

UKRI-funded unit leads UK and EU remdesivir study

UKRI's Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit at University College London led the UK and EU arm of the international study into the effectiveness of the drug remdesivir on patients hospitalised with Covid-19.

It was part of the Adaptive Covid-19 Treatment Trial (ACTT-EU/UK) trial, funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA and supported by UK government, which took place in about 75 hospitals globally, starting in April 2020. Other sites in Spain, Denmark and Germany were coordinated by the University of Copenhagen and the trial also took place in USA, Japan, South Korea, Greece and many other countries.

The randomised controlled trial, which has recruited more than 1000 patients globally, aimed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the anti-viral drug remdesivir as a treatment for Covid-19. Remdesivir was originally developed to treat Ebola and Marburg virus infections.

Preliminary results published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* - <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2007764>, showed the speed of recovery for hospitalised Covid-19 patients treated with the drug was 32% faster than for those patients who had the placebo.

Specifically, the average time to recovery was 11 days for patients treated with remdesivir compared with 15 days for those who received placebo.

Results also suggested a survival benefit, with a mortality rate of 7.1% for the group receiving remdesivir versus 11.9% for the placebo group.

Based on the results of this trial, the US's Food and Drug Administration authorised emergency use of remdesivir for treating patients who are hospitalised with COVID-19 on 01 May 2020.



Read more about the preliminary results here: <https://www.ukri.org/news/preliminary-results-of-covid-19-drug-treatment-trial-found-to-improve-recovery/>

And read more about the wide variety of ways in which UKRI funding is helping to tackle Covid-19 and the health, economic and social issues it's created, here: <https://www.ukri.org/research/coronavirus/>