
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

News Review

Covid-19: Drug trial gives hope

The story

Remdesivir is an antiviral that was originally developed as a treatment for Ebola. A full clinical trial of more than a thousand people suggests it cuts coronavirus symptoms from an average of 15 days down to 11. However, the impact on deaths is still not certain, and the fine detail is lacking. The data has not been published or reviewed by independent scientists. It means we cannot be convinced of the drug's effectiveness or usefulness.

Vocabulary

clear-cut

obvious; easy to understand

- It was a clear-cut penalty. How did the referee miss it?
- The election result was not clear-cut. A coalition government is likely to follow.

opening the door

making something possible

- By going to university, you're opening the door to job opportunities.
- Lockdown has opened the door for online delivery companies.

show promise

give an indication of likely success

- Picasso showed promise even when he was a child. His drawings were brilliant.
- Treatment to help people with sleeping problems has been showing promise.