

WHAT TYPES OF TREATMENT ARE BEING INVESTIGATED FOR COVID-19?

Several types of therapeutics are being investigated in clinical trials as potential treatments for COVID-19. These include:



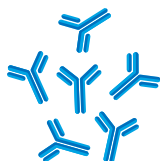
Antiviral therapeutics

These therapeutics directly target SARS-CoV-2, preventing virus infection and spread, for example, 4'-fluorouridine.



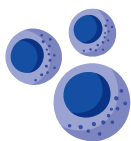
Immunomodulators

These therapeutics are designed either to boost the immune system (for people who cannot mount an adequate defense against COVID-19), for example, interferon beta; or to dampen the patient's abnormal immune response following infection with SARS-CoV-2, for example, infliximab or colchicine.



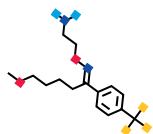
Neutralizing antibody therapies

These treatments include manufactured antibodies, for example, AZD7442; animal-sourced antibody therapies; and blood-derived products such as convalescent plasma and intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), which contain antibodies taken from people who have previously had COVID-19. The aim of these treatments is to reduce the level of virus shortly after infection and thereby protect against severe disease. Such antibodies could also be used to prevent SARS-CoV-2 infection in those known to be at high risk.



Cell therapies

These treatments include cellular immunotherapies such as engineered Natural Killer (NK) cells and other types of cells, and related products, for example mesenchymal stem cells. They work to combat COVID-19 in a variety of ways.



Others

Numerous other agents that work through various mechanisms are being tested against COVID-19. These include treatments that are already approved for other diseases such as cancer (e.g., bicalutamide or enzalutamide), neuropsychiatric illness (e.g., the antidepressant fluvoxamine), among others.

It is noteworthy that the potential benefit of these treatment approaches is currently under investigation in clinical trials and health care experts may recommend against the use of these agents for the treatment of COVID-19, except in a clinical trial setting. It is important that patients with COVID-19 speak with their health care providers to decide the best treatment option.