HERO

Healthcare Worker Exposure Response & Outcomes of Hydroxychloroquine Trial (HERO-HCQ)

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The Healthcare Worker Exposure Response & Outcomes (HERO) Registry is a community of people who share what it is like to work and live during the COVID-19 pandemic. The HERO Registry is open to healthcare workers, their families, and community members. Registry members share ideas to inform future research, participate in ongoing research opportunities, and learn results from HERO Research.

On behalf of the HERO Research team, we would like to thank all HERO community members, including those who participated in HERO-HCQ. HERO-HCQ participants played a critical role in generating the study results, which we share below.

We truly appreciate your time and commitment to help find solutions to protect healthcare workers, their families, and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

A total of
1,360 adult (> 18 years old)
healthcare workers

34 U.S. sites

All of the participants were part of the HERO Registry.

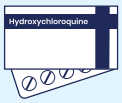
43.6 years	65.3%	90.8%	5.8%
The mean age of the participants	Female	White or Caucasian	Hispanic or Latino

The most common occupations were:

26.2%	21.3%	5.2%	5.2%
Registered nurse	Physician	Nurse practitioner	Paramedic

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH?

The purpose of this study was to understand if hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is safe and can prevent COVID-19 among people working in healthcare settings.



WHY WAS THIS RESEARCH DONE?

This study began in April 2020 as the pandemic was starting and prior to the availability of vaccines. The world was desperate to find solutions to best protect healthcare workers.

HCQ had shown some effect on the SARS-CoV-2 virus in laboratory studies. The drug is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat malaria, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis and has a well-known safety record, making it a good candidate for COVID-19 prevention.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE STUDY?

During the study, participants were:

Tested for SARS-CoV-2 and had blood drawn
to test for antibodies to the virus at the start and end of their participation.

Assigned by chance to take HCQ (study drug) or take a placebo,
which looks exactly like the study drug but contains no medicine.

Asked to take the study drug/ placebo
tablets by mouth for 30 days.

Asked to complete online surveys
to report new symptoms, hospitalizations, or any other events.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

Oral HCQ taken as prescribed appeared to be safe among the study participants, but the study was not able to determine whether or not HCQ can prevent COVID-19. There were fewer infections in the HCQ group compared with the placebo group (41 vs. 53), but the difference was not significant.

The study did not have enough participants to determine whether HCQ could prevent some COVID-19 cases.

Enrollment for the study ended early because of a lack of participants. Recruitment in the study was difficult because of media attention of HCQ and published results of small or retrospective studies focused on safety concerns of HCQ. Future studies may combine data from this and similar studies to obtain a more accurate answer.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Read the preprint publication.

Read about the study on clinicaltrials.gov.

Find out more about the HERO Registry at heroesresearch.org.

THE HERO-HCQ trial was funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Contract Number COVID-19-2020-001.

This summary was completed in August 2021. Newer information generated since this summary was written may now exist.