

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS **RESEARCH SUMMARY**

TOPIC: HEPARIN KEEPS SOME COVID PATIENTS OFF A VENTILATOR
REPORT: MB #4960

BACKGROUND: Researchers conducted a global trial treating moderately ill COVID patients with blood thinners to reduce clots, and evaluated their need for organ support, like ventilation, and their chances of leaving the hospital sooner. The study found the earlier a hospitalized patient is put on blood thinner the better chance they have to go home and stay out of the ICU. Researchers started this trial because they observed that people who have died of COVID-19 because of blood clots forming throughout their bodies. The study results showed patients responded best if they were moderately ill and received a full dose of heparin, a commonly used blood thinner.

(Source: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/full-dose-blood-thinners-reduce-need-organ-support-moderately-ill-covid-19-patients-not-critically-ill-patients>)

COMPLICATIONS: Four-point-six percent of the patients given blood thinners to reduce their COVID-19 symptoms experienced severe bleeding that required a blood transfusion, and the adverse effect was not associated with the prophylactic anticoagulation medication. COVID-19 patients have very “sticky” blood, due to the sickness causing them to develop deep vein thrombosis, which can break off and travel through the patient’s body causing clots. Those who are pregnant should not receive anti-coagulants.

(Source: <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/blood-thinners-may-protect-against-covid-19-complications#Collecting-patient-data>)

NEW TECHNOLOGY: New research indicates technology developed to fight COVID-19 may help doctors figure out ways to also fight cancer. mRNA is being developed further with the technology used for the COVID-19 vaccine. Normally when using mRNA to treat cancer, it doesn’t last long in the body. Researchers from China have developed and tested a new hydrogel that stabilizes mRNA and contains it, allowing a slower release into the body. This compound improves the immune response to vaccines, making mRNA more effective, but not a cure yet. They first did this with the COVID-19 vaccine, creating the vaccine to attack infected cells; however, if researchers could transfer this over to cancerous cells, they say cancer could potentially be easier to beat.

(Source: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-covid-19-technology-may-help-fight-cancer-in-the-near-future#What-the-future-holds>)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT:

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If this story or any other Ivanhoe story has impacted your life or prompted you or someone you know to seek or change treatments, please let us know by contacting Marjorie Bekaert Thomas at mthomas@ivanhoe.com