



Anti-HIV Drugs for COVID-19

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Why in News

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has issued revised guidelines on the '**Clinical Management of COVID-19**'.

- COVID-19 patients may present with **mild, moderate, or severe illness** and the early recognition of suspected patients allows for timely initiation of infection, prevention and control.
- The Ministry has recommended use of **drug combinations Lopinavir and Ritonavir** (sold under the brand name **Kaletra**) depending upon the severity of the condition of a person having **coronavirus** infection, on a case-to-case basis.

Key Points

- Lopinavir-Ritonavir is recommended for **high-risk groups of patients** aged above 60 who are suffering from diabetes mellitus, renal failure, chronic lung disease and are immuno-compromised.
- Lopinavir-Ritonavir is used widely for controlling **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection**.
However, the use of Lopinavir-Ritonavir is also **associated with significant adverse events** which many times have led to discontinuation of therapy.
- There is **no current evidence** from randomised controlled trials to recommend any **specific treatment for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients**.
No specific antivirals are recommended for treatment of those suffering from respiratory ailment due to lack of adequate evidence from medical literature.

Source: TH