

# International Journal for Innovation Education and Research

#### ISSN: 2411-2933

# ¥

# Meta-analysis: hydroxychloroquine therapy approach with or without azithromycin against covid-19

Josilene Nascimento do Lago;Cosmo de Sousa Costa;Larissa Emily de Carvalho

Moraes; Raissa Ribeiro da Silva; Gleiciane Moraes Gonçalves; Thainar Stefanie Barbosa

de Oliveira; Tatiane Roseli Alves Castro; Thalles Ricardo Melo de Souza; Christian

Pacheco de Almeida; Alex Jean Ferreira da Silva; Widson Davi Vaz de Matos; Renan

Rocha Granato; Ademir Ferreira da Silva Júnior

#### Abstract

Objective: identify and analyse the evidences about the use of hydroxychloroquine with or without azithromycin in covid-19. Methods: This is a systematic review with meta-analysis using posted articles in December 2019 until May 2020. The research was formulated by a question structured using PICO strategy, in these data bases: BVS, PUBMED, MEDLINE, LILACS, BDENF e SCIELO. Results and discussion: Resulted in 9 articles founded by the PRISMA, approaching 4182 patients. PICO strategy selected and analysed 5 articles projected in Forest plots. Resulting in tree clinical trials (RR: 1.15; IC95%, 0.76 a 1.73), which did not found big differences in the outcome in the groups of patients who used HCQ with or without AZT, comparing with the control group. Two studies analysed the number of deaths/intubations in comparative group, experimental group and control (RR:1.86; IC: 95%, 1.54 a 2.26) resulting in more chance of death /intubation in patients who used HCQ. Conclusion: It was found that is not possible to prove the efficacy of these drugs, due to the limited number of randomized and controlled clinical trials. Therefore, the encourage of scientific production about the HCQ and AZT against Covid-19 is more than necessary

Keyword: Azithromycin; Covid-19; Hydroxychloroquine; SARS-CoV-2.Published Date: 8/1/2020Page.73-87DOI: https://doi.org/10.31686/ijier.vol8.iss8.2493

## Meta-analysis: hydroxychloroquine therapy approach with or without

### azithromycin against covid-19

#### Josilene Nascimento do Lago

Nursing Academic. University of Amazon (UNAMA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### Cosmo de Sousa Costa

Medical Academic. Federal University of Pará (UFPA), Altamira, Pará, Brazil.

#### Larissa Emily de Carvalho Moraes

Nursing Academic. University of Amazon (UNAMA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### Raissa Ribeiro da Silva

Nursing Academic. University of Amazon (UNAMA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### **Gleiciane Moraes Gonçalves**

Nursing Academic. University of Amazon (UNAMA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### Thainar Stefanie Barbosa de Oliveira

Nursing Academic. University of Amazon (UNAMA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### **Tatiane Roseli Alves Castro**

Nursing Academic. Federal University of Viçosa (UFV), Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

#### **Thalles Ricardo Melo de Souza**

Medical Academic. State University of Pará (UEPA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### Christian Pacheco de Almeida

Physiotherapy Academic. State University of Pará (UEPA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### Lorena Victória de Souza Ferreira

Nursing Academic. Paulista University (UNIP), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### Alex Jean Ferreira da Silva

Nursing Academic. University of Amazon (UNAMA), Ananindeua, Pará, Brazil.

#### Widson Davi Vaz de Matos

Resident Nurse, Oncology Nursing Residency Program, Federal University of Pará (UFPA), Belém, Pará, Brazil.

#### **Renan Rocha Granato**

Physician in vascular surgery and adjunct professor of Medical Academy of Federal University of Pará (UFPA), Altamira, Pará, Brazil.

#### Ademir Ferreira da Silva Júnior

Post doctor in Safety of patient and associated Professor in Academy of Medicine of Federal University of Pará (UFPA), Altamira, Pará, Brazil.

#### Abstract

*Objective: identify and analyse the evidences about the use of hydroxychloroquine with or without azithromycin in covid-19. Methods: This is a systematic review with meta-analysis using posted articles in December 2019 until May 2020. The research was formulated by a question structured using PICO strategy, in these data bases: BVS, PUBMED, MEDLINE, LILACS, BDENF e SCIELO. Results and discussion: Resulted in 9 articles founded by the PRISMA, approaching 4182 patients. PICO strategy selected and analysed 5 articles projected in Forest plots. Resulting in tree clinical trials (RR: 1.15; IC95%, 0.76 a 1.73), which did not found big differences in the outcome in the groups of patients who used HCQ with or without AZT, comparing with the control group. Two studies analysed the number of deaths/intubations in comparative group, experimental group and control (RR:1.86; IC: 95%, 1.54 a 2.26) resulting in more chance of death /intubation in patients who used HCQ. Conclusion: It was found that is not possible to prove the efficacy of these drugs, due to the limited number of randomized and controlled clinical trials. Therefore, the encourage of scientific production about the HCQ and AZT against Covid-19 is more than necessary* 

Keywords: Azithromycin; Covid-19; Hydroxychloroquine; SARS-CoV-2.

