

Aciclovir/dexamethasone/remdesivir

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Lack of efficacy following off-label use: case report

In a case series, a 71-year-old man was described, who exhibited lack of efficacy during treatment with remdesivir, off-label dexamethasone and off-label aciclovir for COVID-19 [*dosages and routes not stated*].

The man was admitted to a hospital with rapidly increasing respiratory failure. Subsequently, he was diagnosed with COVID-19. His medical history was significant for bronchial asthma under reliever therapy. He had myalgia, diarrhoea and anosmia for 9 days. He was initiated with antibiotic and antifungal therapy with ampicillin/sulbactam, azithromycin and posaconazole. Also, he started receiving remdesivir, off-label dexamethasone and off-label aciclovir for COVID-19. He was admitted to the ICU. After 24h of noninvasive ventilation attempts, he required intubation due to rapidly progressive respiratory deterioration. On day 13 of hospitalisation, a rapidly progressive soft tissue emphysema was noted on the neck and left hemithorax. Also, there was substantial pneumomediastinum. His respiratory situation continued to deteriorate despite the therapy with dexamethasone, remdesivir and aciclovir, indicating lack of efficacy. On day 17 of invasive ventilation, he died of cardiorespiratory failure.

Mykoliuk I, et al. SARS-CoV-2-associated pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum and soft tissue emphysema. Clinical implications based on a case series. Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift 172: 84-89, No. 3, 2022. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10354-021-00872-4> [German; summarised from a translation] 803659556