



June 5, 2020

WHIP COVID-19 Study Continues

Henry Ford Health System is pursuing the Will Hydroxychloroquine Impede or Prevent COVID-19 (WHIP COVID-19) study as a potential preventative to protect healthy, pre-screened healthcare workers, first responders and other frontline workers from COVID-19. The decision to use hydroxychloroquine was based on the FDA-approved drug's safety record for malaria, lupus and other autoimmune diseases for more than half a century.

As part of the ongoing safety mechanisms used in a study such as WHIP COVID-19, a Data Safety Monitoring Board led by Dr. Sidney Goldstein, former chief of the Division of Cardiology at Henry Ford Health System and Professor of Medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine, has been closely monitoring recruitment and enrollees in the study. In a June 2 letter, Dr. Goldstein wrote that the Data Safety Monitoring Board members "have not observed any indication of danger to the enrollees and specifically have not serious adverse events" since the study began.

As such, enrollment in the WHIP COVID-19 study is continuing, with no changes to the protocol. We hope the pursuit of a scientifically based, double-blind, randomized study will help clearly determine the drug's effectiveness as a preventative to COVID-19. Thank you to those who have volunteered to support this important study, as well as the researchers who are tirelessly guiding this potentially life-saving work. Like many academic health systems across the U.S., we are currently engaged in multiple FDA-approved clinical trials in the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. The safety and wellbeing of our patients remains our top priority and we will continue to monitor all available data regarding safety and outcomes and adjust accordingly.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adnan Munkarah, Henry Ford Health System Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer

Dr. Steven Kalkanis, CEO, Henry Ford Medical Group and Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of Henry Ford Health System



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To whom it may concern:

I am the Chairman of the Data Safety Monitoring Board of the Will Hydroxychloroquine Impede or Prevent Covid-19 Trial (WHIP). We have been monitoring the recruitment and follow-up of the individuals enrolled in the WHIP trial over the last two months and have not observed any indication of danger to the enrollees and specifically have not observed any serious adverse events.

Sincerely,
Sidney Goldstein MD

Professor of Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine
Chairman, Data Safety Monitoring Board of the Whip Trial