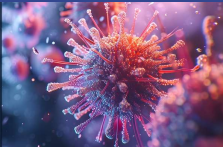



10 SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

Speaker: Andrew Pavia, MD



SARS-CoV-2 and Covid 19

Andrew T. Pavia, MD
George and Esther Gross Presidential Professor
University of Utah

7/4/2025

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Disclosures of Financial Relationships with Relevant Commercial Interests

- Antimicrobial Therapy Inc,
- Haleon

2

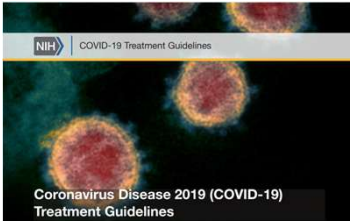
What Seems Testable

- Disease course
 - High risk groups
- Diagnosis
 - NAAT, antigen, serology
- Treatment recommendations
- Vaccine complications
 - Myocarditis
- MIS-C/A
- Probably not vaccine recommendations (currently too political), variants (too changeable), long covid (no proven therapy)



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IDSA Guidelines on the Treatment and Management of Patients with COVID-19

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<https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/covid-19-guideline-treatment-and-management/>

Ann Intern Med. 2024 Nov;177(11):1547
<https://wayback.archive-it.org/4887/20240626155208/https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/>

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10 SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

Speaker: Andrew Pavia, MD

	Asymptomatic or Presymptomatic	Mild illness	Moderate illness	Severe illness	Critical illness
Features	Positive SARS-CoV-2 test; no symptoms	Mild symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, or change in taste or smell); no dyspnea	Clinical or radiographic evidence of lower respiratory tract disease; oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$	Oxygen saturation $< 94\%$; respiratory rate ≥ 30 breaths/min; lung infiltrates $> 50\%$	Respiratory failure, shock, and multiorgan dysfunction or failure
Testing	Screening testing; if patient has known exposure, diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing	Diagnostic testing
Isolation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Proposed Disease Pathogenesis					
Potential Treatment					
Management Considerations	Monitoring for symptoms	Clinical monitoring and supportive care	Clinical monitoring; if patient is hospitalized and at high risk for deterioration, possibly remdesivir	Hospitalization, oxygen therapy, and specific therapy (remdesivir, dexamethasone)	Critical care and specific therapy (dexamethasone, possibly remdesivir)

Gandhi. N Engl J Med 2020;383:1757-1766

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Diagnostics

- NAAT most sensitive and specific.
 - May remain positive for weeks
- Antigen detection. Highly specific but lower sensitivity, especially early
- Serology. IDSA recommends against for diagnosis of acute disease
 - Antibody to spike detects vaccination and infection
 - Persists. No correlate of protection for binding antibody
 - Antibody to nucleocapsid reflects infection
- Antibody testing may be helpful in MIS-C/A

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Question #1

PREVIEW QUESTION



- A 35-year-old woman presents to your ED because she tested positive for Covid-19 at home. She is coughing, fatigued and has a low-grade fever
- She is 30 weeks pregnant. She has familial hypercholesterolemia and her BMI is 36
- You find out she had Covid vaccine in the summer of 2020 (5 years ago) but has not had a booster nor a known infection since
- She is febrile and uncomfortable. Her exam is otherwise unremarkable
- O2 saturation 95% on room air

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Question #1

PREVIEW QUESTION



What is the most appropriate therapy?

- Molnupiravir for 5 days
- No treatment indicated
- Hospitalize her for 5 days of IV remdesivir and dexamethasone
- Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid) but instruct her to hold her statin for 7 days
- Prednisone or dexamethasone

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10 SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

Speaker: Andrew Pavia, MD

Question #1

PREVIEW QUESTION

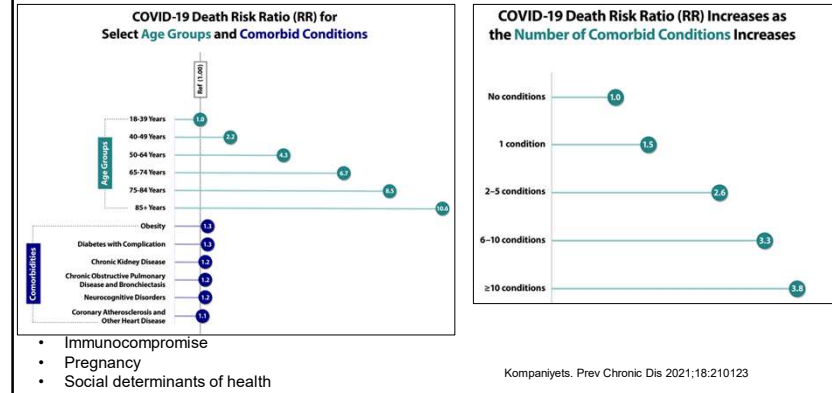
INfectious
Disease
Board Review
2025

What is the most appropriate therapy?

