Reply Letter – Efficacy of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19

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Dear Author,

Thank you for your interest in our study entitled "Efficacy of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19"[1]. When we published our article in April 2020, no proven therapy or vaccination was available for COVID-19 other than supportive care. Our article presented data consistent with a hypothesis that hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine could be useful for treating COVID-19. Clinical trials conducted after our article was written did not support this hypothesis. We acknowledge that in science, as new data is gathered our understanding of the world evolves. Indeed, everyone's understanding of therapy for COVID-19 has evolved since we published our article over a year ago. We believe that the current preferred antiviral treatments mentioned in the letter, including oseltamivir[2], favipiravir[3], and remdesivir[4] have some limited benefits but are not the last word in treatment of COVID-19.

In the future we expect to have access to newer and better agents to treat COVID-19. We also might be reminded by future Letters to the Editor that for COVID-19, the preferred drugs in 2021 will not be the preferred drugs in subsequent years.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

References

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