



TITLE: Role of tocilizumab in combating cytokine storm in moderate & severe covid 19 patients

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ABSTRACT (upto 300 words)

BACKGROUND:

The wide spread of COVID-19 disease and mortality associated with it as never seen before urged the medical research field to formulate and investigate the efficacy of various new drugs alongside with the existing drugs.

OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate the potential benefits of Tocilizumab (TCZ) in addition to the Standard of Care (SoC) in reducing mortality in moderate & severely ill COVID 19.

METHODOLOGY:

Study population is sorted by 1:1 matching depending on the High-Resolution Computed Tomography (HRCT) Chest CT Severity Score. Outcome is measured as deaths, discharge with or without Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT) along with clinical improvement of the patient

measured using 9 points ordinary scale score of WHO and length of post administration ICU stay & levels of inflammatory markers (CRP, IL 6) on day of administration- baseline (D0), 1- & 3-days post administration (D+1 & D+3). Study population was categorized into Group 1, receiving TCS+SoC and Group 2, receiving SoC alone.

RESULTS:

Deaths and discharge with LTOT were slightly higher in Group-1 with OR 1.68 & 1.63 respectively. Clinical improvement in terms of 9-point ordinary scale score & difference in the levels of CRP & IL 6 was insignificant in both the groups. No difference in length of post administration ICU stay was observed between the groups.

CONCLUSIONS:

Our study concludes no marked benefits with the addition of TCZ to the SoC in treating moderate and severe COVID 19 patients.



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BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)

Dr. Nithish is a research associate working at Fernandez Foundation, Hyderabad, India. He is a Pharm.D graduate passed out in 2021 from Chilkur Balaji College of Pharmacy, Hyderabad, India. His professional career started as an Assistant Professor when the Head of the same institute offered him the position in the wake of his leadership qualities and appeal towards objective and evidence based practical learning. With passion towards research, he collaborated with CoGuide Research Academy and later joined Fernandez Foundation. With the career objective of becoming researcher in the department of neurogenetics, he acquired research skills and carried out few research and review projects. He also served as an

invited reviewer by BMC & Oxford case reports Journals along with few others. However, due to constrains of current working environment, his so far research is not in line with his research interest. Without losing faith or hope, he constantly strived making the best out of possible things that made him spread his wings in research network, and get into collaborations with research scholars from different countries. He is currently working on few SRMA projects emphasising on objectives correlating to his career interest along with few funded projects in lineup.

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