

COVID-19 CADTH REFERENCE LIST

Convalescent Plasma Therapy for the Treatment of COVID-19: Clinical Effectiveness

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To produce this report, CADTH used a modified approach to the selection, appraisal, and synthesis of the evidence to meet decision-making needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Care has been taken to ensure the information is accurate and complete, but it should be noted that international scientific evidence about COVID-19 is changing and growing rapidly.

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Research Question

What is the clinical effectiveness of convalescent plasma therapy for the treatment of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?

Key Findings

Two non-randomized studies were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of convalescent plasma therapy for the treatment of coronavirus disease.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including Medline via OVID, PubMed, the Cochrane Library, the University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), the US National Institutes of Health’s clinicaltrials.gov, Health Canada’s clinical trials database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were convalescent plasma and COVID-19. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2019 and May 6, 2020.

Reference lists of identified systematic reviews on convalescent plasma therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 were also hand-searched for potentially relevant primary studies.

Selection Criteria

Two reviewers screened citations and selected studies. In the first level of screening, titles and abstracts were evaluated by one reviewer. Studies that failed to meet one or more selection criteria were rejected, while potentially relevant articles were retrieved. The final selection of full-text articles was conducted by two reviewers that each screened a portion of the studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Individuals (of all ages) with confirmed or presumptive coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
Intervention	Convalescent plasma therapy
Comparator	No treatment; placebo; standard care; other active treatments (e.g. hydroxychloroquine, remdesivir)
Outcomes	Clinical effectiveness (e.g., mortality, length of hospital stay, severity of clinical symptoms, viral load, safety [e.g., rate of adverse events])
Study Designs	Randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease.

Results

Two non-randomized studies were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of convalescent plasma therapy for the treatment of coronavirus disease.¹⁻² No relevant randomized controlled trials were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in Appendix 1. A list of ongoing clinical trials is provided in Appendix 2, Table 2.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

1. Duan K, Liu B, Li C, et al. Effectiveness of convalescent plasma therapy in severe COVID-19 patients. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2020 04 28;117(17):9490-9496. [PubMed: PM32253318](#)
2. Zeng QL, Yu ZJ, Gou JJ, et al. Effect of Convalescent Plasma Therapy on Viral Shedding and Survival in COVID-19 Patients. *J Infect Dis*. 2020 Apr 29;29:29. [PubMed: PM32348485](#)

Appendix 1: Further Information

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

3. AminJafari A, Ghasemi S. The possible of immunotherapy for COVID-19: A systematic review. *Int Immunopharmacol*. 2020 Apr 2;83:106455.
[PubMed: PM32272396](#)
4. Rajendran K, Narayanasamy K, Rangarajan J, Rathinam J, Natarajan M, Ramachandran A. Convalescent plasma transfusion for the treatment of COVID-19: Systematic review. *J Med Virol*. 2020 May 01;01:01.
[PubMed: PM32356910](#)
5. Valk SJ, Piechotta V, Chai KL, et al. Convalescent plasma or hyperimmune immunoglobulin for people with COVID-19: a rapid review. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2020;5:CD013600
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD013600>
6. Zhang L, Liu Y. Potential interventions for novel coronavirus in China: A systematic review. *J Med Virol*. 2020 05;92(5):479-490.
[PubMed: PM32052466](#)

Case Reports and Case Series

7. Ahn JY, Sohn Y, Lee SH, et al. Use of Convalescent Plasma Therapy in Two COVID-19 Patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome in Korea. *J Korean Med Sci*. 2020 Apr 13;35(14):e149.
[PubMed: PM32281317](#)
8. Shen C, Wang Z, Zhao F, et al. Treatment of 5 Critically Ill Patients With COVID-19 With Convalescent Plasma. *JAMA*. 2020 Mar 27;27:27.
[PubMed: PM32219428](#)
9. Ye M, Fu D, Ren Y, et al. Treatment with convalescent plasma for COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, China. *J Med Virol*. 2020 Apr 15;15:15.
[PubMed: PM32293713](#)
10. Zhang B, Liu S, Tan T, et al. Treatment With Convalescent Plasma for Critically Ill Patients With SARS-CoV-2 Infection. *Chest*. 2020 Mar 31.
[PubMed: PM32243945](#)
11. Zhang L, Pang R, Xue X, et al. Anti-SARS-CoV-2 virus antibody levels in convalescent plasma of six donors who have recovered from COVID-19. *Aging*. 2020 Apr 22;12(8):6536-6542.
[PubMed: PM32320384](#)

Review Articles

12. Bloch EM, Shoham S, Casadevall A, et al. Deployment of convalescent plasma for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. *J Clin Invest*. 2020 Apr 07;07:07.
[PubMed: PM32254064](#)

