

Should COVID sufferers avoid Paxlovid because of symptom rebound reports?

Paxlovid is an oral two-drug combination regimen that treats COVID-19. One drug is nirmatrelvir, an antiviral, while the second, ritonavir, inhibits the metabolism of the nirmatrelvir, maintaining therapeutic levels.

Although not perfect, Paxlovid is a breakthrough, with efficacy over 90% in treating mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and preventing hospitalization and death.

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However, physicians are seeing an unusual phenomenon in a small number of patients treated with Paxlovid – an improvement of symptoms while taking the drug, only to have them return after completion of the five-day course. It has been dubbed “Paxlovid Rebound.” There are not much data on how frequently this occurs, but [Pfizer’s application to the FDA](#) for Emergency Use does state that “several subjects appeared to have a rebound in SARS-CoV-2 RNA levels around Day 10 or Day 14.”

...

Whatever the frequency, there are several possible mechanisms to explain such a phenomenon... While a five-day course of Paxlovid is sufficient to keep about 90% of COVID victims out of the hospital and reduce their viral load 10-fold, there may be a subpopulation of people who either didn’t respond as well as others to Paxlovid or, perhaps, had a higher viral load to begin with.

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