#### 1. Introduction

In the last 20 years, the human coronavirus (CoVh) is responsible for virulent epidemic which cause respiratory and enteric diseases, causing a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The CoVh is International Educative Research Foundation and Publisher © 2020 pg. 74 classified with a prevalent agent etiologic in the acute respiratory infections (IRAs), it should be the principal cause of this respiratory disease or can predispose people to have secondary infections caused by bacteria (LANA et al., 2020).

In 2003, the epidemic of SARS started in Hong Kong China, with lethality near to 10% of them habitants. In 2012, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) emerged in Saudi Arabia, making a mortality level something about of 35% of them population. In December 2019, was detected in Wuhan, China the first behaiour of the new CoVh, denominated SARS-CoV-2, which cause the new disease knowledge like Covid-19 (JUURLINK, 2020). The structure of virus and gene receptor response by the cell link are similar to SARS-CoV. However, SARS-CoV-2 use the receptor of the Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE2), to try to enter in cell, although the reservoir of SARS-CoV-2 is localized in animals, your stay is still unknown for a long time. furthermore, studies shows the genomic of SARS-CoV-2, revelling the high phylogenetic distance in those CoVh, identified in respiratory human disease, because they shared respectively 50 and 79% of identify with SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV (BESSIÈRE et al., 2020).

The clinical manifestations of Covid-19 in 80% of them, are classified in low cases, generally characterized by fever, dry caught, tiredness. In several cases, 5% of them, the patient will have progressive dyspnoea, pulmonary bleeding, lymphopenia, it's important to say that we still don't know every signs and symptoms of covid-19, knowing that's a new pathology. The severe phases, associated with disease of the low respiratory tract, generally are seeing in people with risk factors, like: cardiopathy, pneumopathy and others chronic conditions like diabetes, obesity and asthma (STRABELLI; UIP, 2020). The laboratory diagnostic is giving using the exam: Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), that's the gold-pattern for definitive diagnostic of this pathology, with the positive results. However, the absence of a good treatment against the infection caused by coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome predispose the research for drugs known for their effectiveness in others medical conditions (ZHAI et al., 2020).

In this contest, articles shows that the reuse of medicines can find approved drugs which can be used for treatments in diseases with unknown ethology. One of the highlighted drugs is Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), which showed antivirals properties and immunomodulatory effect. Furthermore, the HCQ is used in control of autoimmune pathologies, like rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus. In addition, another therapeutic agent used is Azithromycin (AZT) is also defended because this classification as an antibiotic with antiviral activity. Moreover, the typical posology of these drugs is: 5 days using HCQ (400–600mg) and AZT (500mg) in diary doses, that makes a cumulative effect like the administration of 48 hours in patients with chloroquine sensibility (JUURLINK, 2020).

The quickly expansion of the pandemic caused by the new virus of the SARS-CoV-2, recalled a lot of research's around the world, searching for answers for a possible solution for the management of this disease. However, although the advance in researches for treatments, science still haven't found an effective drug against covid-19 (PACHECO et al., 2020). Therefore, every action of a study need a legitimacy recognize about them approaches, mitigating the damage, high transmissibility and complications during the hospitalization in unities of intensive therapy care. In others words, a treatment which provide the reduce the viral charge and promote the clinical cure of the patients in the onset of this disease, may help to limit the transmission of the virus in question. The present research had like focus identify and analyse

the use of HCQ with or without AZT in the fight against Covid-19, using a systematic review with metaanalysis.

#### 2. Method

This study is a systematic review with meta-analysis, tried to identify judiciously the studies which rated the efficacy of HCQ with or without AZT, in patients with the diagnostic of covid-19. The inclusion criteria of the articles was made by two steps, like that: the first one was structured by the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA), who is based in evidences for reports in systematic reviews and meta-analysis. In the second step, used the strategy of patient, intervention, comparing, outcome (PICO), with the purpose to check the internal value of each study (SADIGURSKY et al., 2019). In the first step, was used PRISMA, with these criteria: 1) qualitative studies, quantitative, clinical trial, season cases studies, technical reports, exploratory studies made by physicians; 2) studies using adults patients (more than 18 years) who received HCQ with or without AZT; 3) studies with control group which did not receive HCQ e AZT; 4) studies write in Portuguese or English; 5) was included randomized and not randomized clinical trials; 6) cohort studies; 6) studies posted in data base in December 2019 until May 2020.

The second step was based in PICO strategy, to try to check the internal value of these studies. The including criteria was defined, according the description inside the Table 1. The bibliography research was made during January to May de 2020, in Virtual library in Health (BVS), with these data base: PUBMED, MEDLINE, LILACS, BDENF e SCIELO. For the construction of this review, was used terms of research to identify the disease COVID-19 or the agent SARS-CoV-2, after was addicted to research these descriptors: COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, HCQ and AZT, where was defined using the platform of descriptors in Science of Health (DECS).

