



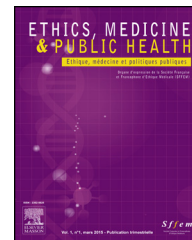
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Medicines and illusions in the fight against COVID-19 in Brazil



KEYWORDS

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 Chloroquine;
 COVID-19;
 Doctors;
 Fight

The Brazilian government's response to the pandemic is notoriously chaotic. President Bolsonaro has spoken and acted erratically, often encouraging fearful behavior among the population [1]. For example, one can mention in the Ministry of Health's confusion in the middle of the pandemic, without a definitive incumbent for months, after the dismissal of two ministers for their virtues, in favor of social isolation and against the indiscriminate use of hydroxychloroquine [2].

Thus, it is not surprising the whole Brazilian outcry about the use of drugs ranging from the 'miraculously hydroxychloroquine (against malaria), antibiotics, or vermifuge [3], irresponsibly indicated for prevention and treatment for a viral disease [4]. Even being contaminated by COVID-19, Bolsonaro has not abandoned his fate of using the medicine against malaria [5]. The novelty in the tragic Brazilian battle against the pandemic is the position of many doctors¹ and other health professionals in favor of cocktails of drugs without any scientific basis against the coronavirus [6], and with known side effects [7]. There have been "lives" on the Internet, led by journalists indicating these drugs, with the participation of respected doctors in the Brazilian health field².

In this context, social networks [8,9], with strong presence in Brazil [10], show mayors and several health authorities, celebrating the arrival of this combination of drugs for use in their cities, composed of drugs with potential risk, especially when combined [11]. They present

supposed results of cure and decrease of dead and ill people, wrongly attributed to this senseless cocktail, forgetting that it is known that the great majority of those affected by COVID-19 will not develop severe consequences of the disease [12]. The sanity of the Brazilian government will hardly be recovered during the pandemic. Therefore doctors and other health professionals must direct their energy to the fight with scientifically proven tools.

Disclosure of interest

The author declares that he has no competing interest.

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