

Efficacy of MP1032 in hospitalised patients with COVID-19

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Previous experiments demonstrated MP1032 is a drug with antiviral and immunomodulatory effects.¹ Recently, Petra Sager et al. further evaluated the efficacy and safety of MP1032 in hospitalized patients with moderate to severe COVID-19.² However, the results were disappointing as their study revealed that MP1032 did not significantly improve disease progression in patients. Here, we would like to emphasize that in addition to size limitations, this result may also be due to population selection and timing of administration.

First, the study included patients hospitalized for moderate or severe COVID-19, roughly 50% each, without critical patients. MP1032 acts as an immunomodulatory drug, moderate patients may not benefit from MP1032 treatment because patients with severe or critical COVID-19 are more susceptible to inflammatory cytokine storms than moderate patients. The guidelines also strongly recommend the use of immunomodulators such as glucocorticoids, IL-6 blockers, and JAK inhibitors in severe and critical COVID-19 patients, with more significant benefits in critical patients. For non-severe COVID-19 patients, immunomodulators are not recommended for treatment.

Second, another mechanism of MP1032 is to play an antiviral role by inhibiting the replication of COVID-19.

It should be noted that the effect of antiviral drugs depends on the timing of administration, and the earlier use of the effect is more obvious, especially within 5 days of the onset of symptoms. Unfortunately, this study did not take this into account when designing the dosing regimen.

In conclusion, the beneficiary population and timing of administration should be considered in future studies.

Contributors

Xiangting Liu and Guangting Zeng initiated and conceptualised the idea. Jing Liu wrote the letter, Shulan Liu and Guangting Zeng revised the letter.

Declaration of interests

The authors declare no competing interest.

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