



[Trump Taking Unproven Hydroxychloroquine as a Preventative Treatment Against the Coronavirus](#)

President Trump stated earlier this week that he is taking hydroxychloroquine as a preventative measure against COVID-19. The controversial anti-malaria drug has been touted by the president as a coronavirus treatment multiple times in recent weeks, despite the opinion held by medical professionals and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that the drug is unpredictable and potentially deadly. The FDA said that hydroxychloroquine was linked to serious heart risks in patients, and the largest study conducted on the drug to date found that it failed to improve the condition of COVID-19 patients and was tied to a larger number of deaths. Despite this, President Trump claimed that he had been taking the drug for two weeks and had not felt any adverse effects. White House doctor Sean Conley said in a statement that he advised the president but the “potential benefits outweighed the risks.”

Upon the president’s announcement, the World Health Organization warned of the potential side effects associated with taking hydroxychloroquine. Executive Director Dr. Michael Ryan said that while hydroxychloroquine was one of a number of treatments being tested, it is known to have many side effects, including heart arrhythmia in patients suffering from COVID-19. In March, after President Trump’s first endorsement of hydroxychloroquine, a couple in Arizona ingested a form of it, which resulted in both individuals being hospitalized, and one dying. Despite this, the president has continued to promote the use of hydroxychloroquine, and has used his allies in the media to spread the message. Fox News personality Laura Ingraham has repeatedly touted the benefits of the drug on air, and lobbied the president to make it widely available during an Oval Office meeting with the president.

Most medical experts have warned against using hydroxychloroquine as a coronavirus treatment, and President Trump’s admission that he was taking it came as a shock. Most studies relating to the drug are in the elementary stages, and none have progressed far enough to endorse the drug as medically adequate to be used as a treatment during the pandemic. Moreover, scientists are still discovering certain combinations of the drug that can make ingesting it fatal. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious diseases expert, and a member of the White House’s coronavirus task force, has rejected the notion that the drug is a cure for the virus, and has cautioned against its use.

The Food and Drug Administration has also warned against the widespread implementation of hydroxychloroquine as a coronavirus treatment, especially outside of hospitals. A limited number of hospitals were granted temporary authorizations for the use of the drug, but clinical trials are still ongoing. Additionally, the Center for Disease Control has yet to approve the use of hydroxychloroquine, which is another indicator of the discretion being used by medical experts. Despite this, President Trump has continued to promote the potential benefits of the drug as he seeks to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and bring the country out of lockdown.