

Hydroxychloroquine

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Background of the Study:

- The controversial study by French researcher Didier Raoult, published on March 20, 2020, claimed that **hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and HCQ combined with azithromycin significantly reduced SARS-CoV-2 viral load.**
- The paper was retracted on December 17, 2024, due to concerns about ethical approval and methodological issues.

About Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ)

- **Hydroxychloroquine** is a medication primarily used to treat **malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).**
- It reduces immune system activity or kills the malaria-causing parasites from **Anopheles mosquito bites.**

Use in Autoimmune Disorders:

- Effective in managing **rheumatoid arthritis** by reducing joint inflammation.
- Helps treat **lupus** by controlling the overactive immune response.

HCQ and COVID-19:

- Early studies claimed HCQ could reduce SARS-CoV-2 viral loads, especially in combination with **azithromycin**.
 - Proposed as a **prophylactic** to prevent COVID-19 infection; however, large-scale use raised concerns due to:
 - **Cardiac arrhythmia risks**
 - **Liver damage**
 - Potential weakening of the immune system's response to infection.
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Q1: Is Hydroxychloroquine effective against COVID-19?

Hydroxychloroquine was initially studied as a potential treatment for COVID-19. However, subsequent research showed limited or no significant benefit, and its use for COVID-19 is not widely recommended by health authorities.

Source: [Journal finally retracts the discredited hydroxychloroquine paper – The Hindu](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/hydroxychloroquine-2/>

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