

POTENTIAL HARMS OF CHLOROQUINE OR HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE

for management of SARS-CoV-2 infection



Cardiac arrhythmias

especially when coprescribed with other QTc-prolonging drugs such as azithromycin



Hypoglycemia



Neuropsychiatric effects

including confusion, agitation, paranoia, hallucinations, psychosis



Drug-drug interactions

increased effect of some drugs (e.g., metoprolol) and decreased effect of others (e.g., codeine, tramadol)



Genetic variability

in metabolism influences safety and effectiveness



Severe cutaneous reactions

rare but reported



Extremely toxic in overdose

We need better-designed studies to determine the benefit of these drugs, if any, in treating or preventing COVID-19.

Source: Juurlink DN. Safety considerations with chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin in the management of SARS-CoV-2 infection. *CMAJ* 2020. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.200528; early-released April 8, 2020.

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