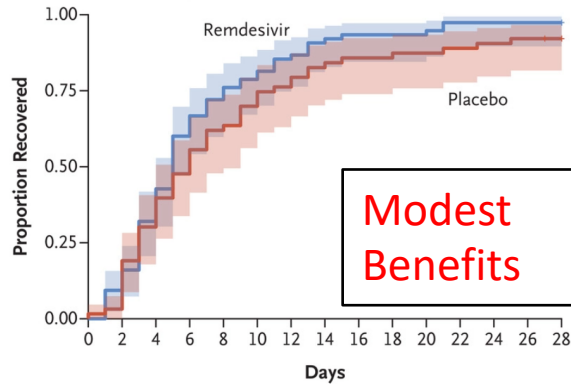
Remdesivir 541 513 447 366 309 264 234 214 194 180 166 148 143 131 84

Placebo 521 511 463 408 360 326 301 272 249 234 220 200 186 169 105



# ACTT -1

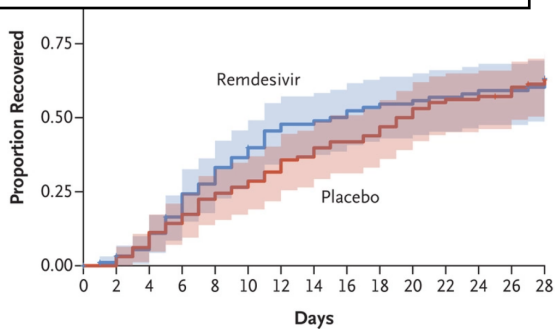
## Not receiving oxygen



No. at Risk

Remdesivir	75	68	51	30	21	16	11	7	5	5	5	2	2	2	2
Placebo	63	61	44	33	24	19	15	11	9	9	8	7	6	5	2

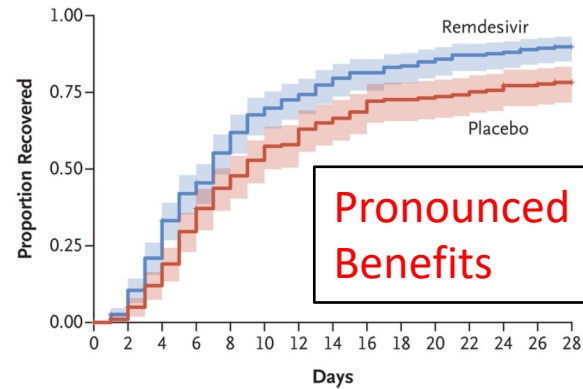
## High flow oxygen or noninvasive mech vent



No. at Risk

Remdesivir	95	91	86	75	65	57	48	46	44	41	40	38	37	36	27
Placebo	98	98	92	84	76	72	67	62	57	55	49	44	43	41	27

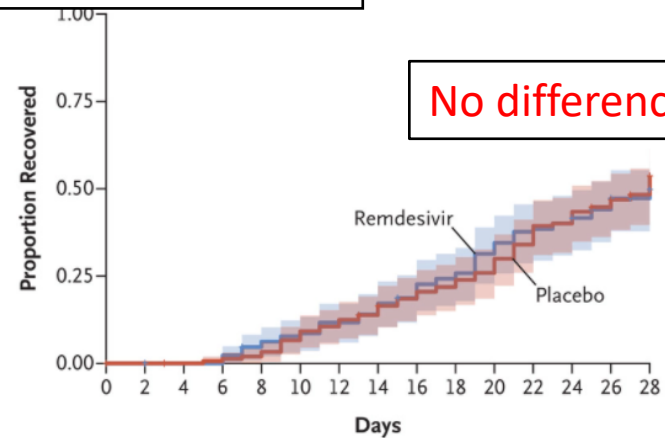
## Receiving oxygen



No. at Risk

Remdesivir	232	223	181	132	101	73	62	51	42	38	34	29	28	24	13
Placebo	203	199	175	140	111	93	83	69	62	54	53	51	48	44	28

## Mech Vent or ECMO

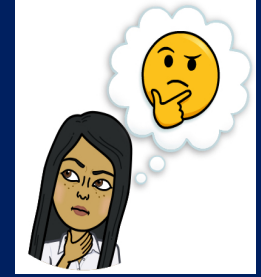


No. at Risk

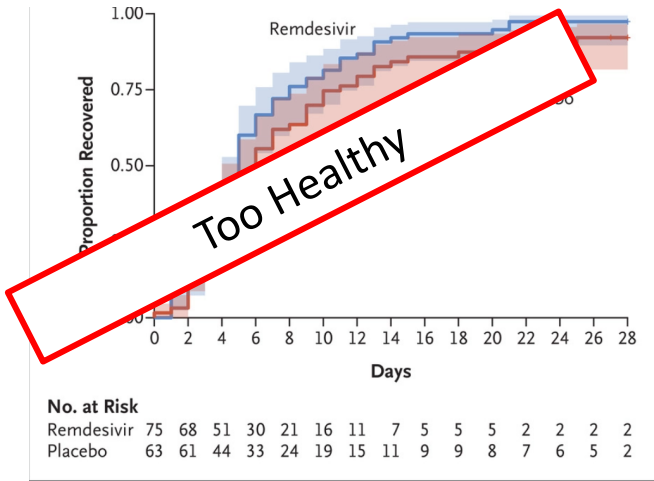
Remdesivir	131	131	129	129	122	118	113	110	103	96	87	79	76	69	42
Placebo	154	153	152	151	149	142	136	130	121	116	110	98	89	79	48