Definition	Description
Indicators	Founded articles selected by the title and resume according the PRISMA.
Researches	Cohort studies, clinical control group and randomized and non-randomized studies.
Patients or problem	Adults with more than 18 years, without highest age limit, diagnosed with Covid-19.
Intervention	Analyse the posology of HCQ with or without AZT in therapeutic treatment against Covid-19.
Coltroll and effectiviness	Evalue the therapeutic results of HCQ and AZT according the measuring of RT- PCR and the numbers of deaths/intubation comparing with the experimental group and control.
Outcome	Analyse the therapeutic answers of HCQ with or without AZT, through the negativity of RT-PCR.

Table.1: Table caption above the table.

Source: PICO Strategy, SADIGURSKY et al., 2019. Adapted by the authors, 2020.

The exclude criteria was composed by the wrong description and when the clinical outcome were not reported by the author. Serial cases, posted experiences, narrative reviews, and systematic reviews weren't considered. Moreover, were exclude as well posts with application made in surgical clinics and obstetric, paediatric and new-born. In addition, reviews with tests made by professionals associated to pharmacologic industry was exclude.

#### 3. Results

The bibliography search results in 7.232 posts, after the selection, 60 articles was founded and selected by the title and resume. After that, with a deeper read and use of PRISMA and PICO strategy, was considered 9 available articles for this systematic review. The figure 1 shows a flux gram and the selected researches, with the researches shared in groups.



Figure 1: Stages of the procedures of the systematic review, elaborated by the authors.

Later, create a table to describe the studies found with the following characteristics: authors, identification of the research, method, study objective, number of patients or hospital beds, posology of

International Educative Research Foundation and Publisher  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  2020

drugs, results of researches and conclusions about the effectiveness of the following medicines: HCQ and AZT for treatment of Covid-19. According the Table 2

Table.2: Description of the articles included in the review about the use of hydroxychloroquine with	
or without azithromycin.	1

Author	Identification of research	Method	Objective of research	Number of patients or hospital beds.	Posology of drugs	Drug percentual of effectiviness	Conclusions	
ANDREA NI et al., 2020.	In vitro testing of combined hydroxychloroqu ine and azithromycin on SARS-CoV-2 shows synergistic effect.	That's a clinical trial using in vitro system which consist the use of cells culture.	Shows that the combinatio n of HCQ e AZT have a synergic effect in vitro no SARS- CoV-2.	Not relacioned.	The tested drugs concentrati on was expressed in micromole s per liter $(\mu M)$ , was 1, 2 or 5 $\mu M$ for HCQ associated with a 5 or 10 $\mu M$ for AZT.	The combination using AZT and HCQ made a high inhibition in viral replication for the wells having HCQ in 5 $\mu$ M in combination with AZT in 10 and 5 $\mu$ M with relative viral inhibition of 97,5% and 99,1%,	This research shows that the combination using HCQ and AZT have a strong synergic effect in vitro against SARS-CoV-2 in compatible dosage founded in human lung.	
CHEN et al., 2020.	A pilot study using hydroxychloroqu ine in the treatment of common cases of (Covid-19).	Open label trial.	Check the safety and effectivene ss of HCQ in treatment of the patients with SARS- CoV-2 (Covid-19).	The patients was randomized 1: 1 in the HCQ group + usual treatment (n=15) and control group (n=15) only usual treatment.	Was use a dosage of HCQ 400mg/ per day for 5 days (n = 15), usual treatment (n = 15).	respectively. after 7 days of treatment: Group using HCQ + usual treatment was without viral detection in nasopharyng eal swab in 86,7% (n=13/15) <i>versus</i> 93,3% (n=14/15) control	There was no high difference in virus negativation using swab of nasopharynge s comparing with group using usual treatment.	

www.ijier.net

Vol:-8 No-08, 2020

						group (p > 0.05).	
1- GAUTRET et al., 2020.	Hydroxychloroq uine and azithromycin as a treatment of Covid-19: results of an open-label non-randomized clinical trial.	It was a clinical randomized trial quantitative, during 6 days.	Check the HCQ and AZT effectivene ss in the viral charge of SARS- CoV-2.	36 patients; 20 patients treated with HCQ, 6 of them was received AZT and 16 of the control group).	20 patients received 200 mg of orally sulphate of HCQ, during 10 days, three times in diary doses 6 of them received the association with a AZT in the dosage of 500 mg in day 1, after 250 mg per day, for 4 days.	The patients with the association of HCQ plus AZT had the virology cure in 100% in the sixth day, comparing with 70% of the patients treated only with HCQ and 12,5% of control group.	Showed that the treatment with HCQ plus AZT had effectiveness in reduction of the viral charge about Covid-19 disease.
2- GAUTRET et al., 2020.	Clinical and microbiological effect of a combination of hydroxychloroqu ine and azithromycin in 80 Covid-19 patients with at least a six-day follow up: A pilot observational study.	That's a cohort research without control, and comparatio n, using patients treated with the combinatio n: HCQ and AZT. For 3 days or more.	Check with urgency a treatment to use in patients with Covid-19 and reduce the viral transport.	Total of 80 patients with Covid- 19.	Received 200 mg of orally HCQ, 3 diary doses for 10 days, with AZT (500 mg) in the first day, after (250 mg of AZT) per day for 4 days.	After the sixth day of treatment, 83% of PCRs was negatives in positive tested patients. In the 8° day 93% the hospitalized ones showed a decrease in the number of infective. After the 5° day of the onset of admission, the virus	Therefore, the combination of HCQ and AZT against Covid-19, showed a potential reduce in the onset. Moreov er, this therapy showed a redution in infectiveness.

