

New Study to Assess the Efficacy of Ivermectin Against COVID-19

Clínica Universidad de Navarra and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health launch a clinical trial to determine the efficacy of ivermectin in reducing viral replication after 7 days

Barcelona, 14 May 2020. Clínica Universidad de Navarra and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), a centre supported by the "la Caixa" Foundation, have launched a **clinical trial** to investigate the efficacy of ivermectin against COVID-19. The aim of the study, carried out in collaboration with Idifarma, is to **determine whether administration of ivermectin is associated with a shorter viral clearance time.**

"Ivermectin has been shown to have an **antiviral effect** against other single-chain RNA viruses, including dengue and yellow fever, and it has successfully inhibited the replication of those viruses in vitro," explained Carlos Chaccour, a specialist affiliated with Clínica Universidad de Navarra and ISGlobal and principal investigator for the new study. "We are also interested in assessing the drug's **immunomodulatory role** because one of the major problems with the SARS CoV-2 virus is the disordered immune response it causes."

Ivermectin was recently shown to inhibit the replication of SARS-CoV-2 in vitro at very high doses, but this effect has not yet been studied in vivo. The new study will investigate this question in a randomised trial. **Twenty-four patients with mild disease** and no risk factors will be given a single oral dose of ivermectin or placebo less than 48 hours after the onset of symptoms.

These newly diagnosed patients will not require hospitalisation, so follow-up will be carried out in their homes during their period of self-isolation. "We will give patients **a single dose** when they come to the clinic for a diagnostic test," explained Chaccour. "This will be followed by **a month-long period of home-based follow-up**, during which we will take five nasal swabs and monitor their symptoms. This will allow us to see whether ivermectin helps to clear the infection more quickly."

The [SARS-CoV-2 Ivermectin Navarra ISGlobal Trial \(SAINT\)](#) is being funded by Clínica Universidad de Navarra and ISGlobal.

All participants will be recruited from Clínica Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona and their immune response will be jointly analysed by the Clínica and ISGlobal.

About ISGlobal

The Barcelona Institute of Global Health (ISGlobal) is the result of an innovative alliance between the "la Caixa" Foundation and academic and government institutions. The Institute was set up to contribute to the work undertaken by the international community to address global health challenges. ISGlobal has consolidated a hub of excellence in research and medical care that has its roots in work first started in the

world of health care by the Hospital Clínic and the Mar Health Park and in the academic sphere by the University of Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra University. The pivotal mechanism of its work model is the transfer of knowledge generated by scientific research to practice, a task undertaken by the Institute's Education, Policy and Global Development departments. ISGlobal is accredited as a Severo Ochoa Centre of Excellence and is a member of CERCA, the Catalan Government's network of research centres.

About Clínica Universidad de Navarra

Clínica Universidad de Navarra is a research hospital with more than 2,800 full-time staff working at its facilities in Pamplona and Madrid. It is a leading provider of personalised medicine in Spain, renowned for its research and teaching, the prestige of its health specialists, and its experience in the diagnosis and treatment of highly complex diseases. Thanks to a multidisciplinary approach and cutting-edge technology, Clínica Universidad de Navarra is a high-performance hospital equipped to undertake rapid diagnostic testing and care in 46 medical and surgical specialties. It is one of the top 50 hospitals in the world, according to Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals ranking. For the sixth consecutive year, it has been ranked by Monitor de Reputación Sanitaria (MRS) as the private hospital with the best reputation in Spain. For more information: <https://www.cun.es>

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