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- B. No treatment indicated
- C. Hospitalize her for 5 days of IV remdesivir and dexamethasone
- D. Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid) but instruct her to hold her statin for 7 days**
- E. Prednisone or dexamethasone

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Risk Factors for Severe Disease



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Covid-19: Therapeutic Management of Outpatients

Management of Nonhospitalized Patients

Patient Disposition	Panel's Recommendations
All Patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptom management should be initiated for all patients (AIII). The Panel recommends against the use of dexamethasone or other systemic corticosteroids (AIIb), unless these agents are being used to treat an underlying condition (AIII).
Patients Who Are at High Risk for Progressing to Severe COVID-19	<p>Preferred therapies. Listed in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid) (AIIa). Start as soon as possible and within 5 days of symptom onset. See footnote on drug-drug interactions. Remdesivir (BIIa). Start as soon as possible and within 7 days of symptom onset. <p>Alternative therapy. For use when the preferred therapies are not available, feasible to use, or clinically appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molnupiravir (CIIa). Start as soon as possible and within 5 days of symptom onset. <p>There is insufficient evidence for the Panel to recommend either for or against initiating these antiviral agents after the timeframes listed above.</p>

Each recommendation in the Guidelines receives a rating for the strength of the recommendation (A, B, or C) and a rating for the evidence that supports it (I, IIa, IIb, or III).

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Antiviral Agents for Sars-CoV-2 Infection

- Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)
 - Decreased hospitalization or death by 86% in unvaccinated patients with increased risk
 - Considered safe in pregnancy
 - Many DDI's via CYP3A. Many are manageable. <https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/>
- IV Remdesivir
 - 3 days effective for high-risk outpatients in PineTree
 - 5 days for hospitalized patients
- Molnupiravir
 - Inhibits viral replication by inducing RNA mutagenesis
 - Less effective than N/R or remdesivir
 - Contraindicated in pregnancy, patients < 18 years
- Convalescent plasma (?)

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10 SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

Speaker: Andrew Pavia, MD

Covid-19: Therapeutic Management of Hospitalized Patients-1

Disease Severity	Recommendations for Antiviral or Immunomodulator Therapy		Recommendations for Anticoagulant Therapy
	Clinical Scenario	Recommendation	
Hospitalized for Reasons Other Than COVID-19	Patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19	Recommendations for these patients are the same as those for nonhospitalized adults with COVID-19. See the Management of Nonhospitalized Patients figure.	For patients without an indication for therapeutic anticoagulation: • Prophylactic dose of heparin, unless contraindicated (AI); (BII) for pregnant patients
Hospitalized but Does Not Require Supplemental Oxygen	All patients	The Panel recommends against the use of dexamethasone (AIIa) or other systemic corticosteroids (AIII) for the treatment of COVID-19.	
	Patients who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19	Remdesivir (BIIb) for patients who are immunocompromised; (BIII) for other high-risk patients.	
Hospitalized and Requires Conventional Oxygen	Patients who require minimal conventional oxygen	Remdesivir (BIIa).	For nonpregnant patients with D-dimer levels above the ULN who do not have an increased bleeding risk: • Therapeutic dose of heparin (CIIa)
	Most patients	Use dexamethasone plus remdesivir (BIIa). If remdesivir cannot be obtained, use dexamethasone (B).	For other patients: • Prophylactic dose of heparin, unless contraindicated (AI); (BIII) for pregnant patients
Hospitalized and Requires Conventional Oxygen	Patients who are receiving dexamethasone and who have rapidly increasing oxygen needs and systemic inflammation	Add 1 of the following immunomodulators: <i>Preferred</i> • PO baricitinib (BIIa) • IV tocilizumab (BIIa) <i>Alternatives (Listed in Alphabetical Order)</i> • IV abatacept (CIIa) • IV infliximab (CIIa)	

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Covid-19: Therapeutic Management of Hospitalized Patients-2

Disease Severity	Recommendations for Antiviral or Immunomodulator Therapy		Recommendations for Anticoagulant Therapy
	Clinical Scenario	Recommendation	
Hospitalized and Requires HFNC Oxygen or NIV	All patients	Dexamethasone should be administered to all patients (AI). If not already initiated, promptly add 1 of the following immunomodulators: <i>Preferred</i> • PO baricitinib (AI) <i>Preferred Alternative</i> • IV tocilizumab (BIIa) <i>Additional Alternatives (Listed in Alphabetical Order)</i> • IV abatacept (CIIa) • IV infliximab (CIIa) Add remdesivir to 1 of the options above in certain patients.	For patients without an indication for therapeutic anticoagulation: • Prophylactic dose of heparin, unless contraindicated (AI); (BII) for pregnant patients For patients who start on a therapeutic dose of heparin in a non-ICU setting and then transfer to the ICU, the Panel recommends switching to a prophylactic dose of heparin, unless there is another indication for therapeutic anticoagulation (BIII).
	All patients	Dexamethasone should be administered to all patients (AI). If the patient has not already received a second immunomodulator, promptly add 1 of the following (listed in alphabetical order): • PO baricitinib (BIIa) • IV tocilizumab (BIIa)	
Hospitalized and Requires MV or ECMO	All patients	Dexamethasone should be administered to all patients (AI). If the patient has not already received a second immunomodulator, promptly add 1 of the following (listed in alphabetical order): • PO baricitinib (BIIa) • IV tocilizumab (BIIa)	