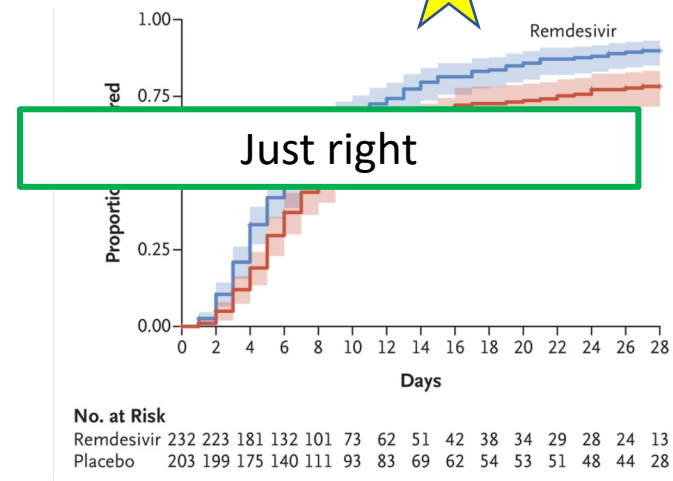
# ACTT-1 Interpreted by Zahra



## Not receiving oxygen

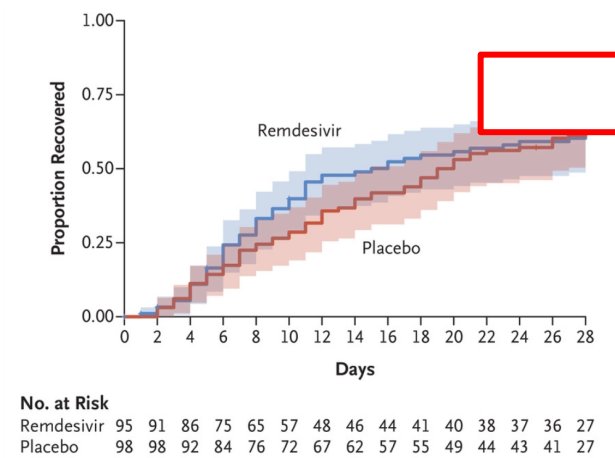


## Receiving oxygen

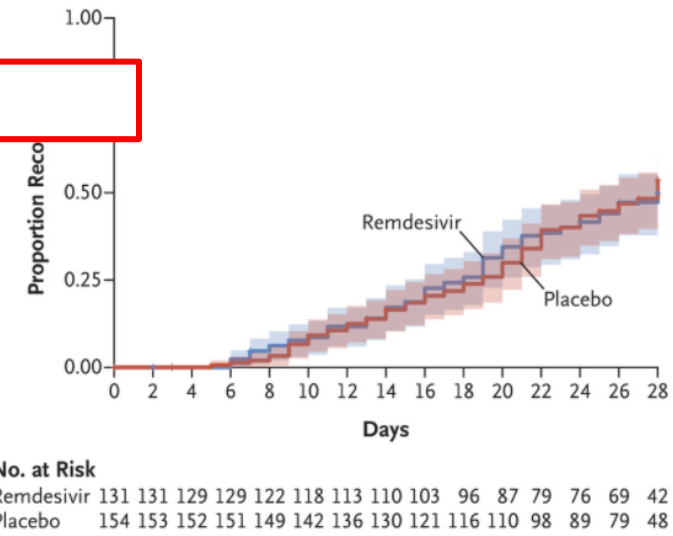


Goldilocks Window

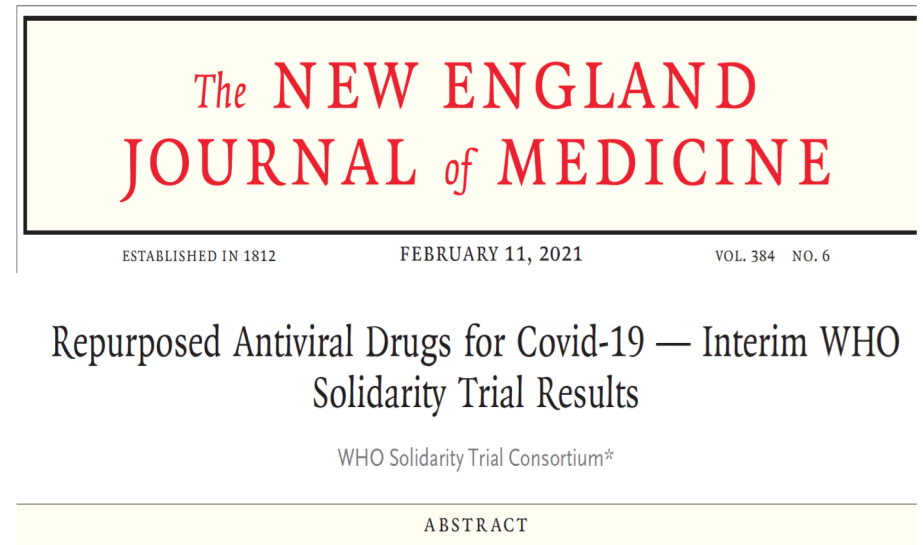
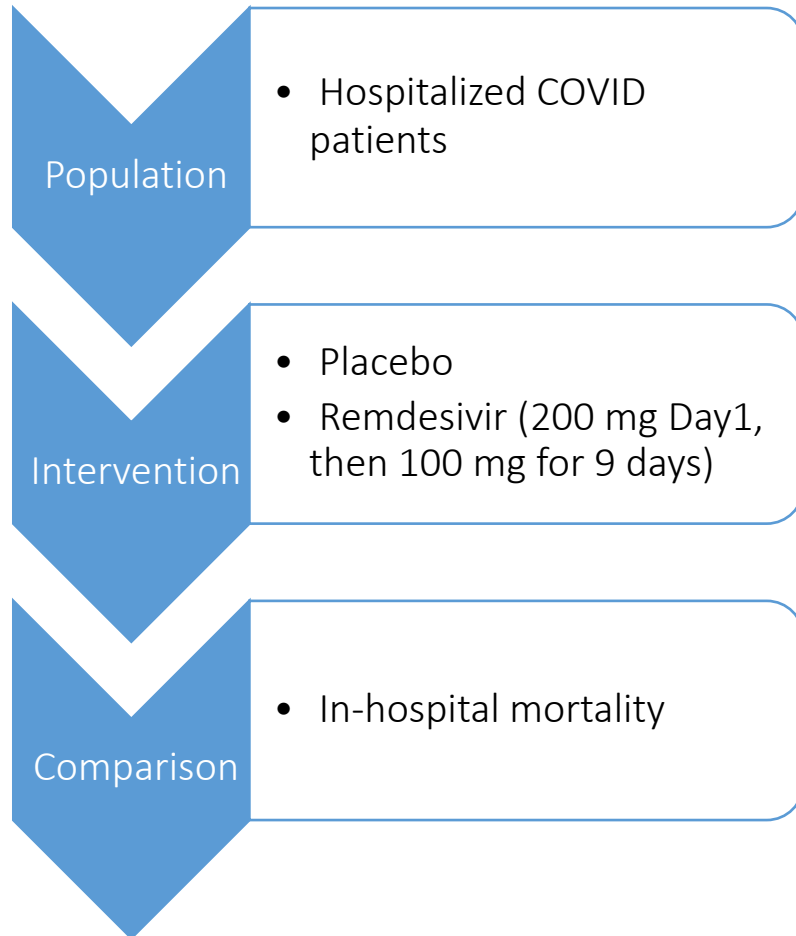
## High flow oxygen or noninvasive mech vent



## Mech Vent or ECMO



# Repurposed Antiviral Drugs for COVID-19 (SOLIDARITY Trial)



## BACKGROUND

World Health Organization expert groups recommended mortality trials of four repurposed antiviral drugs — remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir, and interferon beta-1a — in patients hospitalized with coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

## METHODS

The members of the writing and steering committees (H. Pan, R. Peto, A. Henao-Restrepo, M.-P. Preziosi, V. Satyamorthy, Q. Abdool Karim, M.M. Ajandria, C. Hernández García, M.-P. K... D. Malabandak, S. Murthy, V...





