

COMMITTEE TO PROTECT MEDICARE

3317 W Fullerton Ave.

Chicago, IL 60647

(844) 856-9445

info@committeetoprotect.org

<https://committeetoprotect.org/>

WI physicians condemn Sen. Johnson for spreading medical misinformation

As physicians, we have a duty to speak up when we see harm.

Recent efforts by the **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons** to promote so-called “home-based” treatments for COVID-19 are reckless, dangerous and potentially life-threatening to millions of Americans who are already suffering during this pandemic.

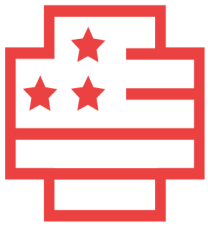
We are even more concerned when senior government policymakers such as U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, who chairs the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that plays a key role in coordinating our nation’s pandemic response, endorse these unproven “home-based” remedies.

These suggested treatments, cataloged in “A guide to home-based COVID-19 treatment: Step-by-step doctors’ plan that could save your life,” contain medically inaccurate misinformation that threatens people’s health and safety. Authors **Jane Orient**, MD, executive director of the AAPS, and **Elizabeth Lee Vliet**, MD, co-authored this guide with contributions from physicians such as **Stella Immanuel**, who attributes endometriosis and other gynecological conditions to demons and says **alien DNA** is being used in developing medicines.

Orient’s and Vliet’s guide is laden with claims that data and evidence do not support.

The guide promotes **hydroxychloroquine**, an arthritis and anti-malarial drug that the Food and Drug Administration warns is unlikely to be effective in treating COVID-19 and may in fact cause harm in certain patients. The FDA **cautions**: “In light of ongoing serious cardiac adverse events and other potential serious side effects, the known and potential benefits of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine no longer outweigh the known and potential risks for the authorized use.”

The guide’s recommendation for COVID-19 patients to take dexamethasone is potentially dangerous. While dexamethasone benefits critical patients, current **evidence** shows that use of the corticosteroid actually increases the risk of death in COVID19 patients who don’t require supplemental oxygen.



COMMITTEE TO PROTECT MEDICARE

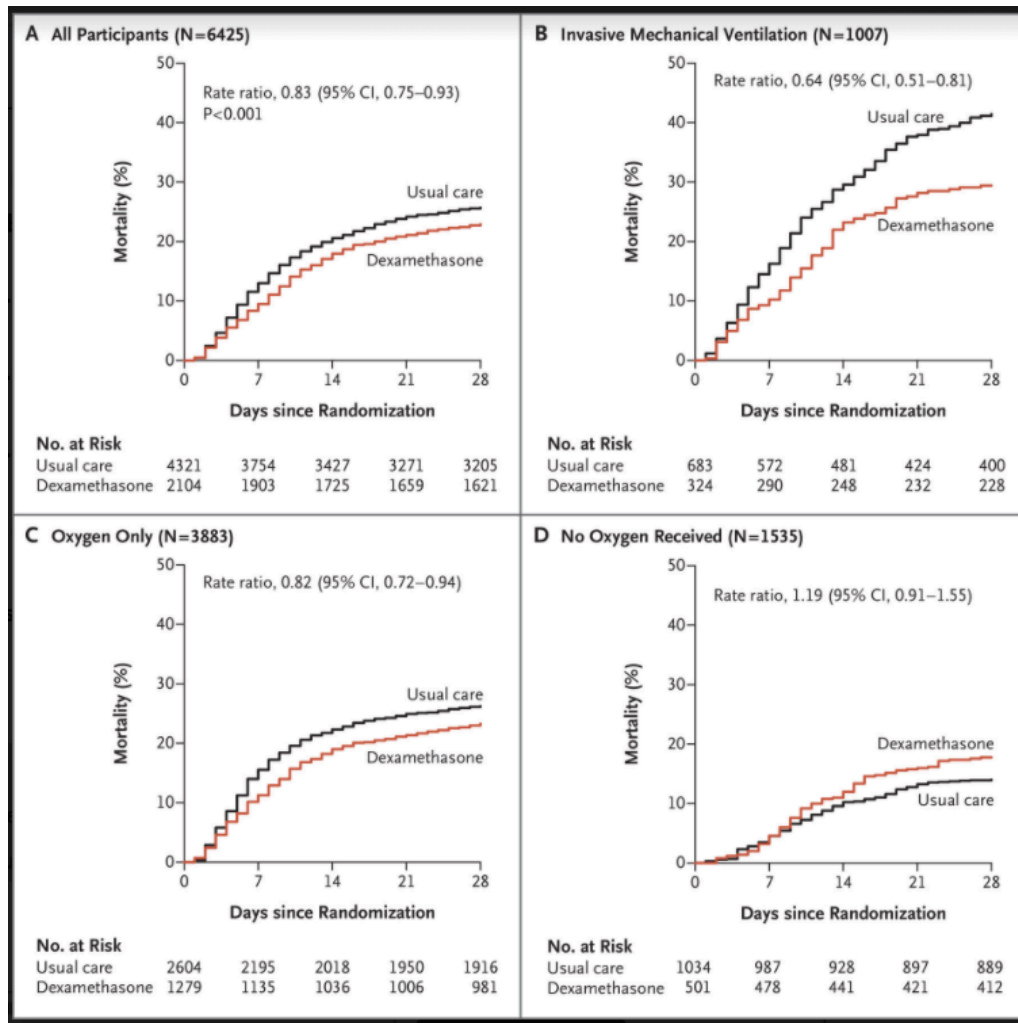
3317 W Fullerton Ave.