International Journal for Innovation Education and Research

						tested as negative in 97,5% of	
	Observational	This is a	Check up	1446	The dosage	patients. In the 1376	This
GELERIS	Study of	randomized	the using	patients	suggested	of	observational
et al., 2020.	Hydroxychloroq	clinical trial	of HCQ in	were	was one	patients	study about
ct al., 2020.	uine in	research	respiratory	checked, 70	dose of	Admitted in	HCQ showed
	Hospitalized	made in	insufficien	had	HCQ 600	hospital	that there is
	Patients with	Hospital of	cy in a big	intubation,	mg twice	with Covid-	no high
	Covid-19.	Columbia	medical	they dead	in 1/D,	19. The	association
		University	centre	and was	after that	patients	about using
		Irving	which	excluded of	400 mg per	who	HCQ and
		Medical	helps a	the	day during	received	evolution to
		Centre,	substantial	research,	more 4/D.	HCQ with	intubation or
		localized in	number of	having 1376	AZT 500	or without	death.
		the north of	patients	patients in	mg was	combinatio	Therefore,
		Manhattan,	with	total.	given in	n had	more
		during the	Covid-19		1/D, after	intubation	controlled
		hospitalizati	in New		that 250	or came to	randomized
		on in march	York City.		mg per day	death	researches are
		7 until April			for more	232/811	necessary,
		25 of 2020.			4/D	(28,6%),	because that's
					combinatio	and who	the best way
					n using	didn't use	to prove the
					with HCQ	these drugs	benefits in a
					was a	84/565	therapy.
					optional	(14.9%).	
					therapeutic	. ,	
	Early treatment	That's a	Check the	This	200 mg	The virology	The
MILLION	of 1061 Covid-	randomized	safety and	research	HCQ three	cure was	precocious use
et al., 2020.	19 patients with	clinical	effectivene	was made	times per	seen in	of HCQ +
	hydroxychloroqu	trial, in	ss in the	with 1061	day + AZT	91,7% of	AZT is safe
	ine and	cohort, the	use of	patients	(500 mg	patients in	and effective
	azithromycin,	average age	HCQ and	with Covid-	day 1 after	10 days. The	against Covid-
	Marseille,	was 43,6	AZT in	19 during 9	250 mg per	result was	19.
	France.	years and	Covid-19.	days.	day for	unsatisfactor	
		46,4% of			more 4	y in 46	
		the patients			days).	patients	
		was men.				(4,3%).	
	No evidence of	Observationa	Evaluate	Sampling	HCQ	This	There was no
MOLINA	rapid antiviral	l, prospective	the viral	had 11	(200mg	research	evidence of
et al., 2020.	clearance or	study	mitigating	persons	per each	showed that	antiviral
	clinical benefit	realized in	or clinical	made by 7	8/8 hours	80%	activity about
	with the	France	benefit	men and 4	and AZT	(n=8/10)	using HCQ
	combination of	during 10	about using	woman's. 8	500mg in	was still	plus AZT.