# SOLIDARITY: Results

Figure S1. Effects on in-hospital mortality of (a) remdesivir,

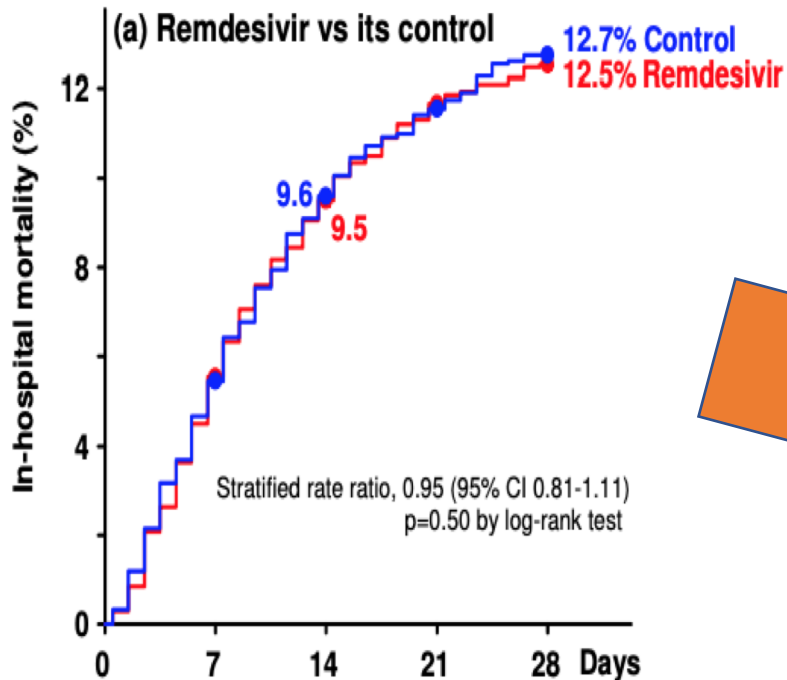
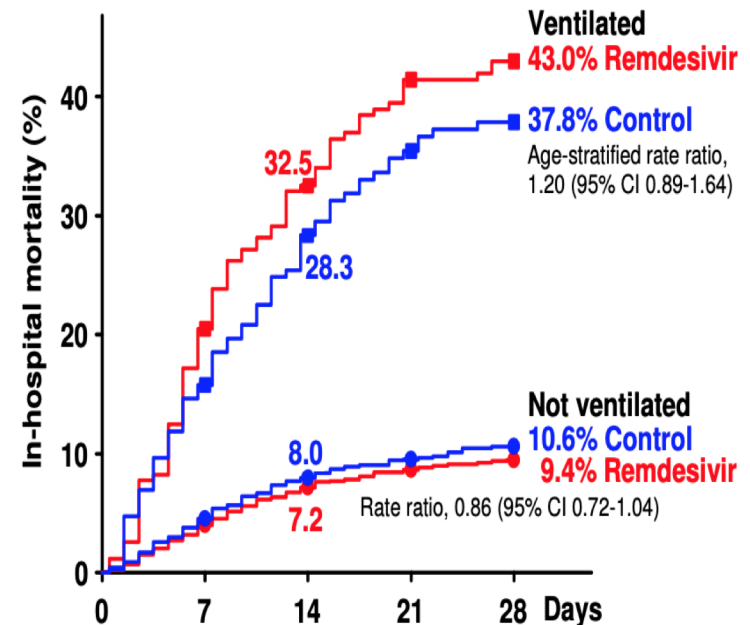


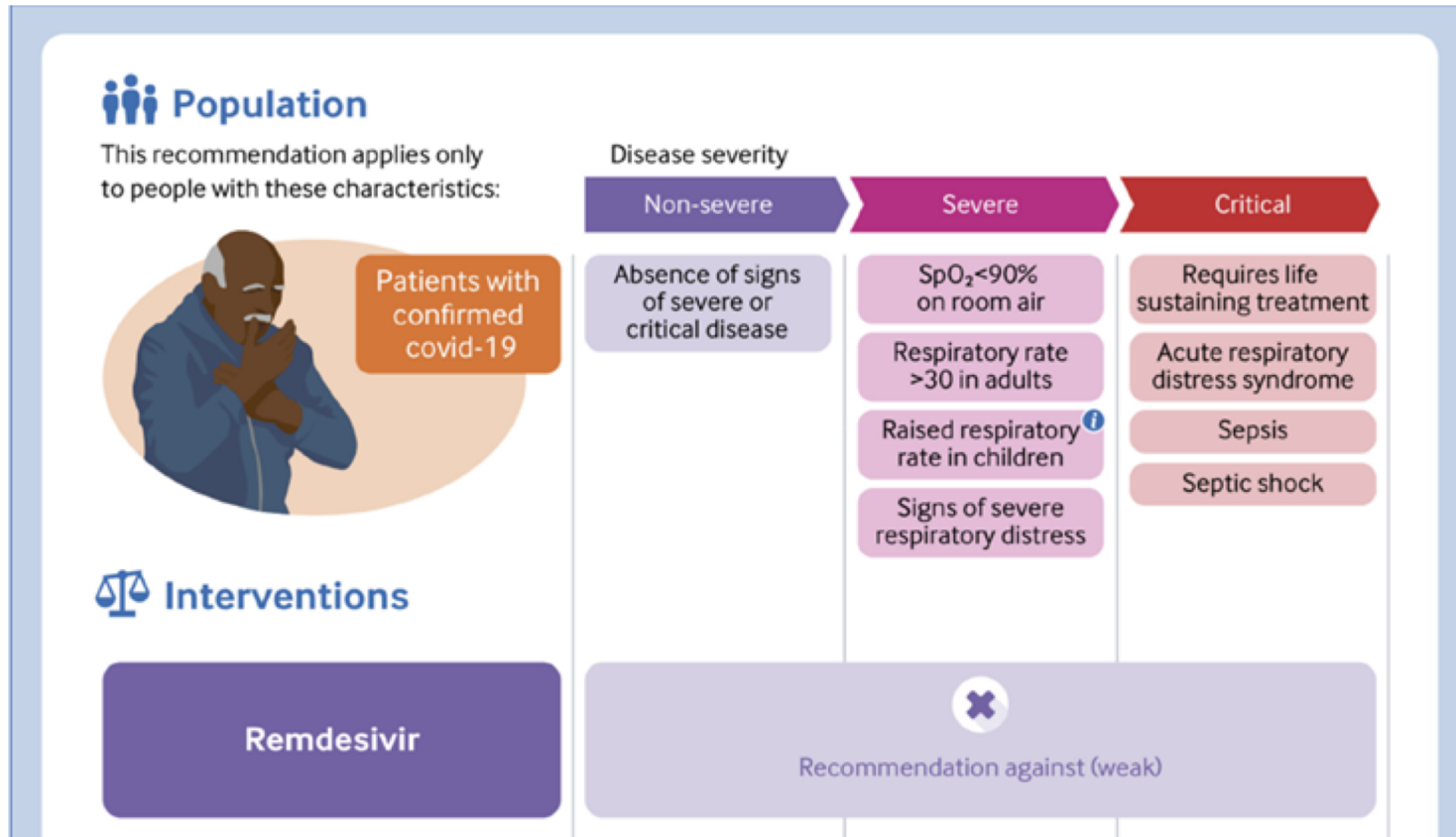
Figure S2. Subdivision by ventilation at randomization of the apparent effects of remdesivir on the probability of death in hospital from any cause



