As with most viral illness, supportive care is the hallmark treatment option for COVID-19, including supplemental oxygen and mechanical ventilatory support when needed (1). There are medications approved for other indications that are currently being investigated for potential benefit in the treatment of COVID-19. Two approved medications include chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine. There are also anti-viral medications, such as Remdesivir, that are currently being investigated as well.

Both hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine have been found to have in-vitro activity against SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV2 (1). Cardiac toxicity (QT prolongation) are major safety concerns, especially in patients with hepatic or renal dysfunction or immunosuppression. Hydroxychloroquine is preferred by many due to high in-vitro activity found against SARS-CoV2 (2).

Remdesivir is an anti-viral that causes pre-mature termination of RNA transcription to inhibit viral replication. It has been found to have in-vitro activity against SARS-CoV2 and in-vitro and in-vivo activity against betacoronaviruses (3). Current methods to enroll for use of this medication include an NIH-sponsored trial, two Phase 3 open-label trials, or compassionate use indication. These medications may shorten disease duration and/or symptom severity. Despite these medication options, supportive care remains the mainstay of therapy for patients combating novel COVID-19.