

The Hague, October 27, 2020

From: Idelette Nutma, Sepsis en daarna, patient platform
Dr. Ir. R. Graaff, retired, unpaid associate professor, UMCG
Mrs. M. Lindhout, director of the patient association Hersenletsel.nl

To: The Minister of VWS, H.M. de Jonge and mr. ing. H.E. Soorsma, director of Public Health

Subject: Vitamin C as an adjuvant treatment for COVID-19

This letter was sent on the 3rd of June 2020, in response to your letter from the 15th of May

Dear Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport and Director of Public Health,

On June 3, we sent you a second letter on the subject "Vitamin C as an adjuvant treatment to COVID-19." Unfortunately, we have not yet received a response. We understand, of course, that a response in these times of crisis requires more time, but in the interest of so many patients, we would like to draw your attention to this subject again. Patient association Hersenletsel.nl is now also supporting the importance of this therapy. Prof. Oudemans has withdrawn due to her retirement.

In view of the "second Corona wave" and the continued impact of the virus on our society, the undersigned consider it very important that the proposals as mentioned in our letter receive more explicit attention. We ask that you give more priority to the fact that critically ill COVID-19 patients (who often show a clinical picture of sepsis) have very low vitamin C levels, as was again found in recent research.¹ In the considerations that are currently being made regarding the use of this therapy, the question: "What is in the interest of the patient?" deserves an answer that focuses much more on supplementing the deficiency that characterizes these vulnerable patients to a great extent.

We are surprised that only other drugs that do carry safety risks have been used in the ICU in the context of 'compassionate use' and some of them are even 'considered as treatment options', while the collected evidence of the effect of vitamin C and its effects in practice (see also the FLCCC)² are not inferior to these means. In our opinion, public health does not benefit from giving vitamin C therapy no space in the search for what can support patients in their fight against the virus.

We look forward to your response,

Yours sincerely and with kind regards, on behalf of

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Idelette Nutma

¹ Chiscano-Camon, L. et al. Vitamin C levels in patients with SARS-CoV-2-associated respiratory distress syndrome. Crit Care. 2020 Aug 26;24(1):522. doi: 10.1186/s13054-020-03249-y. PMID: 32847620; PMCID: PMC7447967.

² Frontline COVID-19 Critical Care Consortium. <https://covid19criticalcare.com/>