- No diff in survival, irrespective of ventilation status



# WHO Recommendation

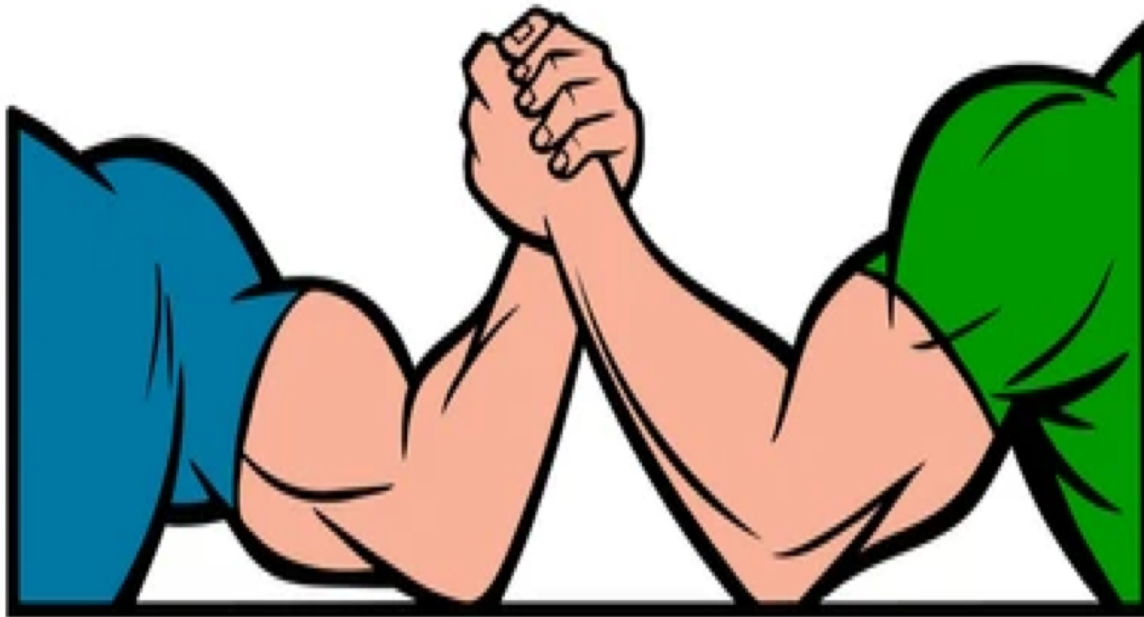


The panel acknowledged, however, there will be patients and clinicians who choose to use remdesivir given that the evidence has not excluded the possibility of benefits



# For or Against Remdesivir?

WHO



NIH

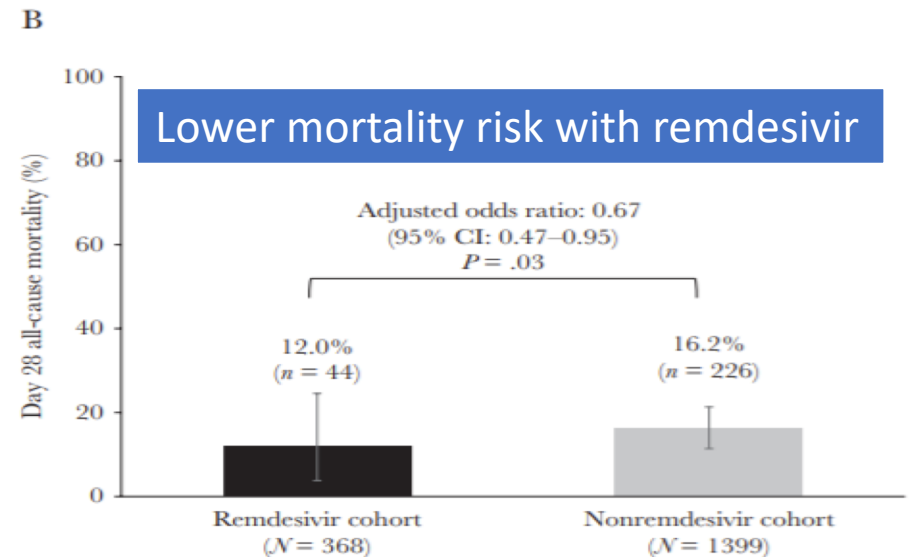


# Remdesivir Versus Standard-of-Care for Severe Coronavirus Disease 2019 Infection: An Analysis of 28-Day Mortality

## Study Design

- Phase 3, randomized, open-label study comparing Remdesivir 5 vs 10 days (previously published data, RDV cohort)
- Real world longitudinal cohort receiving standard of care (non-RDV cohort)
- Propensity score matching to compare populations

## Outcome



## Limitations

- Comparing prospective and retrospective data
- open-label treatment
- Unproven treatments used
- Time period before steroids used





# Comparison of Time to Clinical Improvement With vs Without Remdesivir Treatment in Hospitalized Patients With COVID-19

Brian T. Garibaldi, MD, MEHP; Kunbo Wang, MS; Matthew L. Robinson, MD; Scott L. Zeger, PhD; Karen Bandeen-Roche, PhD; Mei-Cheng Wang, PhD; G. Caleb Alexander, MD; Amita Gupta, MD; Robert Bollinger, MD, MPH; Yanxun Xu, PhD

- Retrospective study
- March to August 2020
- Five hospitals in Maryland
- (>75%) were non-White
- Primary endpoint
  - time to clinical improvement (defined as hospital discharge or 2 points decrease in WHO ordinal score)
- Secondary endpoint
  - 28-d mortality

Characteristic	Propensity score-matched patients <sup>b</sup>		Absolute standardized difference
	Matched remdesivir (n = 285)	Matched control (n = 285)	
<b>Demographic characteristics</b>			
<b>Sex, No. (%)</b>			
Male	160 (56.1)	158 (55.4)	0.014
Female	125 (43.9)	127 (44.6)	
<b>Race/ethnicity, No. (%)</b>			
Black	95 (33.3)	100 (35.1)	0.037
Latinx	98 (34.4)	86 (30.2)	0.090
White	59 (20.7)	66 (23.2)	0.059
Other <sup>c</sup>	33 (11.6)	33 (11.6)	0
Age, median (IQR), y	60 (48-70)	62 (51-75)	0.167
BMI, median (IQR)	29.8 (25.9-34.7)	29.6 (25.4-35.0)	0.070
DNR or DNI, No. (%)	59 (20.7)	69 (24.2)	0.084
<b>Oxygen devices, No. (%)</b>			
No supplemental oxygen	16 (5.6)	15 (5.3)	0.015
Nasal cannula or face mask	189 (66.3)	173 (60.7)	0.117
High-flow nasal cannula	38 (13.3)	50 (17.5)	0.117
Noninvasive positive-pressure ventilation	5 (1.8)	5 (1.8)	0
Mechanical ventilator	37 (13.0)	39 (13.7)	0.021