13. Kumar GV, Jeyanthi V, Ramakrishnan S. A short review on antibody therapy for COVID-19. *New Microbes New Infect.* 2020 Apr 20:100682.
[PubMed: PM32313660](#)
14. Mehta N, Mazer-Amirshahi M, Alkindi N, Pourmand A. Pharmacotherapy in COVID-19; A narrative review for emergency providers. *Am J Emerg Med.* 2020 Apr 15;15:15.
[PubMed: PM32336586](#)
15. Sullivan HC, Roback JD. Convalescent Plasma: Therapeutic Hope or Hopeless Strategy in the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic. *Transfus Med Rev.* 2020 Apr 23;23:23.
[PubMed: PM32359788](#)

Appendix 2: Ongoing Clinical Trials

Table 2: Registered Clinical Trials of Convalescent Plasma for People With COVID-19

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
Ongoing Canadian Trials						
CONCOR-1 CONvalescent Plasma for Hospitalized Adults With COVID-19 Respiratory Illness (NCT04348656) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04348656	Canada Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation	Open label RCT	Phase 3	1,200 participants	16 years and older	December 31, 2020
CONCOR-KIDS Efficacy of Human Coronavirus-immune Convalescent Plasma for the Treatment of COVID-19 Disease in Hospitalized Children (NCT0437758) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04377568	Canada The Hospital for Sick Children	Multicentered, open label, RCT	Phase 2	100 participants	up to 18 years	May 1, 2022
Ongoing International Trials						
Study for using the healed novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) patients plasma in the treatment of severe critical cases http://www.chictr.org.cn/hvshowproject.aspx?id=23284	China The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University	RCT	NR	30 participants	NR	May 30, 2020
COV19-PLASMA Hyperimmune Plasma for Critical Patients With COVID-19 (NCT04321421) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04321421	Italy Foundation IRCCS San Matteo Hospital	Single group, open label	NA	49 participants	18 years and older	May 31, 2020
Exchange Transfusion Versus Plasma From Convalescent Patients With Methylene Blue in Patients With COVID-19 (COVID-19) (NCT04376788) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04376788	Egypt Ain Shams University	Open label RCT	Phase 2	15 participants	18 to 65 years	June 1, 2020
CORIPLASM Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma to Treat COVID-19 Patients, a Nested Trial in the CORIMUNO-19 Cohort (NCT04345991) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04345991	France Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris	Open label RCT	Phase 2	120 participants	18 years and older	June 1, 2020

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
Convalescent Plasma Trial in COVID -19 Patients (NCT04356534) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04356534	Bahrain Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain	Open label RCT	NA	40 participants	21 years and older	June 20, 2020
Convalescent Plasma for COVID-19 (NCT04365439) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04365439	Italy Enos Bernasconi	Single group, open label	NA	10 participants	18 to 75 years	June 30, 2020
Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma Therapy in Severely Sick COVID-19 Patients (NCT04346446) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04346446	India Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, India	Open label RCT	Phase 2	40 participants	18 years and older	June 30, 2020
Convalescent Antibodies Infusion in Critically Ill COVID 19 Patients (NCT04346589) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04346589	Italy A.O. Ospedale Papa Giovanni XXIII	Single group, open label	NA	10 participants	18 years and older	July 2020
ConPlas-19 Convalescent Plasma Therapy vs. SOC for the Treatment of COVID19 in Hospitalized Patients (NCT04345523) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04345523	Spain Cristina Avendaño Solá	Open label RCT	Phase 2	278 participants	18 years and older	July 2020
CONCOVID Convalescent Plasma as Therapy for Covid-19 Severe SARS-CoV-2 Disease (NCT04342182) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04342182	Netherlands Erasmus Medical Center	Open label RCT	Phase 2 & 3	426 participants	18 years and older	July 1, 2020
COPLA Treatment of Severe Forms of COronavirus Infection With Convalescent PLASma (NCT04357106) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04357106	Mexico Centro de Hematología y Medicina Interna	Single group, open label	Phase 2	10 participants	18 years and older	August 2020
CoVID-19 Plasma in Treatment of COVID-19 Patients (NCT04355897) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04355897	USA The Christ Hospital	Single group, open label	Early Phase 1	100 participants	18 to 80 years	August 2020

