The RECOVERY trial was started in March 2020 with the aim of identifying effective treatments for patients hospitalised with COVID-19. As new drug approvals can take many years, the trial focused on existing treatments for other diseases that could be repurposed to treat COVID-19.

On 16 June 2020, the RECOVERY trial reported dexamethasone as the first proven effective treatment for COVID-19. The trial started in the UK but has been expanded to Indonesia, Nepal, and Vietnam.

Dexamethasone and Tocilizumab were shown to be effective in patients with severe COVID-19. Both drugs have anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressant effects, which may explain the positive RECOVERY trial results.

Several treatments were found to be ineffective, including hydroxychloroquine. Knowing which treatments are ineffective is also important so patients can get the best treatment possible.

**How did it help?**

**Saving lives**
Treatment with the drugs that the RECOVERY trial has identified as effective saved the lives of patients who would otherwise have died from COVID-19.

**Collaboration**
The RECOVERY trial works alongside other ongoing trials, such as the WHO’s Solidarity trial, which are testing the efficacy of other treatments for COVID-19.

**Setting precedents**
The RECOVERY trial has set a precedent for how large scale, user-friendly trials can be set up and run in an emergency situation that could be used in the future.