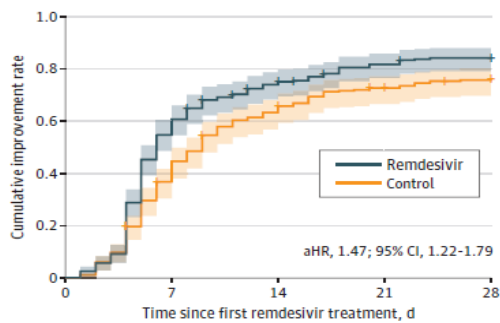


# Remdesivir was associated with faster clinical improvement

## Faster Clinical Improvement

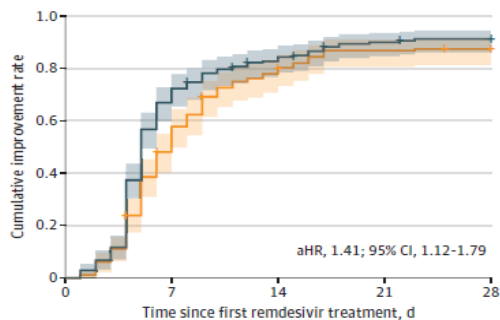
Figure 2. Time to Clinical Improvement

A All patients



No. at risk	0	7	14	21	28
Control	285	177	102	74	64
Remdesivir	285	129	70	46	39

C Patients with mild to moderate disease

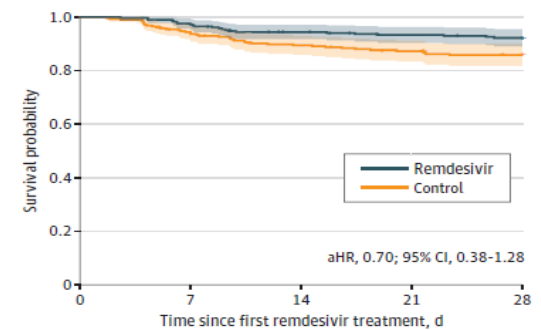


No. at risk	0	7	14	21	28
Control	180	91	38	22	20
Remdesivir	206	68	32	17	14

## No Difference in Survival

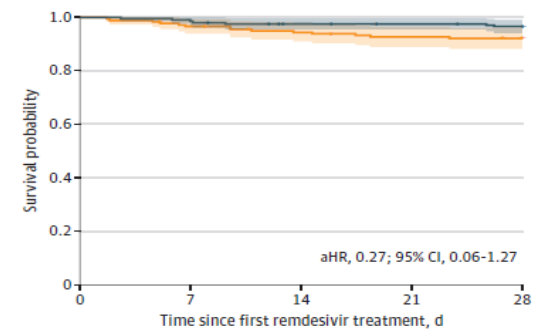
Figure 3. Patient Survival

A All patients



No. at risk	0	7	14	21	28
Control	285	267	251	243	236
Remdesivir	285	277	263	256	252

C Patients with mild to moderate disease



No. at risk	0	7	14	21	28
Control	180	173	167	163	161
Remdesivir	206	203	197	195	192



# Association of Remdesivir Treatment With Survival and Length of Hospital Stay Among US Veterans Hospitalized With COVID-19

Michael E. Ohl, MD, MSPH; Donald R. Miller, ScD; Brian C. Lund, PharmD; Takaaki Kobayashi, MD; Kelly Richardson Miell, PhD; Brice F. Beck, MA; Bruce Alexander, PharmD; Kristina Crothers, MD; Mary S. Vaughan Sarrazin, PhD

## Study design:

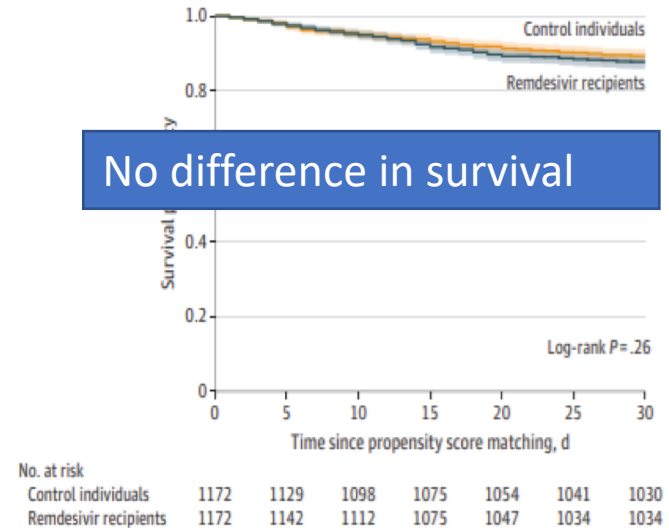
- Retrospective VA cohort study
- Propensity scoring to match
- Time period: May to Oct 20

## Outcomes:

- No difference in survival regardless of dexamethasone
- Median LOS 6 vs. 3 days (p<0.001)

doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.14741

Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier Survival Curves for Remdesivir Recipients and Control Individuals in the Propensity Score-Matched Cohort



## Limitations:

- Only 50% had matching control
- Symptom onset and amount supplemental O2 not available



## Article Contents

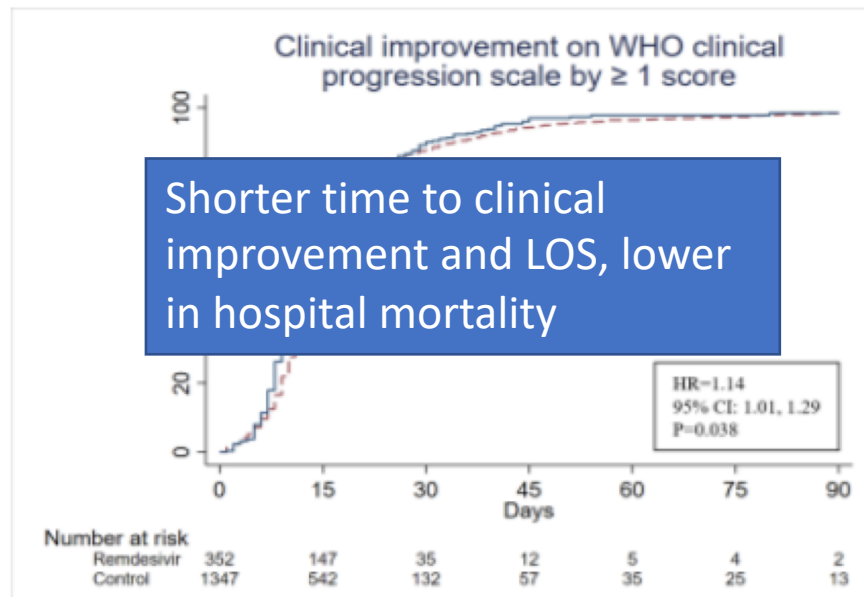
[Abstract](#)[Supplementary data](#)[Comments \(0\)](#)

