



## American College of Medical Toxicology Reports Data on Adverse Effects and Toxicity from Unapproved Use of Ivermectin for the Prevention or Treatment of COVID-19

Phoenix, AZ, August 20, 2021---The American College of Medical Toxicology's [Toxicology Investigators Consortium \(Toxic\)](#) has received several reports of patients who became ill from using ivermectin formulations to prevent or treat COVID-19 infection. These incidents were reported through Toxic's [FDA ACMT COVID-19 Toxic \(FACT\) Pharmacovigilance Project Sub-registry](#) between October 2020 and August 2021.

Ivermectin is FDA-approved for prescription use in humans as an antiparasitic drug to treat conditions including intestinal strongyloidiasis and onchocerciasis or river blindness. A topical form is used for the treatment of head lice and rosacea. Veterinary formulations are also used to treat animals including cattle and horses. Cases reported to Toxic's FACT project included the use of human and veterinary formulations and have resulted in some cases in severe toxicity and morbidity.

There is currently no recommendation or approved indication to use ivermectin to treat or prevent COVID-19. The National Institute of Health COVID-19 Treatment Center States "[There is insufficient evidence for the COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel \(the Panel\) to recommend either for or against the use of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19. Results from adequately powered, well-designed, and well-conducted clinical trials are needed to provide more specific, evidence-based guidance on the role of ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19.](#)"

Although ivermectin is relatively well tolerated when used as prescribed, toxicity can occur in the setting of overdose or inappropriate use, especially when veterinary formulations are involved. Clinical manifestations range in severity and body organs involved. They include gastrointestinal effects (e.g., nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea), headache, dizziness, fatigue, visual changes or problems, fast heart rate, low blood pressure and skin rashes. More severe central nervous effects have been reported and include coma, altered mental status, seizures, hallucinations, and tremors.

For more information, view the [FDA website](#) or contact your [local medical toxicologist](#) or [poison center](#) for advice in case of concerns or questions related to ivermectin toxicity.

About [Toxic's FACT Project](#): This sub-registry was established in 2020 as an enhanced data collection tool within the Toxic network with a specific focus on potential adverse reactions related to COVID-19 drug treatments. Physicians specialized in medical toxicology oversee this program at 15 designated medical centers across various geographic regions in the United States.

*The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) is a professional, nonprofit association of physicians with recognized expertise and board certification in medical toxicology. Our members specialize in the prevention, evaluation, treatment, and monitoring of injury and illness from exposures to drugs and chemicals, as well as biological and radiological agents. ACMT members work in clinical, academic, governmental, and public health settings, and provide poison control center leadership.*