Chicago, IL 60647

(844) 856-9445

info@committeetoprotect.org

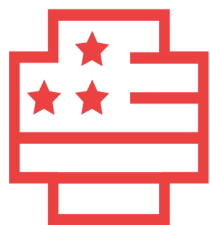
<https://committeetoprotect.org/>



The home-remedy guide recommends outpatients take Eliquis or low-molecular weight heparin, a blood thinner. The **National Institutes of Health** cautions that data doesn't support this treatment for either hospitalized or non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

By promoting this guide, the authors, contributors and those associated with them perpetuate the dangerous perception that individuals with COVID-19 can treat themselves at home, using commonly available medications, when data and evidence are either inconclusive about the effectiveness of these treatments or, worse, that they may actually cause harm.

Furthermore, the guide may encourage people with COVID-19 to self-diagnose themselves at home when medical and public health experts are still learning more about this new coronavirus. This may, in turn, discourage people who need a full



COMMITTEE TO PROTECT MEDICARE

3317 W Fullerton Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
(844) 856-9445

info@committeetoprotect.org
<https://committeetoprotect.org/>

spectrum of care for COVID-19 from seeking the professional and comprehensive treatment they need, including treatment at a hospital.

As cases continue to rise rapidly in Wisconsin and COVID-19 sickens and kills more people every day, individuals and families deserve to get information that is accurate and evidence-based.

By promoting misleading and medically inaccurate misinformation, the AAPS -- which **rejects mask wearing** and social distancing despite the **overwhelming evidence** of their effectiveness at reducing COVID-19 infections -- is putting people's lives at risk. That this threat to health and safety comes from physicians who took an oath to do no harm is an outrage and deserves to be roundly condemned.

Signed:

Robert Freedland, MD; Ophthalmologist & WI State Lead of the Committee to Protect Medicare (La Crosse, WI)

Rob Davidson, MD; Emergency Physician & Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Medicare (Spring Lake, MI)

April Anderson, MD; Emergency medicine (West palm beach, FL)

Allen Babbitz, MD; OB/GYN (Milwaukee, WI)

Bronwyn Baz, MD, FAAP; Pediatric Hospital Medicine (Portland, OR)

Rebecca Beach, MD; Family Medicine (Richland Center, WI)

Jennifer Black, MD; Palliative Medicine (Portland, OR)

Joseph Budovec, MD; Radiology (Brookfield, WI)

Karen Chao, MD; Pediatrics (Milwaukee, WI)

Joannabelle Cosiquien, MD; Family Medicine (Eau Claire, WI)

Eric Einstein, MD; Emergency medicine (San Diego, CA)

Carol Gaines, MD; Neurology (Racine, WI)

Jay Gold, MD; Preventive Medicine (Madison, WI)

Ada Hall, MD; Ophthalmology (Neenah, WI)

Alexandra Harrington, MD; Pathologist (Franklin, WI)

Ann Helms, MD; Neurology (Brookfield, WI)



COMMITTEE TO PROTECT MEDICARE

3317 W Fullerton Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
(844) 856-9445

info@committeetoprotect.org
<https://committeetoprotect.org/>

William Hocking, MD; Oncology-Hematology (Marshfield, WI)
Jeff Huebner, MD; Family Medicine (Madison, WI)
Thomas Hunt, MD; Family Medicine (Eau Claire, WI)
Wanda Kalencki, DO; Anesthesiology (Sheboygan, WI)
Gary Katz, MD; Emergency medicines (Dublin, OH)
Kathryn Kostic, MD; Ob/gyn (Mequon, WI)
Jeffrey Kushner, MD; Cardiology (Madison, WI)
Bradley Lauderdale, MD; Pulmonary/Critical Care (Neenah, WI)
Caroline Ledbetter, RN; Pediatric Critical Care (Madison, WI)
Michael Lutes, MD; Emergency Medicine (Wauanakee, WI)
Laurel Mark, MD; Internal Medicine (Madison, WI)
Kristi Maso, MD; Critical Care (Milwaukee, WI)
Jesse Maupin, MD; Internal Medicine, Hospital Medicine (Madison, WI)
Jennifer McIntosh, DO; OB/GYN (Shorewood, WI)
Gabriel Mihailescu, MD; Internal Medicine (Brussels, WI)
Natasha Minnaert, DO; Family medicine (Galesville, WI)
Shannon Offerman, MD; Radiation Oncology (Cedarburg, WI)
Jeremy Olsen, MD; Emergency Medicine (Minneapolis, MN)
Jean Pearce, MD; Pediatric Emergency Medicine (Delafield, WI)
Michelle Pesek-McCoy, MD; Emergency Medicine (Milwaukee, WI)
Art Rein, MD; Internal Medicine (Waterford, WI)
Margaret Schwarze, MD; Surgery (Madison, WI)
Ilana Shumsky, MD; Internal Medicine (Boise, ID)
Anita Somani, MD; ObGyn (Dublin, OH)
Kristine Strickland, MD; Maternal Fetal Medicine (Oconomowoc, WI)
Stacy Syrcle, MD; Ob-Gyn (Milwaukee, WI)
Heather Tramel, NP; Acute Care Hospitalist (Madison, WI)
Madelaine Tully, MD; Family Medicine (Milwaukee, WI)
Angela Verardo, MD; Pediatric Endocrinology (Westfield, NJ)