

Yale Professor of Epidemiology Endorses Anti-Covid Drug Hydroxychloroquine

written by GEG | July 31, 2020



Harvey Risch, a professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health, fully endorses the use of the anti-viral drug, hydroxychloroquine, coupled with azithromycin and zinc, to treat patients with COVID-19 symptoms. He says it can save the lives of tens of thousands of patients. He cited a number of studies with hundreds of high-risk patients that resulted in zero deaths and reduced hospitalization risk. He says hydroxychloroquine has become disregarded because it has been politicized (Trump recommended it), it was not used properly in several studies when given to patients, and an FDA report claiming thousands cases of arrhythmias were reported from use of the drug. The report was criminally distorted, however, because the adverse effects were generated from tens of millions of patients' use over long periods of time and did not honestly reflect the risk rate.

As professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health, I have authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications and currently hold senior positions on the editorial boards of several leading journals. I am usually accustomed to advocating for positions within the mainstream of medicine, so have been flummoxed to find that, in the midst of a crisis, I am fighting for a treatment that the data fully support but which, for reasons having nothing to do with a correct understanding of the science, has been pushed to the sidelines. As a result, tens of thousands of patients with COVID-19 are dying unnecessarily. Fortunately, the situation can be reversed easily and quickly.

I am referring, of course, to the medication hydroxychloroquine. When this inexpensive oral medication is given very early in the course of illness, before the virus has had time to multiply beyond control, it has shown to be highly effective, especially when given in combination with the antibiotics azithromycin or doxycycline and the nutritional supplement zinc.

On May 27, I published an article in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* (AJE) entitled, "Early Outpatient Treatment of Symptomatic, High-Risk COVID-19 Patients that Should be Ramped-Up Immediately as Key to the Pandemic Crisis." That article, published

in the world's leading epidemiology journal, analyzed five studies, demonstrating clear-cut and significant benefits to treated patients, plus other very large studies that showed the medication safety.

Physicians who have been using these medications in the face of widespread skepticism have been truly heroic. They have done what the science shows is best for their patients, often at great personal risk. I myself know of two doctors who have saved the lives of hundreds of patients with these medications, but are now fighting state medical boards to save their licenses and reputations. The cases against them are completely without scientific merit.

Since publication of my May 27 article, seven more studies have demonstrated similar benefit. In a lengthy follow-up letter, also published by *AJE*, I discuss these seven studies and renew my call for the immediate early use of hydroxychloroquine in high-risk patients. These seven studies include: an additional 400 high-risk patients treated by Dr. Vladimir Zelenko, with zero deaths; four studies totaling almost 500 high-risk patients treated in nursing homes and clinics across the U.S., with no deaths; a controlled trial of more than 700 high-risk patients in Brazil, with significantly reduced risk of hospitalization and two deaths among 334 patients treated with hydroxychloroquine; and another study of 398 matched patients in France, also with significantly reduced hospitalization risk. Since my letter was published, even more doctors have reported to me their completely successful use.

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Dr. Risch's Study Published in May 2020:

<https://academic.oup.com/aje/article/doi/10.1093/aje/kwaa093/5847586>