

Multiple drugs

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Off-label use and lack of efficacy: 8 case reports

A single-centre, retrospective study of 21 patients was conducted between March 2020 and August 2020 at Command Hospital, India, 8 patients (4 women and 4 men) aged 40–79 years were described, who exhibited a lack of efficacy during treatment with remdesivir or off-label treatment with convalescent-anti-SARS-COV-2-plasma, dexamethasone, enoxaparin sodium, methylprednisolone or tocilizumab for COVID-19 pneumonia.

The patients, who had multiple comorbidities and diagnosed with severe COVID-19 pneumonia, were admitted to the hospital and started on a standard care treatment including unspecified broad-spectrum antimicrobials [antibiotics], off-label enoxaparin sodium [enoxaparin] 1 mg/kg body weight twice daily along with off-label IV methylprednisolone 2 mg/kg body weight once daily (1 patient), off-label IV dexamethasone 10mg once daily (3 patients), remdesivir 200mg loading dose followed by 100mg once daily and off-label IV dexamethasone 10mg once daily and convalescent-anti-SARS-COV-2-plasma [convalescent plasma; 1 patient], and remdesivir 200mg loading dose followed by 100mg once daily and off-label IV dexamethasone 10mg once daily (3 patients). Later, all the patients received 2 doses of off-label IV tocilizumab 8 mg/kg body weight 12h apart. Despite treatments, after day 4–18 of tocilizumab initiation, all the patients died due to COVID-19 pneumonia, indicating lack of efficacy.

Joshi A, et al. A single-center experience in use of tocilizumab in COVID-19 pneumonia in India. *Medical Journal Armed Forces India* 77 (Suppl. 2): S296-S304, Jul 2021.
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