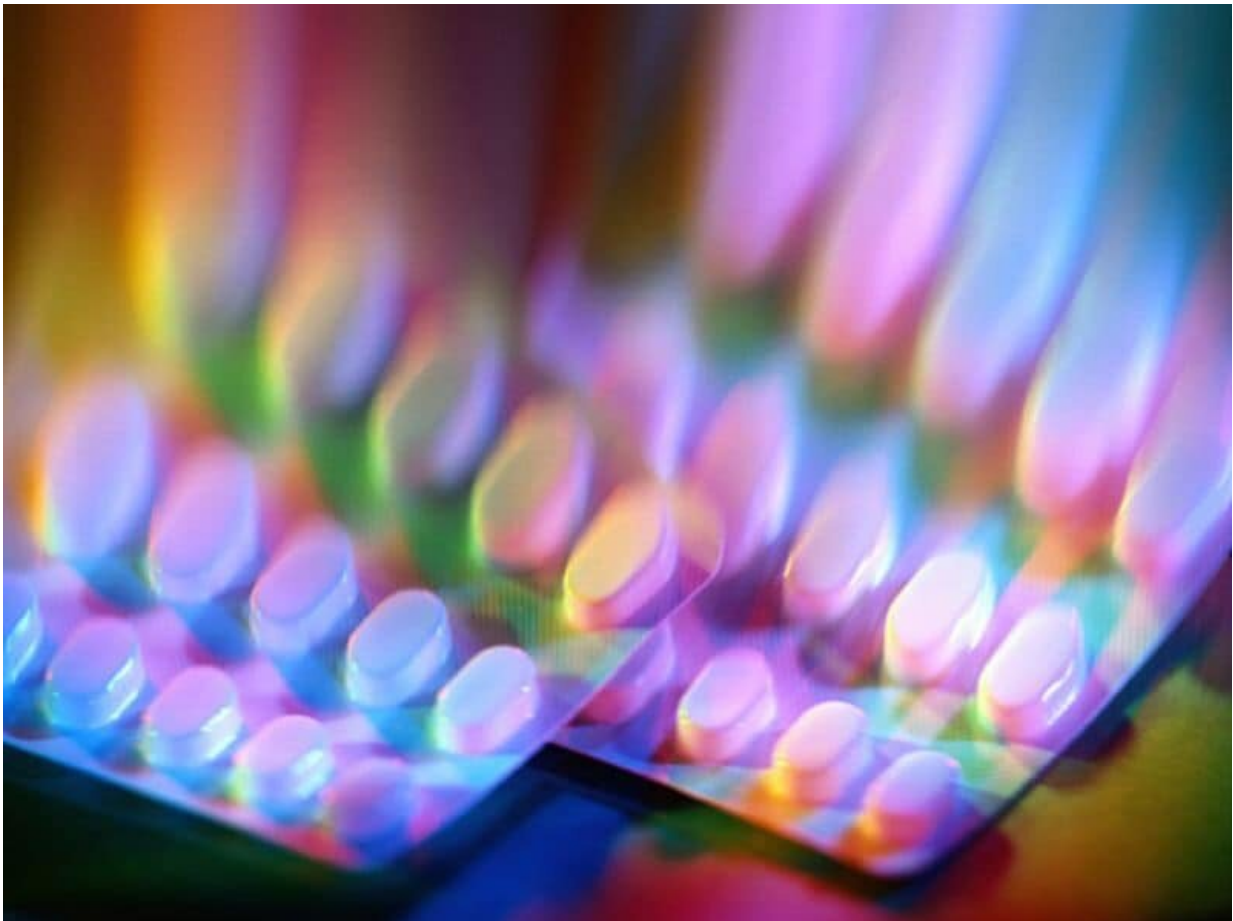


Chloroquine COVID-19 trial stopped after patient deaths

April 14 2020



A study of chloroquine in novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) patients

was halted due to potentially deadly side effects.

Researchers in Brazil were testing [chloroquine](#) in 81 hospitalized COVID-19 patients. About half were prescribed 450 mg twice daily for five days, and the others were prescribed 600 mg for 10 days, *The New York Times* reported. But within three days, some patients taking the higher dose developed serious heart rhythm disorders, resulting in 11 deaths. The researchers immediately stopped the higher-dose part of the trial. The trial did not have enough patients in the lower-dose trial to conclude whether chloroquine was effective in patients with severe cases of COVID-19.

"To me, this study conveys one useful piece of information, which is that chloroquine causes a dose-dependent increase in an abnormality in the electrocardiogram that could predispose people to [sudden cardiac death](#)," David Juurlink, M.D., an internist and the head of the division of clinical pharmacology at the University of Toronto, told *The Times*.

Patients in the trial also received the antibiotic azithromycin, which also has heart rhythm disorder risks. Hospitals in the United States are using azithromycin to treat COVID-19 [patients](#), often in combination with hydroxychloroquine, according to *The Times*.

More information: [The New York Times Article](#)

Copyright © 2020 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Chloroquine COVID-19 trial stopped after patient deaths (2020, April 14) retrieved 13 February 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-04-chloroquine-covid-trial-patient-deaths.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.