

2021-043

03
September
2021PLEASE
REVIEW **Drug Information**
PharmPix Clinical Department**Drug Information:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ivermectin dispensing by retail pharmacies has increased, as well as veterinary formulations available over the counter (not intended for human use). The FDA has cautioned about the potential risks of use for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

QUESTIONS

Call us at 787-522-5252, x-220

Access our recent communications at our providers' portal:

<https://www.pharmpix.com/providers/>



PharmPix is committed to the health and wellness of our members.

The clinical team wants to communicate you with the latest up-to-date drug information requested.

Summary of Clinical Topic.

An increased use of ivermectin and ivermectin-containing products for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 has shown to be harmful to patients, and there is insufficient evidence to suggest the drug is effective as a preventative or treatment for COVID-19.

Increased Use of Ivermectin and its Impact:

Ivermectin is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for human use to treat infections by internal and external parasites. It is not approved to prevent or treat COVID-19. It is also used in veterinary applications to prevent or treat internal and external parasitic infections in animals. Veterinary preparations intended for large animals are highly concentrated and result in overdoses when used by humans. This medication is generally well tolerated when used in appropriate doses for approved indications.

Clinical trials and observational studies evaluating the use of ivermectin to prevent and treat COVID-19 in humans have yielded insufficient evidence and are not included in the NIH COVID-19 treatment guidelines.

A recent study examining trends in ivermectin dispensing in outpatient retail pharmacies in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic showed a 24-fold increase from the pre-pandemic baseline. Poison control centers across the U.S. received a three-fold increase in the number of calls for human exposure to ivermectin in January 2021, and a five-fold increase from baseline in July 2021.

The American Medical Association (AMA), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) strongly oppose the ordering, prescribing, or dispensing of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19 outside of a clinical trial.

**CLINICAL PEARLS**

BY PHARMPIX

Recommendations for Clinicians and Public Health Practitioners

- Be aware that ivermectin is not currently authorized or approved by the FDA for prevention or treatment of COVID-19.
- Educate patients about the risks of using ivermectin without a prescription, or ingesting ivermectin formulations that are meant for external use or ivermectin-containing products formulated for veterinary use.
- Advise patients to immediately seek medical treatment if they have taken any ivermectin or ivermectin-containing products. Patients should call the poison control center hotline (1-800-222-1222) for medical management advice if they are presenting signs and/or symptoms of ivermectin toxicity (gastrointestinal effects, confusion, headache, blurred vision, etc.).
- Educate patients and the public to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Educate patients to use COVID-19 prevention measures including, but not limited to, wearing masks, frequent handwashing, and physical distancing by staying at least 6 feet from other people.

Additional information can be found at:

- CDC communication: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00449.asp>
- FDA consumer updates: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>

If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us at 787-522-5252, ext. 220. Our pharmacists will help you. In addition, know that you can access our recent communications at our providers' portal: <https://www.pharmpix.com/providers/>.

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1. HAN Archive - 00449 | Health Alert Network (HAN). Emergency.cdc.gov. (2021). Retrieved from <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00449.asp>.
2. AMA, APhA, ASHP statement on ending use of ivermectin to treat COVID-19. American Medical Association. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-apha-ashp-statement-ending-use-ivermectin-treat-covid-19>.
3. Why You Should Not Use Ivermectin to Treat or Prevent COVID-19. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>.

