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[Home](#) > FDA authorizes widespread use of unproven drugs to treat coronavirus, saying possible benefit outweighs risk

FDA authorizes widespread use of unproven drugs to treat coronavirus, saying possible benefit outweighs risk

March 31, 2020

by Christopher Rowland, [Washington Post](#)

Millions of doses of anti-malarial drugs hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine will be distributed to hospitals across the country to try to slow the disease in seriously ill patients

The Food and Drug Administration has given emergency approval to a Trump administration plan to distribute millions of doses of anti-malarial drugs to hospitals across the country, saying it is worth the risk of trying unproven treatments to slow the progression of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus in seriously ill patients.

There have been only a few, small anecdotal studies showing a possible benefit of the drugs, hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, to relieve the acute respiratory symptoms of covid-19 and clear the virus from infected patients.

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