

Q) Do you think that the low cost drug dexamethasone can be used to treat Corona Virus Patients in the Country? Comment (10 marks)

The dexamethasone a Corticosteroid, an Anti-inflammatory drug commonly used for Cancer and Tuberculosis, Now UK based RECOVERY TRIAL, reported that dexamethasone reduces the death rate of Covid-19 diseases pandemic.

Dexamethasone

A long acting potent Synthetic Steroid drug available in oral (tablets), topical (ointment) and intravenous (injection) forms for Anti-inflammatory usages.

Advantages of using dexamethasone

1) Low Cost

2) Clinically Proven in usage for TB, Cancer, numerous Sickness

3) By RECOVERY-TRIAL Study, it reduces the death rate of Covid-19 to one third in ter trial and error study

Hindrance in wide level usage

→ The Clinical Study, Shows Positive results only for Person with oxygen ventilated

→ WHO warned that "dexamethasone" not a medicine for Covid-19 when it will use in large population of oral Patients shows side effects.

→ Side effects of dexamethasone

- 1) Fungal infections
- 2) Tuberculosis, brittle bones
- 3) Increased blood sugar level
- 4) Psychiatric disturbances

→ Dexamethasone is not a Anti-viral drug to fight with Covid-19, it is only proven for its Anti-inflammatory characteristics.

→ Initially the drug "Hydroxychloroquine" rumoured as a medicine for Covid-19 later it was ~~proven~~ call back without proper studies it is unable to talk about dexamethasone efficiency to counter Covid-19 virus.

Indian Context

- already "Methylprednisolone" a steroid used in treatment of Covid-19 in India but not show any positive results, the Methylprednisolone is superior to "dexamethasone"
- Remains ^{will} increase the cost of dexamethasone which lead to unavailability of this drug in market for needy patients.

RECOVERY TRIAL report is a hope in Pandemic era but without clinically proven the wide usage is dangerous. India along with whole world ^{should} wait until positive results occur, for the usage of dexamethasone.