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Question #2

- 23-year-old man presents with 3 days of fever, abdominal pain, diarrhea; one day of chest pain and shortness of breath
- He and his housemates had cough, fever, sore throat 4 weeks ago. One of them developed anosmia and tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
- On exam he is tachypneic, tachycardic and febrile to 38.4 with mild conjunctivitis, rales at both lung bases and abdominal tenderness
- WBC 10K, ANC 1000; Platelets 140K, CRP 22, transaminases in 90s, Ferritin 1020;
- CXR shows pulmonary edema, no consolidation. EKG non-specific T wave inversion
- Covid antigen negative in ED but PCR positive

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Question #2

What is the most likely to be helpful?

- Send him to the cath lab for angioplasty and stent
- Begin cefepime and vancomycin for presumed sepsis
- Start remdesivir and dexamethasone
- Start IVIG and Methylprednisolone
- Obtain chest CT angiogram and start TPA

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10 SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

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Question #2

What is the most likely to be helpful?

- A. Send him to the cath lab for angioplasty and stent
- B. Begin cefepime and vancomycin for presumed sepsis
- C. Start remdesivir and dexamethasone
- D. Start IVIG and Methylprednisolone**
- E. Obtain chest CT angiogram and start TPA

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CDC Case Definition of MIS-C

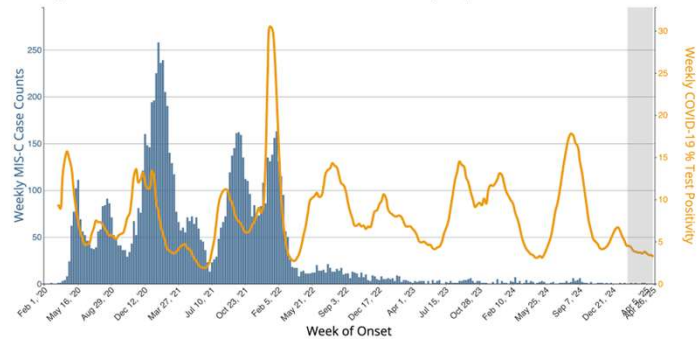
- An individual aged <21 years presenting with fever*, laboratory evidence of inflammation**, and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization, with multisystem (≥ 2) organ involvement (cardiac, renal, respiratory, hematologic, gastrointestinal, dermatologic or neurological); AND
 - No alternative plausible diagnoses; AND
 - Positive for current or recent SARS-CoV-2 infection by RT-PCR, serology, or antigen test; or exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case within the 4 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms.
- **Including, but not limited to, one or more of the following: an elevated C-reactive protein (CRP), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), fibrinogen, procalcitonin, d-dimer, ferritin, lactic acid dehydrogenase (LDH), or interleukin 6 (IL-6), elevated neutrophils, reduced lymphocytes and low albumin



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MIS-C Case Peaks Follows Peaks in Covid Cases by about 4 Weeks

Weekly U.S. MIS-C Cases and COVID-19 Percent Positivity Reported to CDC



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#mis-national-surveillance>

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MIS-A vs Acute Covid-19

- MIS-A from 6 academic centers. Matched to pts with acute Covid
- MIS-A more likely to be black
- Less likely to be obese (OR 0.45), have underlying conditions (OR 0.36)
- 87% with cardiac dysfunction, 81% elevated troponin

Signs and symptoms up to and including the day of hospital admission	MIS-A (N=53)	Covid-19 (N=106)
Rash	8 (15)	1 (1)
Abdominal pain	16 (30)	4 (4)
Altered mental status	4 (8)	1 (1)
Conjunctival injection	3 (6)	1 (1)
Vomiting	21 (40)	13 (12)
Chest pain, pressure, or discomfort	19 (36)	21 (20)
Diarrhea	29 (55)	36 (34)
Headache	3 (11)	10 (10)
Fever†	47 (89)	86 (81)
Anosmia or ageusia	5 (9)	15 (14)
Dyspnea	33 (62)	92 (87)
Cough	19 (36)	91 (86)
Neck pain	3 (6)	0 (0)
Cervical lymphadenopathy	1 (2)	0 (0)

Mejgar CID 2023;77:1395

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10 SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

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Take Homes



- Recognize risk factors for severe Covid-19, including pregnancy
- Recognize windows for antiviral therapy and immunomodulator therapy
- Remember thrombotic complications of Covid
- Prepare for questions about treating moderate and severe disease
 - Don't memorize all of the DDI's
- Be alert for MIS-A case
- Myocarditis in an adolescent or young male after mRNA vaccine is a possible question