

COV/GLA/20/03 - Glasgow Early Treatment Arm Favipiravir \times (GETAFIX): A randomized controlled study of favipiravir as an early treatment arm of ASTERIX in COVID-19 hospitalized patients

Favipiravir is used in Japan to treat influenza and can kill SARS-CoV2 in the laboratory⁴. The drug is safe in healthy volunteers and reached concentrations in the body needed to kill the virus. In China, 35 COVID-19 patients treated with Favipiravir recovered in 4 days compared to those treated with Lopinavir/ritonavir (45 patients) who took 11 days. We propose to treat COVID-19 patients with Favipiravir to see if it improves their chances of recovery without needing admission to intensive care, study what happens once Favipiravir is metabolised by the body, and check for drug resistance.