International Journal for Innovation Education and Research	vwi
---	-----

#### w.ijier.net Vol:-8 No-08, 2020

	hydroxychloroqu ine and azithromycin in patients with severe COVID- 19 infection.	days.	HCQ and AZT in critical patients with COVID- 19.	of them had several comorbiditi es. During 5 days 1 patient died.	D1, after that 250mg in the 2-5 day).	tested positive in viral charge using swab nasopharyng eal after 5 and 6 days after the	Moreover, others biggest clinical trials had not proved the effective or damage in the use of these
ROSENBE RG et al.,	Association of Treatment with Hydroxychloroqu	Multicentre cohort retrospective	Describe the associatio	Sampling using 7914 patients	The dosage of HCQ was made	onset of treatment. The study showed that the mortality level	using HCQ
2020.	ine or Azithromycin with In-Hospital Mortality in Patients With Covid-19 in New York State.	study using patients in a aleatory sampling about all admitted patients with Covid-19 confirmed by labs in 25 hospitals in New York City.	n of using HCQ, with or without AZT, and the clinical results in hospitaliz ed patients diagnosed with de Covid-	having Covid-19. A total of 2362 registers was selected randomly and 1438 was included in the analysis of medical treatment.	in 3 steps, with 200mg, 400mg, 600mg. In addiction the dosage of AZT was given in 200mg, 400mg e 500mg.	was 20,3%. In the experimental group using HCQ + AZT was 25,7%, 19,9% with isolated HCQ, 10,0% with the association using AZT. In the control group was 12,7%.	and AZT made no high difference in the levels of hospital mortality. However, this founds should be limited by the observationa l draw.
TANG et al., 2020.	Hydroxychloroqu ine in patients with mainly mild to moderate coronavirus disease 2019: open label, randomized controlled trial.	That's a multicentre opened randomized clinical trial about the use of HCQ in patients admitted in hospitals having Covid-19.	19. Check the effective and safety about the use of HCQ associated with the usual. Comparin g with the usual treatment.	150 patients admitted in hospital having covid-19. 75 patients received HCQ plus usual treatment and 75 only using the usual one.	Started dose of 1200mg/ per day still the thirty day. After that, using the maintenan ce dose of 800mg/per day of HCQ during two or three weeks.	The probability of negative conversion of SARS-CoV-2 in these patients who used usual treatment plus HCQ, was 85,4% in 28 days. Similar than who used only the usual one (81,3%) with perceptual difference of pattern in	The use of HCQ in the usual treatment did not change the probability of negativatio n in results of SARS- CoV-2 comparing with group using only usual treatment.

www.ijier.net

Source: HCQ (hydroxychloroquine), AZT (azithromycin), D (day), MG (milligram), SADIGURSKY et al., 2019. With adaption in the authors, 2020.

#### 4. Discussion

After the evaluation, it's possible to identify three non-randomized clinical trials, three randomized trials, one multicentre clinical trial, one experimental clinical trial in vitro and one cohort study. Of The 9 studies, only eight had approach with humans, a total of 4182 patients. In this way, the selected articles was chose and organized by alphabetic order for discussion.

To evaluate the result of in vitro evidences, the research made by Andreani et al., (2020), used the HCQ isolate or associated with AZT, resulting in a high reduce in viral replication of SARS-CoV-2, showing synergic effects. Therefore, in this controlled clinical trial using wells having HCQ ( $5\mu$ M), in association with AZT (10 and 5  $\mu$ M) cause viral relative reduction of 97,5% and 99,1% in the viral replication. Although can be possible to have this dosage in compatible levels founded in lung tissue, this research translates the difficult situation about reproducing clinically, because the high possibility to have adverse effects in these dosages. Moreover, the results founded in works using in vitro projects in pharmacology opened space to search more answers in clinical trials controlled in vivo.

In addition, in a Chinese randomized clinical trial, Chen et al., (2020), which tried to check the safety about using HCQ in moderate cases showed their results and have not showed high difference in the detection of viral charge using nasopharyngeal and oral swab, in the group using HCQ with usual treatment, evaluated during 28 days. In this way, the results without viral detection using HCQ plus usual treatment was 86,7% (n=13/15) versus 93,3% (n=14/15) about control group (usual treatment) (p > 0.05). So, for the authors, science needs more studies to found better outcomes about the use of HCQ against Covid-19.

In this context, the study realized by the French Gautret et al., (2020), presented some clinical trials about the use of HCQ with AZT. One of them had an important reduction in the viral charge after 6 days of treatment comparing with control group (n=16). A total of 36 persons was analysed (100%), 55% of them (n=20) just used only HCQ e 17% (n=6) or the combination addiction with AZT, resting for the control group 44% (n=16) of persons. After the analyse, in the sixth day after the started of treatment 100% of the patients having the combination of HCQ and AZT, was cured viralogically, comparing with 57,1% of patients using only HCQ e and inside control group the cure level was 12,5%. However, another researched posted by Gautret et al., (2020), reproduced the same results seeing before, but with a biggest sampling of cases (80 patients), non-comparative e non-randomized, used doses with 200 mg of orally HCQ (three times per day for ten days), addicting the AZT (500 mg in D1, after 250 mg per day during four days). This article did not show against indications about using these drugs, did not putted critical situations and addicted a cephalosporin of third generation in therapy.

In this way, researches made by de Gautret et al., (2020) reinforced that after the sixth day of treatment, a the virological cure was seen in 83% of PCRs and negative in patients in the 8° day of admission (93%). However, was a decrease in the number of infective patients after the 3° day of the onset of admission, proved using viral cultures using respiratory specimen, where was negatives in 97,5% of the cases in the

5-day no. Therefore, the both studies bring relevant data about effectiveness of these medicines using precociously, however, showed with limitations, not only because the low number of patients analysed, but also the absence of a better strict in the randomization presents.