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## Clinical improvement, outcomes, antiviral activity, and costs associated with early treatment with remdesivir for patients with COVID-19 FREE

### Study Design:

- Retrospective cohort of hospitalized patients in Hong Kong
- Propensity matching
- RDV=352; Control=1,347
- Time period: Jan 20 to Jan 21



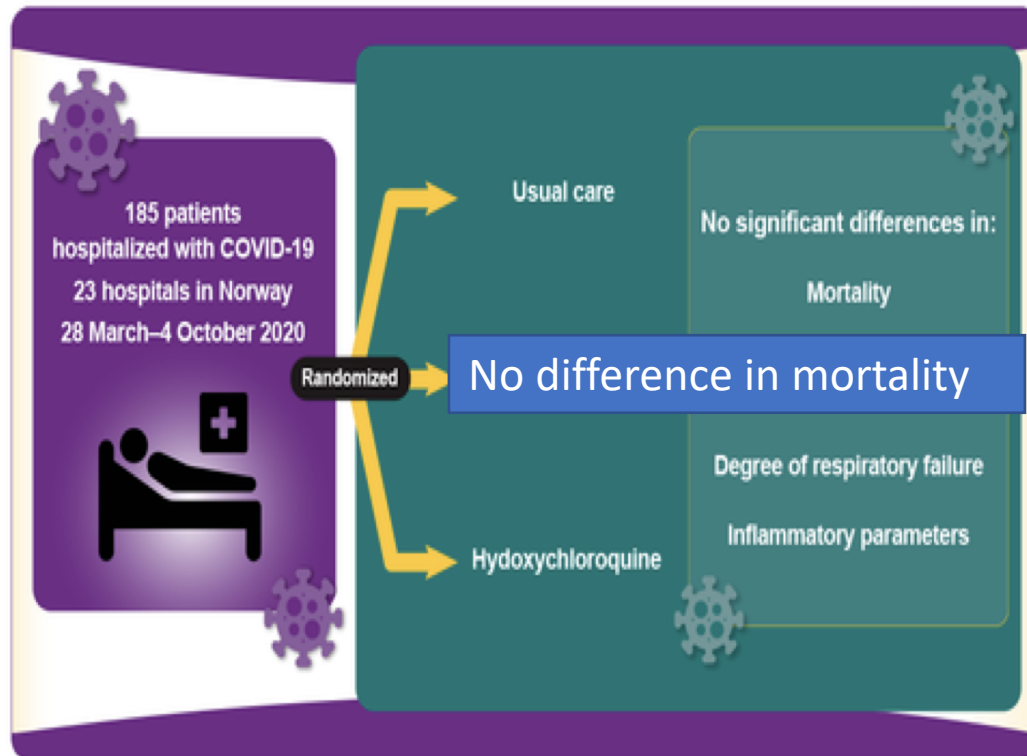
### Limitations:

- Heterogeneity in study population; most with moderate COVID-19 without need for oxygen





## Do remdesivir and hydroxychloroquine affect outcomes of patients hospitalized with COVID-19?



Annals  
of Internal Medicine

Barratt-Due A, Olsen IC, Neuvonen-Herttunen K, et al. NOR-Solidarity trial. Evaluation of the effects of remdesivir and hydroxychloroquine on viral clearance in COVID-19: A randomized trial. *Ann Intern Med*. 2021. [pub ahead of print]. doi:10.7326/M21-0653  
<http://ajph.journals.org/doi/10.7326/M21-0653>

