

Research for Impact

To:

Hon. Rose Brown, Minister of Health

The Cook Islands

Email: rose.brown@cookislands.gov.ck

November 17, 2021

Honorable Minister Brown,

The Evidence-Based Medicine Consultancy Ltd (E-BMC Ltd) is a UK-based independent medical research company that contributes to the quality of healthcare globally through the rigorous evaluation of medical evidence to support clinical practice guidelines. The British Ivermectin Recommendation Development Group (BiRD) includes researchers and doctors from around the world who have been seeking effective treatments to combat the pandemic.

We understand that the Government of the Cook Islands is anxious to keep Covid-19 cases at a minimum. Widespread implementation of safe and effective vaccines for those who choose to get vaccinated has been challenging for most countries. In addition, Covid vaccines may not be sufficiently effective against certain variants. It is our view that continuing success in controlling the pandemic must involve treating at the earliest signs of symptoms and/or a positive test result, which will help prevent deterioration and need for hospitalisation.

Over the past months, E-BMC Ltd has been working to encourage governments around the world to adopt re-purposed existing drugs for the early treatment of Covid-19. One such drug is ivermectin, a safe medicine which has been used for nearly 40 years to treat parasitic infections. New evidence show that it has potent antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties as well.

E-BMC Ltd presented the evidence on ivermectin to prevent and treat Covid-19 to the British Ivermectin Recommendation Development (BiRD) panel in February 2021. The BiRD panel deliberated on the evidence for the use of ivermectin against Covid-19, including evidence and considerations on cost, safety, acceptability, feasibility, equity and people's values and preferences. The meeting resulted in a recommendation in favour of ivermectin as a Covid-19 frontline therapy.

BiRD recommends ivermectin be used for treatment of Covid-19 in early out-patient disease, at a dose of 0.4 mg/kg – 0.6 mg/kg, along with a number of adjunct therapies, which are detailed in the regularly updated I-MASK+ Prevention & Early Treatment Protocol¹ developed by the Frontline Covid-19 Critical Care Alliance (FLCCC). We strongly recommend that ivermectin be continued for 5 days or until recovered. For hospitalised Covid patients, please refer to the MATH+ Protocol².

We also recommend that ivermectin be used as Covid-19 prophylaxis on a large scale through mass distribution of ivermectin in the dose of 0.2mg/kg (12mg for a 60 kg person) twice-weekly to adults to decrease transmission amongst the general population in the current crisis. We believe this will save thousands of lives and reduce the suffering of millions.

Ivermectin's ability to beat Covid-19 can be evidenced in many parts of the world, including the Dominican Republic, India, Zimbabwe and South Africa, as well as in other African countries where mass administration of ivermectin against parasitic infections is practiced. More than 3.7 billion people have been treated with Ivermectin for parasitic infections and it has been found to be extremely safe.

As specialist researchers and doctors in intensive care and other disciplines we categorically state that ivermectin, used with other medicines, is helping save and improve lives worldwide. The importance of early Covid-treatment is born out in the scientific manuscripts and testimony of Covid-physicians around the world, as well as in real-world evidence from countries already using ivermectin for prevention and treatment of Covid.

On behalf of our members and our numerous affiliated organisations who have been providing ethical medical guidance during this health emergency, we hope our message will be given the necessary attention for the better health of the people of the Cook Islands.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us via: newsletter@bird-group.org.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Tess Lawrie on behalf of the BiRD Group and its affiliated organisations:

¹ <https://Covid19criticalcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FLCCC-Alliance-I-MASKplus-Protocol-ENGLISH.pdf>

² <https://Covid19criticalcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FLCCC-Alliance-MATHplus-Protocol-ENGLISH.pdf>



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Doctors for Covid Ethics



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