Another different article produced in France founded the same conclusion, showed by Gautret et al., (2020). Approach using 1061 patients, the author Million et al., (2020) concluded that the precocious use of HCQ and AZT against SARS-CoV-2 is safe and effective, having low levels mortality. An Observational and retrospective study was realized, which saw the virology cure in 973 patients in 10 days (91,7%); by the other side, a bad clinical result happened in 46 patients (4,3%), with 8 deaths (74-95 years). So, the association of HCQ plus AZT used precociously, is related with an interesting reduce of viral charge with a good clinical result, preventing possible complications, also should be considered in this sampling, that something about 95% of the patients have not reported complications, classified like low cases in the admission.

This trials gained prominence around the world like possible drugs in the treatment against SARS-CoV-2. After that, others studies was developed to try to reproduce the clinical results founded before. In a prospective study, made in France, the authors Molina et al., (2020), used the same posology used by the study of Gautret et al., (2020) to analyse these drugs in patients in several cases, having comorbidities, to prove as well the effectiveness of this study in the reduce of viral charge. However, the results of these authors, founded different results comparing with the production of Gautret et al., (2020), In these ones, there was no evidence of clinical success in the association use of HCQ e AZT to several patients infected by this virus, because 80% (n=8) of the patients still had positive results for SARS-CoV-2 after 5-6 days of treating, against drastically with the results showed by Gautret et al., (2020) which had a significantly reduce in viral charge after sixth day of treatment.

The study of Geleris et al., (2020), exposed a total of 1446 patients, after the hospital admission, was excluded from analyse 70 patients who were intubated, dead or had hospital discharge after 24 hours of admission. Were included 1376 patients in analyse, 811 (58,9%) received HCQ (600 mg twice in first day, after 400 mg per day during 5 days), the controlled group was 565 (41,1%) who have not received HCQ. During something about 22 days, patients treated with HCQ was hardly sick in the started than others who have not received HCQ). Having like first outcome the respiratory insufficiency in 346 patients (25,1%); a total of 180 patients was intubated, 66 of them dead after, and 166 dead without intubation. In this analyse non adjusted, the patients who used HCQ had more chance to face complications during the admission comparing with the patients who have not used HCQ (risk level, 2,37; IC95%, 1,84 a 3,02).

Moreover, this research analysed the principal multivariate with pondering of reverse probability, exposing that there was not association about using HCQ and intubation and death (risk reason: 1,04; IC95%, 0,82 a 1,32) and emphasized that the association with AZT also haven't increase in the final compose (level of risk 1,03; IC95%, 0,81 a 1,31). The last analyse was made in April 25, totalizing 232 deaths and 114 still were hospitalized (only 24 wasn't have intubation). So, the observational article tried to exam the association about using HCQ and respiratory insufficiency, although this huge research, is notorious the incoherence about the data organization about deaths and intubation, predisposing questions about this theme. As well, the authors mentioned the limitations about this study, including low data's for some variants.

In this same context, the same results also happen in other research scene, according to Rosenberg et al., (2020) realized in United States of America. The studded group of the cohort multicentre study was guide for a aleatory sampling about every cases of patients admitted with suspect of da Covid-19 and conformed by labs 25 hospitals. Article showed that 88,2% of patients with Covid-19 was from the metropolitan area of New York, which approached 1438 hospitalized patients. 735 (51,1%) of these patients received HCQ + AZT, 271 (18,8%) received HCQ isolated, 211 (14,7%) received AZT isolated e 221 (15,4%) have not received any drug. The dosages of HCQ occurred in 3 steps: first with 200mg, after 400mg and 600mg. The dosages of AZT were: 200mg, 400mg e 500mg. The hospital mortality was 20,3% (IC 95%, 18,2% -22,4%). The probability of death in patients using HCQ + AZT was 189/735 (25,7% [IC95%, 22,3% -28,9%]), HCQ isolated, 54/271 (19,9% [IC95%, 15,2% -24,7%]). AZT isolated, 21/211 (10,0% [IC 95%, 5,9% -14,0%]) and none drug 28/221 (12,7% [IC 95%, 8,3% -17,1%]).

Furthermore, the approach of the research of Rosenberg et al. (2020), posted the proportional risk models of Cox adjusted, comparing to patients who have not received any drug, there was not high differences in mortality of the patients who received HCQ + AZT (HR, 1,35 [IC 95%, 0,76-2,40]), HCQ isolated (HR, 1,08 [95 % IC, 0,63-1,85]) or AZT alone (HR, 0,56 [IC 95%, 0,26-1,21). In the hospitalized patients in New York city having Covid-19, the therapy with HCQ with or without AZT, comparing to the group who haven't use these drugs, there is no difference in association about mortality.

Another open-multicentre trial with randomized clinical approach, used 150 persons diagnosed with Covid-19, most of them are classified in low and moderate persistent cases, c Tang et al., (2020), this trial search the probability about negative conversion of SARS-CoV-2 using extraction and amplifying the total RNA in RT-PCR removed by the patients seeing for 28 days, sharing them in 2 groups: one group with HCQ and usual treatment and the other with control group, using only usual treatment. Therefore, the outcomes of these studies about HCQ showed a negativation at virus SARS-Cov-2 in 85,4%, evidencing a probability similar than a viral elimination, comparing to the usual treatment 81,3%. As well, more gastric and enteric effects was reported inside the group using HCQ, comparing to control. No geral, tais estudos não apoiam o uso do fármaco HCQ em pacientes de leve a moderado com covid-19.