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### **Limitation:**

No placebo control

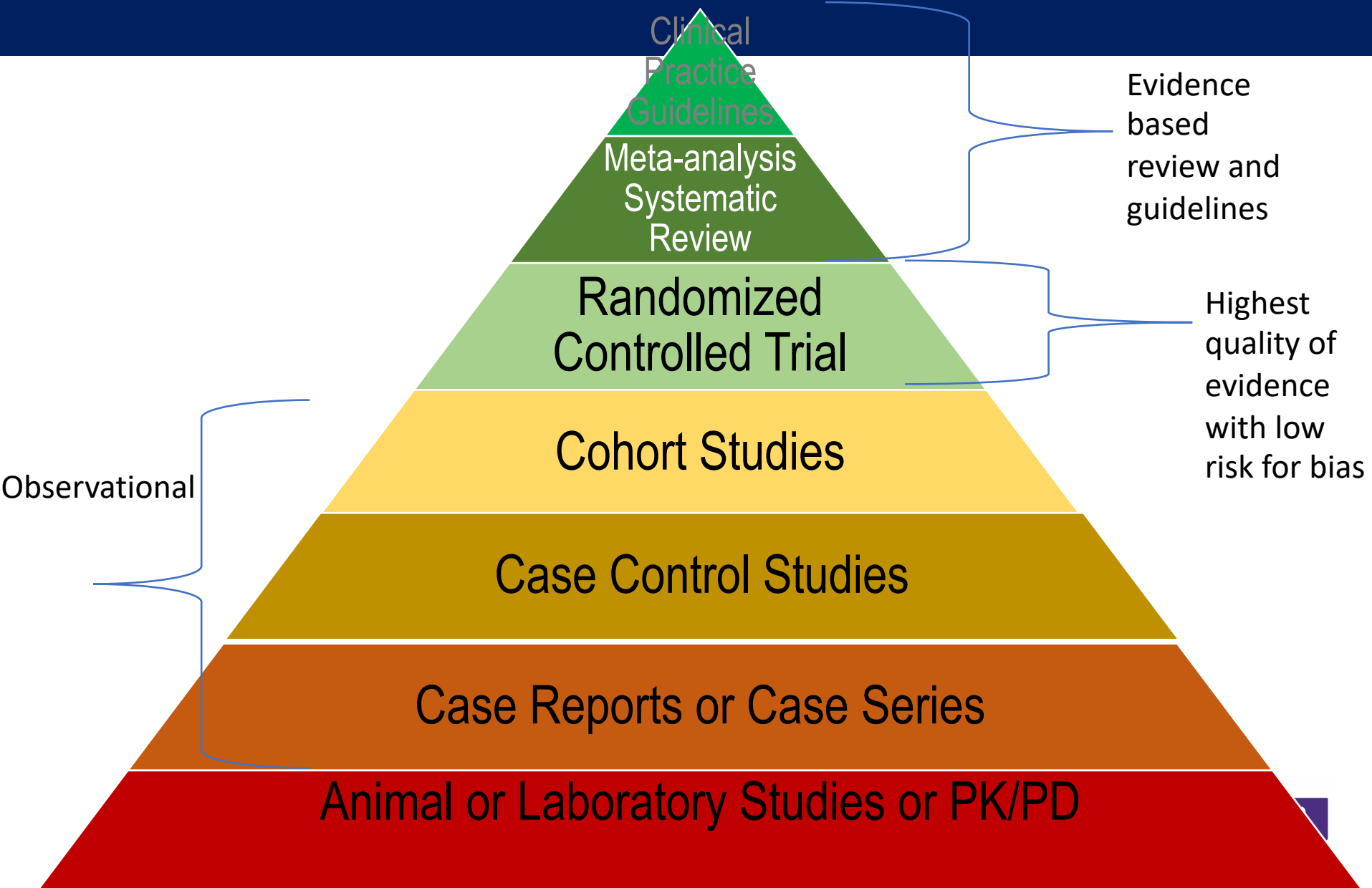
Only 43 patients received remdesivir



# Feeling information overload yet?



# How do you make sense of it all?



# Major Update: Remdesivir for Adults With COVID-19

## A Living Systematic Review and Meta-analysis for the American College of Physicians Practice Points

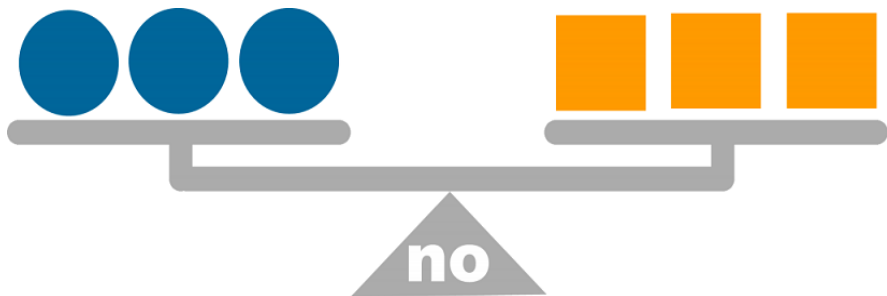
Anjum S. Kaka, MD; Roderick MacDonald, MS; Nancy Greer, PhD; Kathryn Vela, MLIS; Wei Duan-Porter, MD, PhD; Adam Obley, MD; and Timothy J. Wilt, MD, MPH

Figure 1. Mortality for remdesivir 10-d course vs. control (placebo or standard care).

Study, Year (Reference)	Remdesivir		Control		RR	RR (95% CI)
	Events, n	Total, n	Events, n	Total, n		
Beigel et al [ACTT-1], 2020 (5)	59	541	77	521		0.74 (0.54–1.01)
Wang et al, 2020 (13)	22	158	10	78		
Spinner et al [SIMPLE-2], 2020 (12)	2	193	4	200		
Pan et al [Solidarity], 2020 (4)	301	2743	303	2708		
Fixed-effects model	384	3635	394	3507	0.93 (0.82–1.06)	

Heterogeneity:  $I^2 = 6\%$

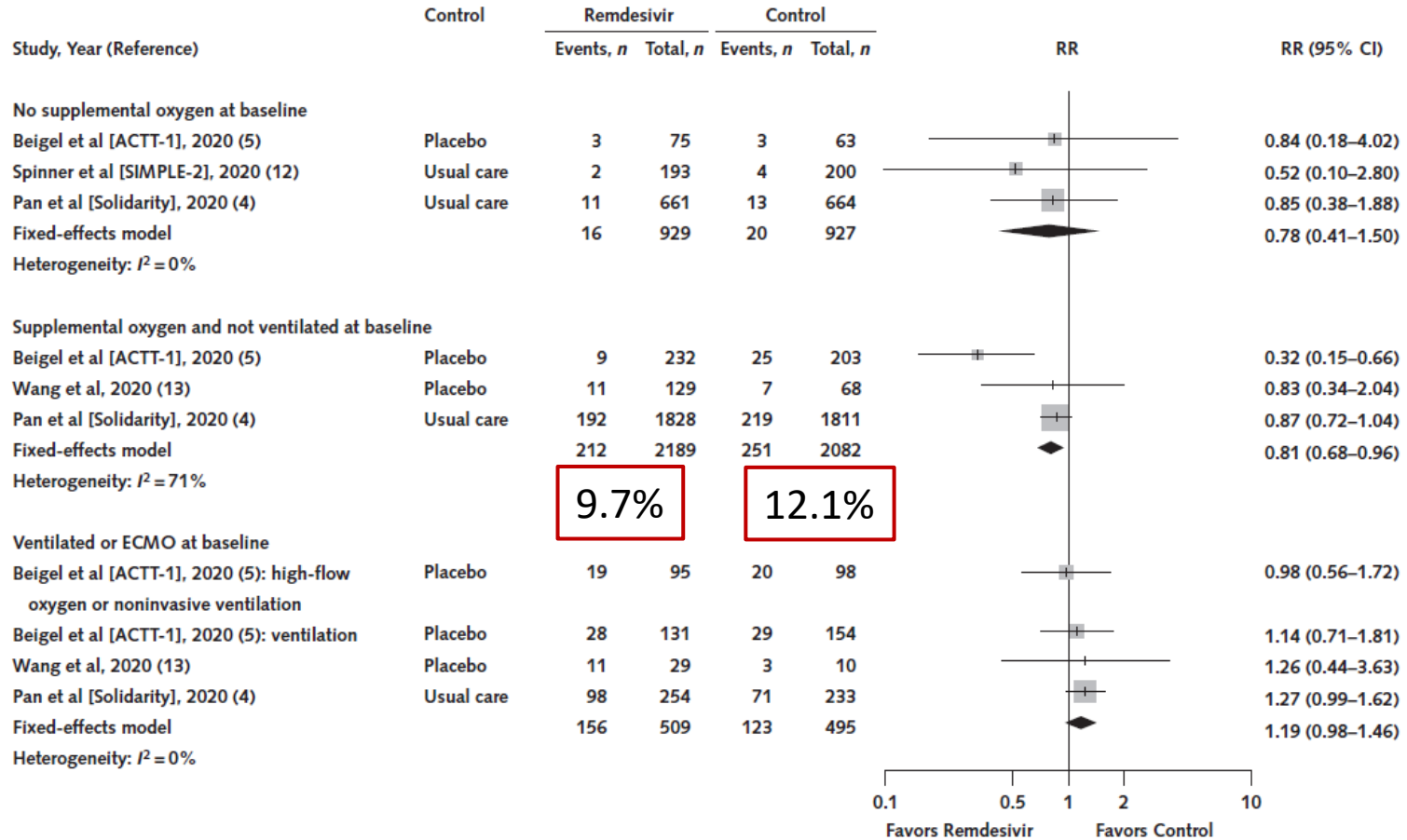
10.6%      11.2%



**no significant difference**



# Small mortality benefit among patients with supplemental oxygen



# Putting it all together....

- Absolute risk reduction (ARR)
  - Difference between the event rate in control group and experimental group
  - $12.1\% - 9.7\% = 2.4\%$
- Number needed to treat (NNT)
  - Inverse of the absolute risk reduction (ARR) expressed as a decimal.
  - $NNT = 1/ARR$
  - $NNT = 1/0.024$



# What is the number needed to treat with remdesivir to prevent one death?

All hospitalized COVID-19 patients regardless of oxygenation status

Patients requiring supplemental oxygen

[ClinCalc.com](#) » [Statistics](#) » Number Needed to Treat

[ClinCalc.com](#) » [Statistics](#) » Number Needed to Treat

## Study Outcome

Percent Patient-Years

## Study Outcome

Percent Patient-Years

**Cost difference = \$3000 x 125 = \$375,000**

10.6 %

11.2 %

Reset

Calculate

9.7 %

12.1 %

Reset

Calculate

## RESULTS

NNT/NNH  
**166.7**

On average, 166.7 patients would have to receive experimental treatment (instead of control treatment) for one additional patient to HAVE the study outcome.

