

Why the COVID cult of ivermectin won't die

The rise of [the ivermectin cult](#) is one of the most nonsensical storylines — in a [sea of nonsensical storylines](#) — to emerge during the pandemic. Even now, as [Covid begins to become a less dominant force](#) in our lives, the ivermectin bunkum continues.

There have been [several recent large, well-done, clinical trials](#), including one [published in the New England Journal of Medicine](#) on Wednesday, that definitively show, [according to one of the study's authors](#), “there's really no sign of any benefit.”

But this growing body of it-doesn't-work evidence hasn't stopped ivermectin champions from championing. “RETRACT PAPER @NEJM NOW!!!!!!” an anti-vaccine physician posted on [Twitter](#) a few days after the study was published. In her view it is a “CRIMINAL PAPER” that is “PROMOTING MURDER.” (All caps and exclamation marks in original, of course.)

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other ‘disruptive’ innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

Unfortunately, a large [part of the ivermectin “debate”](#) has been severely polluted by [fraudulent](#) and [poorly done](#) studies. Many of the papers that suggested a possible benefit have been [retracted](#) or found to be [fundamentally flawed](#). But the damage has been done. These studies live on as unkillable [Zombie Papers](#) that feed the “ivermectin works!” mythology.

And why do they live on? Because ivermectin very quickly became not about science but about ideology and in-group signaling.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.**](#)