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
Plasma of the convalescent in the treatment of novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) common patient: a prospective clinical trial http://www.chictr.org.cn/hvshowproject.aspx?id=23426	China China-Japan friendship hospital	Open label RCT	NR	50 participants	18 years and older	August 15, 2020
Investigating Effect of Convalescent Plasma on COVID-19 Patients Outcome: A Clinical Trial (NCT04327349) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04327349	Iran Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences	Single group, open label	NA	30 participants	30 to 70 years	September 30, 2020
COPLASCOV19 Convalescent Plasma for Ill Patients by Covid-19 (NCT04356482) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04356482	Mexico Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado	Single group, open label	Phase 1 & 2	90 participants	16 years and older	December 2020
CP-COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma for Patients With COVID-19: A Randomized, Open Label, Parallel, Controlled Clinical Study (NCT04332835) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04332835	Columbia Universidad del Rosario	Open label RCT	Phase 2 & 3	80 participants	18 to 60 years	December 31, 2020
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Inactivated Convalescent Plasma in the Treatment of COVID-19 (NCT04292340) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04292340	China Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center	Prospective observational	NR	15 participants	NR	December 31, 2020
Convalescent plasma for the treatment of severe novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19): a prospective randomized controlled trial http://www.chictr.org.cn/hvshowproject.aspx?id=23000	China China-Japan friendship hospital	Open label non-randomized	NR	200 participants	18 to 55 years	February 5, 2021
Convalescent Plasma Collection and Treatment in Pediatrics and Adults (NCT04376034) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04376034	USA West Virginia University	Prospective, non-randomized comparative	Phase 3	240 participants	1 month and older	March 30, 2021

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
PassItOnII Passive Immunity Trial of Nashville II for COVID-19 (NCT04362176) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04362176	USA Vanderbilt University Medical Center Dolly Parton	Triple blind, placebo-controlled RCT	Phase 3	500 participants	18 years and older	April 2021
Plasma Therapy of COVID-19 in Critically Ill Patients (NCT04359810) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04359810	USA Columbia University	Double blind RCT	Phase 2	105 participants	18 years and older	April 2021
Experimental Use of Convalescent Plasma for Passive Immunization in Current COVID-19 Pandemic in Pakistan in 2020 (NCT04352751) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04352751	Pakistan Hilton Pharma	Single group, open label	NA	2,000 participants	18 to 55 years	April 2021
Anti COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Therapy (NCT04345679) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04345679	Hungary Orthosera Kft.	Single group, open label	Early Phase 1	20 participants	18 years and older	April 1, 2021
Convalescent Plasma as Treatment for Hospitalized Subjects With COVID-19 Infection (NCT04343755) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04343755	USA Hackensack Meridian Health	Single group, open label	Phase 2a	55 participants	18 years and older	April 2021
Convalescent Plasma in the Treatment of COVID 19 (NCT04343261) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04343261	USA Saint Francis Care	Single group, open label	Phase 2	15 participants	18 years and older	April 1, 2021
Convalescent Plasma for Treatment of COVID-19 Patients With Pneumonia (NCT04374565)	USA University of Virginia	Single group, open label	Phase 2	29 participants	18 years and older	April 5, 2021
Potential Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma to Treat Severe COVID-19 and Patients at High Risk of Developing Severe COVID-19 (NCT04347681) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04347681	Saudi Arabia King Fahad Specialist Hospital Dammam	Open label non-randomized	Phase 2	40 participants	18 to 85 years	April 11, 2021
Therapeutic Plasma Exchange Alone or in Combination With Ruxolitinib in COVID-19 Associated CRS (NCT04374149) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04374149	USA Prisma Health-Upstate	Open label non-randomized	Phase 2	20 participants	12 to 80 years	April 30, 2021

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
Safety in Convalescent Plasma Transfusion to COVID-19 (NCT04333355) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04333355	Mexico Hospital San Jose Tec de Monterrey	Single group, open label	Phase 1	20 participants	18 years and older	April 30, 2021
PLASCOSSA Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma Therapy in the Early Care of COVID-19 Patients (NCT04372979) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04372979	France Direction Centrale du Service de Santé des Armées	Triple blind RCT	Phase 3	80 participants	18 to 80 years	May 2021
Convalescent Plasma in ICU Patients With COVID-19-induced Respiratory Failure (NCT04353206) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04353206	USA	Single group, open label	Early Phase 1	90 participants	18 years and older	May 2021
A Phase II, Open Label, Randomized Controlled Trial to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma to Limit COVID-19 Associated Complications (NCT04374487) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04374487	India Max Healthcare Institute Limited	Open label RCT	Phase 2	100 participants	18 to 85 years	May 9, 2021
COP-COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Compared to the Best Available Therapy for the Treatment of SARS-CoV-2 Pneumonia (NCT04358783) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04358783	Mexico Hospital Universitario	Quadruple blind RCT	Phase 2	30 participants	18 years and older	May 30, 2021
CCAP Efficacy and Safety of Novel Treatment Options for Adults With COVID-19 Pneumonia (NCT04345289) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04345289	Denmark Hvidovre University Hospital	Quadruple blind RCT	Phase 3	1,500 participants	18 years and older	June 15, 2021
LIFESAVER Early transfusion of Convalescent Plasma in Elderly COVID-19 Patients. to Prevent Disease Progression. (NCT04374526) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04374526	Italy Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS	Multicentered, open label, RCT	Phase 2 & 3	182 participants	65 years and older	June 30, 2021

