WHO Launches Global COVID-19 Treatment Clinical Trial

In late March, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a large global trial, called SOLIDARITY, to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19. The study, which could include many thousands of patients in dozens of countries, has been designed to be as simple as possible to allow hospitals to easily participate. Rather than coming up with compounds from scratch that may take years to develop and test, the SOLIDARITY trial is looking to repurpose drugs already approved for other diseases. WHO is focusing on what it says are the four most promising therapies: 1) an experimental antiviral compound called remdesivir; 2) the malaria medications chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine; 3) a combination of two HIV drugs, lopinavir and ritonavir; and 4) that same combination plus interferon-beta, an immune system messenger that can help cripple viruses. Remdesivir is the only investigational agent being studied; originally developed to combat Ebola and related viruses, remdesivir shuts down viral replication by inhibiting a key viral enzyme, the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase. As of April 8, 2020, over 90 countries have been identified as working together, via the trial. At this time the US has not confirmed participation in this study.

For more information on the four SOLIDARITY treatment therapies, click on the link below:


For more information on the SOLIDARITY trial, click on the following WHO website link: