

Indomethacin highly effective in treating COVID-19 infection: Study

07 January 2022 | News

The study showcases the high efficacy of using Indomethacin in the early stages of COVID-19 infection, especially in mild and moderate cases



Indomethacin, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, is shown to be highly efficient in treating the COVID-19 infection as per a study conducted by Dr Rajan Ravichandran, Director Nephrology, MIOT Hospitals in Chennai and Prof R Krishna Kumar, Institute Professor, IIT Madras in India.

The first trial done during the first wave had 144 RT-PCR positive patients statistically matched in two arms, one treated with indomethacin and standard care and the other with paracetamol and standard care.

The second carried out in the second wave was a randomized control trial with 210 RT-PCR-positive COVID-19 patients. They were allotted to two arms, as above, based on block randomisation; 103 and 107 patients were in the indomethacin and paracetamol arms, respectively.

The primary endpoint was the development of hypoxia/desaturation with SpO₂ < 93, while fever reduction and cough and body pain resolution were the secondary endpoints. A third small trial treated 22 severe patients who required oxygen with indomethacin. No steroids were given to these patients.

Out of the 107 patients in the paracetamol arm, 20 developed desaturation. However, in the indomethacin arm, none of the 103 patients developed desaturation. In terms of symptomatic relief, patients who received indomethacin experienced rapid symptomatic relief with most symptoms disappearing in half the time compared to the paracetamol group.

The first trial was conducted at Narayana Medical College, Nellore and Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha, and the second trial took place at Panimalar Medical College, Chennai.