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
REP-COVID Plasma Exchange in Patients With COVID-19 Disease and Invasive Mechanical Ventilation: a Randomized Controlled Trial (NCT04374539) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04374539	Spain Fundacion Clinic per a la Recerca Biomédica	Multicentered, open label, RCT	Phase 2	116 participants	18 years and older	August 29, 2021
Convalescent Plasma vs. Standard Plasma for COVID-19 (NCT04344535) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04344535	USA Stony Brook University	Quadruple blind RCT	Phase 1 & 2	500 participants	18 years and older	August 31, 2021
Efficacy and Safety of Early COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma in Patients Admitted for COVID-19 Infection (NCT04375098) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04375098	Chile Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	Open label RCT	Phase 2	30 participants	18 years and older	December 2021
Clinical Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy of Treatment With Hyperimmune Plasma Obtained From Convalescent Antibodies of COVID-19 Infection (NCT04366245) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04366245	Spain Andalusian Network for Design and Translation of Advanced Therapies	Open label RCT	Phase 1 & 2	72 participants	18 to 80 years	December 2021
ESCAPE Evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Antibody-containing Plasma thErapy (NCT04361253) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04361253	USA Brigham and Women's Hospital	Double blind RCT	Phase 3	220 participants	12 months and older	December 2021
COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (NCT04340050) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04340050	USA University of Chicago	Single group, open label	Early Phase 1	10 participants	18 years and older	December 31, 2021
Study on convalescent plasma treatment for severe patients with novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) http://www.chictr.org.cn/hvshowproject.aspx?id=22455	China The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University School of Medicine	Open label non-randomized	NR	20 participants	18 to 99 years	February 15, 2022
Human Convalescent Plasma for High Risk Children Exposed or Infected With SARS-CoV-2 (NCT04377672) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04377672	USA	Single group, open label	Phase 1	30 participants	1 Month to 18 Years	May 18, 2022

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
	Johns Hopkins University					
Convalescent Plasma vs. Placebo in Emergency Room Patients With COVID-19 (NCT04355767) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04355767	USA Stanford University	Double blind RCT	Phase 2	206 participants	18 years and older	December 2022
Study Testing Convalescent Plasma vs Best Supportive Care (NCT04333251) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04333251	USA Baylor Research Institute	Open label RCT	Phase 1	115 participants	18 years and older	December 31, 2022
Efficacy and Safety Human Coronavirus Immune Plasma (HCIP) vs. Control (SARS-CoV-2 Non-immune Plasma) Among Adults Exposed to COVID-19 (CSSC-001) (NCT04323800) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04323800	USA Johns Hopkins University	Triple blind RCT	Phase 2	150 participants	18 years and older	January 2023
Convalescent Plasma to Limit SARS-CoV-2 Associated Complications (CSSC-004) (NCT04373460) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04373460	USA Johns Hopkins University	Triple blind RCT	Phase 2	1344 participants	18 years and older	Jan 31, 2023
Convalescent Plasma to Limit COVID-19 Complications in Hospitalized Patients (NCT04364737) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04364737	USA NYU Langone Health	Double blind RCT	Phase 2	300 participants	18 to 80 years	April 30, 2023
A Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of High-Titer Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Plasma in Hospitalized Patients With COVID-19 Infection (NCT04354831) https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04354831	USA Medical College of Wisconsin	Open label non-randomized	Phase 2	131 participants	18 years and older	May 1, 2023
A randomized, double-blind, parallel-controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of anti-SARS-CoV-2 virus inactivated plasma in the treatment of severe novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) http://www.chictr.org.cn/showprojen.aspx?proj=50696	China Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University	Double-blind RCT	NR	NR	NR	NR
A randomized, double-blind, parallel-controlled, trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of anti-SARS-CoV-2 virus	China	Double-blind RCT	NR	NR	NR	NR

Trial Name (Registration Number); Link	Country; Primary Sponsor	Study Design	Trial Phase	Number of Expected Participants	Age	Expected Study Completion Date
inactivated plasma in the treatment of severe novel coronavirus pneumonia patients (COVID-19) http://www.chictr.org.cn/showprojen.aspx?proj=49777	Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital (Wuhan Infectious Diseases Hospital)					
Clinical study for infusing convalescent plasma to treat patients with new coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) http://www.chictr.org.cn/hvshowproject.aspx?id=22631	China Affiliated Hospital of Xuzhou Medical University	Open label non-randomized	NR	90 participants	18 to 60 years	NR
Experimental study of novel coronavirus pneumonia rehabilitation plasma therapy severe novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) http://www.chictr.org.cn/hvshowproject.aspx?id=22719	China The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University	RCT	NR	100 participants	18 to 65 years	NR

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease; NA = not applicable; NR = not reported; RCT = randomized controlled trial.