In these 9 articles, 4 were excluded because the absence of comparison with control groups. PICO strategy selected retrospectives cohort researches, clinical controlled trials and randomized and non-randomized. 5 articles were included in this meta-analyse, 3 of them for the experimental group and for control one, 2 for evaluate the number of deaths/intubated. These data's was putted, analysed and projected by the forest plots with informatics software called Rstudio to help them, using these packs: Openxlsx, meta e Office 2016. The graphycs is showing in the figures 2 and 3.

Study	Experimenta Events Tota		ontrol Total	Risk Ratio	RR	95%-CI	Weight (fixed)	Weight (random)
CHEN et al. 2020 GAUTRET et al. 2020	13 1 14 2		15 16			[0.73; 1.18]		43.7% 8.1%
TANG et al.2020	64 7	-	75	1.		[0.92; 1.24]		48.2%
Fixed effect model Random effects mode Heterogeneity: $l^2 = 81\%$ , t			106	0.1 0.5 1 2 10		[1.02; 1.36] [0.76; 1.73]		 100.0%

Figure 2: Authors, 2020. Graphic of forest plots which compare the use HCQ with or without AZT with

control group gainst Covid-19.

The meta-analysis of 3 clinical trials (RR: 1.15; IC95%, 0.76 a 1.73), did not found high differences when evaluated in a common outcome about negativation of PCR in patients using HCQ with or without AZT, comparing to control group who haven't used the therapy, a total of 216 persons in the research.

Study	Experiment Events Tot		ontrol Total	Risk Ratio	RR	95%-CI	Weight (fixed)	Weight (random)
ROSENBERG et al. 2020 GELERIS et al.2020	264 12 232 8					[1.19; 2.46] [1.54; 2.41]		27.9% 72.1%
Fixed effect model Random effects model Heterogeneity: $I^2 = 0\%$ , $\tau^2 =$	<b>20</b> : 0, <i>p</i> = 0.59	28	786			[1.53; 2.25] [1.54; 2.26]		 100.0%

Figure 3: Source: Authors, 2020. Graphic of forest plots which compare the number of deaths about using HCQ with or without AZT, with control group who have not used the medicines.

Figure 3, shows a meta-analysis referent two articles, approaching 2814 patients, where checked up the number of deaths or people who needs to be intubated, in comparative groups: the experimental use of HCQ and control. Therefore, although this research shows a weak result (RR:1.86; IC: 95%, 1.54 a 2.26) should be considered a higher chance to death or intubation in patients who had HCQ in the therapy.

#### 4. Conclusion

According with results, there is no highest difference about using HCQ with or without AZT about the final outcomes which evaluated the relationship with the control group. In this way, it's not possible to prove the effectiveness of these drugs in the fight against SARS-CoV-2, not only for the poor number of controlled clinical trials, but also for the limited sampling, evaluated without scientific rigor. Therefore, the necessity to improve the scientific production used to qualify the real power about using HCQ with or without AZT against covid-19 is more than necessary.

#### Acknowledgements

The approval of this study is due to the commitment of each academic and professional who was willing to prove by means of research its effectiveness, without any financial support from the government and / or from public or private institutions.

#### References

 A.C.D. Lima, D.A. Cunha, R.C. Albuquerque, R.N.A. Costa, H.J. Silva, Alterações sensoriais em respiradores orais: revisão sistemática baseada no método prisma. Revista Paulista de Pediatria, 37(1), 97-103, 2019.

