



Taibbi: Why Has “Ivermectin” Become A Dirty Word?

Description

On December 8, 2020, when most of America was consumed with what *The Guardian* called Donald Trump’s “desperate, mendacious, frenzied and sometimes farcical” attempt to remain president, the Senate’s Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on the “[Medical Response to Covid-19](#).” One of the witnesses, a pulmonologist named Dr. Pierre Kory, insisted he had great news.



Kory was referring to an FDA-approved medicine called ivermectin. A genuine wonder drug in other

realms, ivermectin has all but eliminated parasitic diseases like river blindness and elephantiasis, helping discoverer Satoshi O?mura win the [Nobel Prize in 2015](#). As far as its uses in the pandemic went, however, research was still scant. Could it really be a magic Covid-19 bullet?

Kory had been trying to make such a case, but complained to the Senate that public efforts had been stifled, because “every time we mention ivermectin, we get put in Facebook jail.” A *Catch-22* seemed to be ensnaring science. With the world desperate for news about an unprecedented disaster, Silicon Valley had essentially decided to disallow discussion of a potential solution — disallow calls for more research and more study — because not enough research and study had been done. Once, people weren’t allowed to take drugs before they got FDA approval. Now, they can’t talk about them.

by Matt Taibbi

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