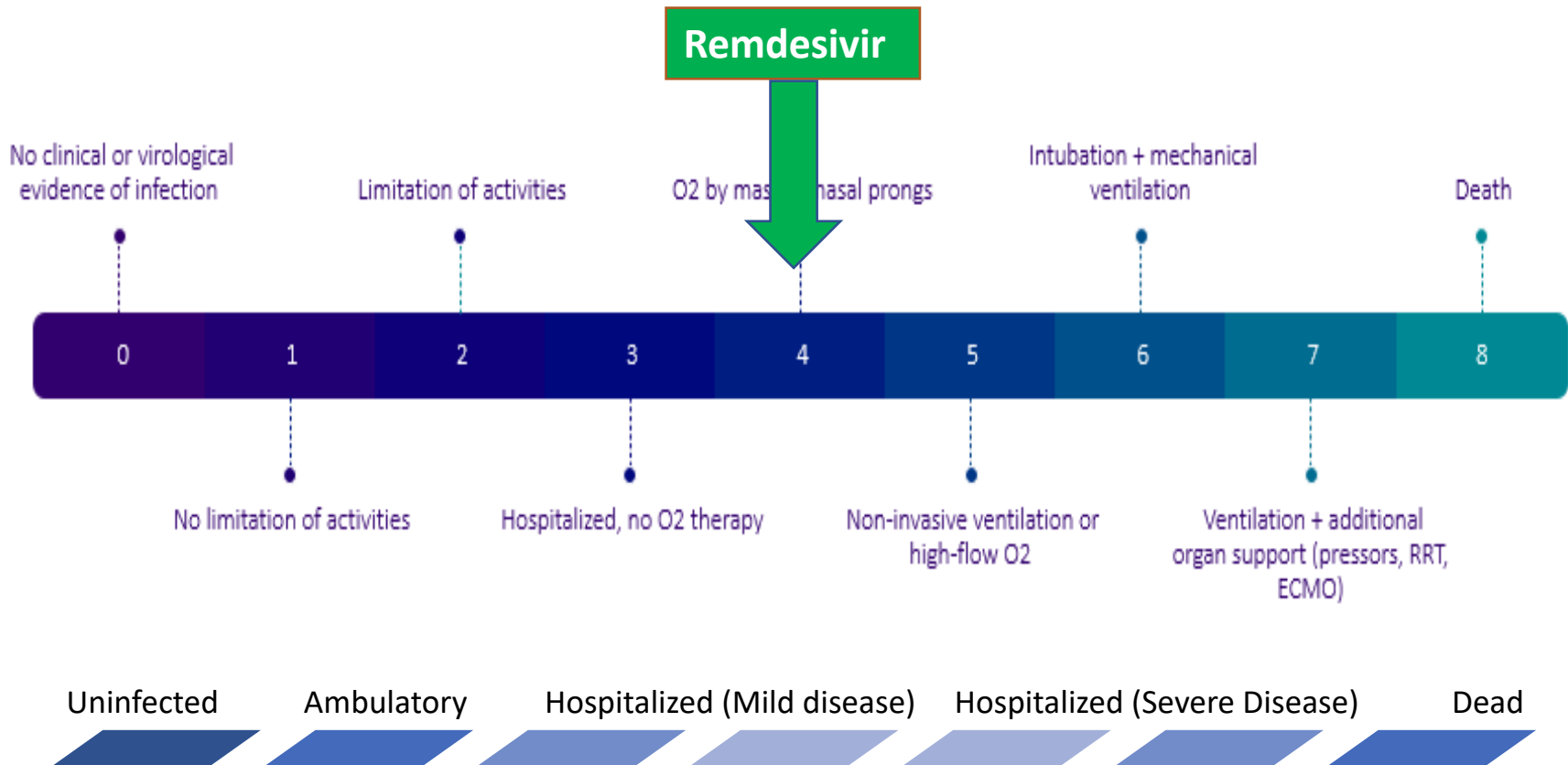
## RESULTS

NNT/NNH  
**41.7**

On average, 41.7 patients would have to receive experimental treatment (instead of control treatment) for one additional patient to HAVE the study outcome.



# Place of therapy







# Therapeutic Management of Hospitalized Adults With COVID-19

Last Updated: July 8, 2021

Figure 2. Therapeutic Management of Hospitalized Adults With COVID-19 Based on Disease Severity

DISEASE SEVERITY	PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS
Hospitalized but Does Not Require Supplemental Oxygen	<p>The Panel <b>recommends against</b> the use of <b>dexamethasone (AIIa)</b> or other <b>corticosteroids (AIII)</b>.<sup>a</sup></p> <p>There is insufficient evidence to recommend either for or against the routine use of remdesivir. For patients who are at high risk of disease progression, the use of remdesivir may be appropriate.</p>
Hospitalized and Requires Supplemental Oxygen	<p>Use one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Remdesivir<sup>b,c</sup></b> (e.g., for patients who require minimal supplemental oxygen) <b>(BIIa)</b></li> <li>• <b>Dexamethasone<sup>d</sup> plus remdesivir<sup>b,c</sup></b> (e.g., for patients who require increasing amounts of supplemental oxygen) <b>(BIII)</b></li> <li>• <b>Dexamethasone<sup>d</sup></b> (when combination therapy with remdesivir cannot be used or is not available) <b>(BI)</b></li> </ul>
Hospitalized and Requires Oxygen Delivery Through a High-Flow Device or Noninvasive Ventilation	<p>Use one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dexamethasone<sup>d</sup></b> <b>(AI)</b></li> <li>• <b>Dexamethasone<sup>d</sup> plus remdesivir<sup>b,c</sup></b> <b>(BIII)</b></li> </ul> <p>For patients who were recently hospitalized<sup>d</sup> with rapidly increasing oxygen needs and systemic inflammation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add either <b>baricitinib<sup>b,a</sup></b> <b>(BIIa)</b> or <b>tocilizumab<sup>b</sup></b> <b>(BIIa)</b> to one of the two options above</li> </ul>
Hospitalized and Requires IMV or ECMO	<p>For most patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dexamethasone<sup>d1</sup></b> <b>(AI)</b></li> </ul> <p>For patients who are within 24 hours of admission to the ICU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dexamethasone<sup>d1</sup> plus tocilizumab<sup>b</sup></b> <b>(BIIa)</b></li> </ul>

**Rating of Recommendations:** A = Strong; B = Moderate; C = Optional  
**Rating of Evidence:** I = One or more randomized trials without major limitations; IIa = Other randomized trials or subgroup analyses of randomized trials; IIb = Nonrandomized trials or observational cohort studies; III = Expert opinion