- [2] D. Sadigurskya, M.D. Sousa, Y.G.L. Cajaíba, R.R. Martins, D.M.V. Lobão. Profilaxia infecciosa com aplicação local de vancomicina em pó em cirurgias ortopédicas: revisão sistemática com metanálise. Revista brasileira de ortopedia, 54(6), 617-626, 13, 2019.
- [3] D.N. Juurlink, Safety considerations with chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin in the management of sars-cov-2 infection. Can. Med. Association journal, 2020; 192: 450-453, 2020.
- [4] E.S. Rosenberge, E.M. Dufort, T. Udo, L.A. Wilberschied, J. Kumar, J. Tesoriero, P. Weinberg, J. Kirkwood, A. Muse, J. DeHovitz, D.S. Blog, B. Hutton, David R Holtgrave, H.A. Zucker. association of treatment with hydroxychloroquine or azithromycin with in-hospital mortality in patients with covid-19 in new york state, jama, e208630, 2020.
- [5] F. R. Bessière, H. Roccia, A. Delinière. Assessment of qt intervals in a case series of patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19) infection treated with hydroxychloroquine alone or in combination with azithromycin in an intensive care unit. Jama cardiol, e201787.Cognition. (2008). In Oxford reference online premium dictionary, 2020.
- [6] J. Andreani, M. Bideau, I. Duflot, P. Jardot, C. Rolland, M. Boxberger, N. WurtzabIn, J.M. Rolain, P. Colson. B.L. Scola, D. Raoult. vitro testing of combined hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin on sars-cov-2 shows synergistic effect. Microbial pathogenesis, v.145, p.1-4, 2020.
- [7] J. Chean, D. Liu, L. Liu, P. Liu, Q. Xu, L. Xia, Y. Ling, D. Huang, S. Song, D. Zhang, Z. Qian, T. Li, Y. Shen, H. Lu, A pilot study of hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of patients with common coronavirus-19 disease (covid-19), Zhejiang da xue xue bao.Yi xue ban, Journal of Zhejiang University. Medical sciences, 49(2), 215–21, 2020.
- [8] J. Geleris. Y. Sun, J. Platt, J. Zucker, M. Baldwin, G. Hripcsak, A. Labella, D.K. Manson, C. Kubin, R.G. Barr, M.E. Sobieszczyk, N.W. Schluger. Observational study of hydroxychloroquine in hospitalized patients with covid-19. The new england journal of medicine, 2012410. Advance online publication, 2020.
- [9] J. Molina, C. Delaugerre, J. Le Goff, B. Mela-Lima, D. Ponscarme, L. Goldwirt, N. Castro. No evidence of rapid antiviral clearance or clinical benefit with the combination of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin in patients with severe COVID-19 infection. Medecine et maladies infectieuses, 50(4), 384, 2020.
- [10] M. Million, J.C. Lagier, P. Gautret, P. Colson, P.E. Fournier, S. Amrane, M. Hocquart, M. Mailhe,
  V. Esteves-Vieira, B. Doudier, C. Aubry, F. Correard, A. Giraud-Gatineau, Y. Roussel, C. Berenger,
  N. Cassir, P. Seng, C. Zandotti, C. Dhiver, I. Ravaux,... D. Raoult. Early treatment of 1061 covid-19
  patients with hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, marseille, France. Travel medicine and

infectious disease, 101738, 2020.

- [11] P. Gautret., J.C. Lagier, P. Parola, V.T. Hoang, L. Meddeb, J. Sevestre, M. Mailhe, B. Doudier, C. Aubry, S. Amrane, P. Seng, M. Hocquart, C. Eldin, J. Finance, V. E. Vieira, H. T. Tissot-Dupont, S. S. Honoré, A. Million, M. Colson, D. Raoult, Clinical and microbiological effect of a combination of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin in 80 covid-19 patients with at least a six-day follow up: a pilot observational study. Travel medicine and infectious disease, travel med infect dis, v.34 (101663): p.1-7, 2020.
- [12] P. Gautret., J.C. Lagier, P. Parola, V.T. Hoang, L. Meddeb, J. Sevestre, M. Mailhe, B. Doudier, C. Aubry, S. Amrane, P. Seng, M. Hocquart, C. Eldin, J. Finance, V. E. Vieira, H. T. Tissot-Dupont, S. S. Honoré, A. Million, P., Chabrière, E., La Scola, B., Rolain, J. M., Brouqui, P.D. Raoult, Hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin as a treatment of covid-19: results of an open-label non-randomized clinical trial, international journal of antimicrobial agents, v.20 (105949): 1-24, 2020.
- [13] P. Zhai., Y.X. Ding, J. Long, Y. Zhong, Y. Li. The epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. International journal of antimicrobial agents, 55(5), 105955, 2020.
- [14] R.M. Lana, F.C. Coelho, M.F.C. Gomes, O.G. Cruz, L.S. Bastos, D.A.M. Villela, C.T. Codeço. Emergência do novo coronavírus (sars-cov-2) e o papel de uma vítima nacional em saúde e efetiva. Cafajeste. Saúde pública. 36 (3): 1-3, 2020.
- [15] S. J. S. Pacheco, S. Kong, P. P. Santacruz, R.W. Murphy, L. Kubatko. Median-joining network analysis of SARS-CoV-2 genomes is neither phylogenetic nor evolutionary. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 117(23), 12518–12519, 2020.
- [16] T. Strabelli, D.E. Uip. COVID-19 and the Heart. COVID-19 e o Coração. Arquivos brasileiros de cardiologia, 114(4), 598–600, 2020.
- [17] W. Tang, Z. Cao, M. Han, Z. Wang, J. Chen, W. Sun, Y. Wu, W. Xiao, S. Liu, E. Chen, W. Chen, X. Wang, J. Yang, J. Lin, Q. Zhao, Y. Yan, Z. Xie, D. Li, Y. Yang, L. Liu, J. Qu, G. Ning, G Shi, Q. Xie. Hydroxychloroquine in patients with mainly mild to moderate coronavirus disease 2019: open label, randomised controlled trial. The BMJ (Clinical research ed.), 369: m1849, 2020.