

Bismuth subsalicylate as potential treatment for Covid-19 pneumonia: A case series report

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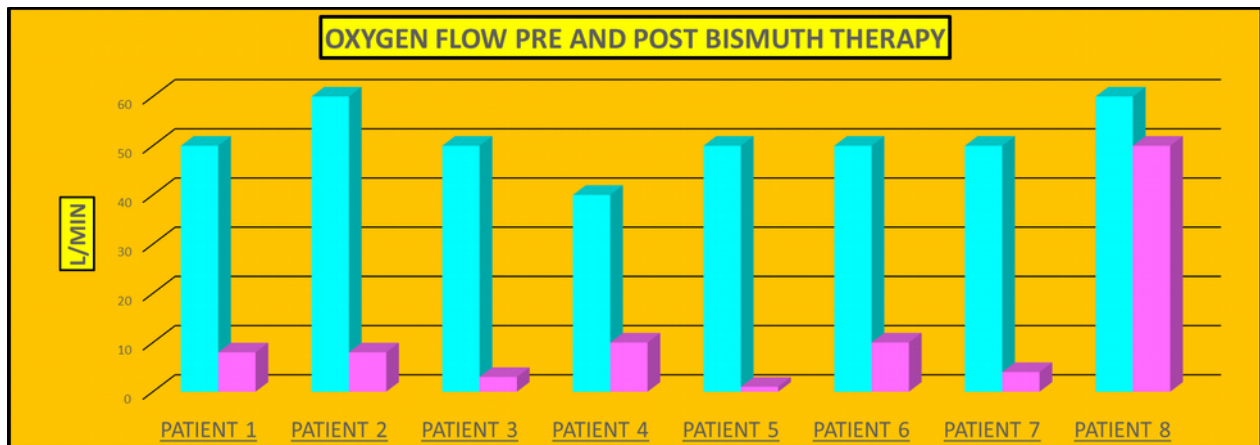
Chris Kahlenborn, MD; Walter B. Severs, PhD; Khalid Nawab, MD

On August 31, 2022, an interesting article was published in the medical journal, *Frontiers in Drug Discovery*, that bismuth subsalicylate (the active ingredient in Pepto-Bismol), appears to be beneficial for the treatment of Covid pneumonia and may also be useful against other viruses. Bismuth subsalicylate decreased the oxygen requirements in seven out of eight hospitalized patients, most of whom did not respond to standard Covid drugs (see Table 3 below, taken from article). Bismuth subsalicylate works by inhibiting two critical enzymes needed for viral replication (NTPase and helicase). Further large studies are needed to confirm these observations and bismuth subsalicylate should not be taken for long periods or in excessively high doses as it may cause kidney damage. However, this medicine may have important implications if it consistently shows benefits against viruses like Covid. It is easily accessible and affordable to people worldwide who may not be able to afford many expensive anti-Covid drugs. The abstract of the article follows in addition to a link.

ABSTRACT:

Various literature cited suggests that bismuth may have usefulness against Covid-19 both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. During the course of caring for Covid-19 patients we administered bismuth subsalicylate to those who displayed diarrhea and/or gastric complaints. Using relatively conservative criteria, upon retrospective review, we noted marked improvement in oxygen requirements in most of the cases. This improvement was observed even when prior therapy with standard anti-Covid drugs had failed. Our overall impression is that these positive results support a detailed evaluation of bismuth as an adjunct treatment for the treatment of Covid-19

Table 3: from article in Frontiers in Drug Discovery, showing decrease in oxygen requirements after patients with Covid received short course of bismuth subsalicylate:



Link:

https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fddsv.2022.962988/full?utm_source=F-NTF&utm_medium=EMLX&utm_campaign=PRD_FEOPS_20170000_ARTICLE