

COVID-19 VACCINATION IN SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

**THE EVOLUTION OF EVIDENCE ON COVID-19 VACCINATION IN SOLID ORGAN
TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS: A LIVING SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND NETWORK
META-ANALYSIS**

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A thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science

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TITLE: The evolution of evidence on COVID-19 vaccination in solid organ transplant recipients: a living systematic review and network meta-analysis

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LAY ABSTRACT

Solid organ transplant recipients are at a higher risk of infection from COVID-19 due to their required long-term immunosuppressive medications. Unfortunately, due to their high risk of infection, transplant recipients were excluded from the initial clinical trials investigating the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. As a result, there is limited research investigating the use of COVID-19 vaccines on clinical outcomes in transplant recipients; however, new studies are being frequently conducted and published. To identify and summarize the studies conducted to date that investigated the impact of different COVID-19 vaccination strategies in transplant recipients, we systematically reviewed the literature. Furthermore, we evaluated how the research evidence and the conclusions drawn from this evidence changed over time throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABSTRACT

Background: The impact of COVID-19 vaccination on clinical outcomes in solid organ transplant (SOT) recipients remains unclear. This living systematic review and network meta-analysis sought to assess the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in SOT recipients and to evaluate the evolution of evidence in this population over time.

Methods: We searched six databases from inception to March 1st, 2024 for randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and observational studies evaluating different COVID-19 vaccination strategies (i.e., number of doses, type of vaccine) in SOT recipients. Based on patient-important outcomes, we performed frequentist random-effects pairwise meta-analyses and NMAs, separating RCTs and observational studies, and used the GRADE approach to assess certainty in the evidence. We compared the body evidence identified at four timepoints (October 1st, 2022, March 1st, 2023, July 1st, 2023, and March 1st, 2024).

Results: We included 6 RCTs (N=814) and 42 observational studies (N=125,101). We identified a dose-response relationship between the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and a reduction in the risk of COVID-19 infection. The evidence evaluating the number of doses on other patient-important outcomes, including mortality, hospitalization, and ICU admission, and the evidence investigating the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccine demonstrated low to very low certainty. Across the four iterations of this living systematic review, the conclusions drawn from the evidence supported by randomized data largely remained unchanged; however, half of the conclusions drawn from the evidence supported by observational data changed in certainty or direction.

Conclusion: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, clinicians and SOT recipients worked with minimal evidence with variable certainty in relation to COVID-19 vaccines in this population. In the instance of future public health emergencies, clinicians and researchers should collaborate closely with patient partners to ensure there is adequate evidence in the transplant population on patient-important outcomes.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CI: Confidence interval

GRADE: Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation

HR: Hazard ratio

ICEMAN: Instrument for assessing the Credibility of Effect Modification Analyses

ICU: Intensive care unit

MOOSE: Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology

NR: Not reported

OR: Odds ratio

PRISMA: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses

PROSPERO: The International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews

RCT: Randomized controlled trial

RD: Risk difference

ROBINS-I: Risk Of Bias In Non-randomized Studies - of Interventions

RR: Relative risk

SOT: Solid organ transplantation

USA: United States of America

DECLARATION OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

This thesis has been prepared in fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Science (MSc) degree in the Health Research Methodology program. Daniel Rayner prepared this thesis under the supervision of Dr. Farid Foroutan, who acted as the primary supervisor of all aspects of this research thesis. Dr. Farid Foroutan, Dr. Gordon Guyatt, and Dr. Carolina Alba served as internal thesis committee members. Dr. Shahid Husain served as the external thesis committee member.

Dr. Farid Foroutan, Dr. Natasha Aleksova, and Daniel Rayner conceived and designed the study. Dr. Natasha Aleksova, David Gou, Jairo Nunes, Si-Cheng Dai, Alexandro Chu, Dorisa Meng, and Aleesha Sheikh, and Daniel Rayner contributed to the systematic literature review screening and data extraction process. Daniel Rayner performed the data analysis and wrote the first draft of the thesis. All supervisory committee members provided feedback on the thesis proposal and thesis draft.

CHAPTER 1: Introduction

1.1 Outline

This written thesis includes my graduate research work to satisfy the requirements for a Master of Science (MSc) degree in the Health Research Methodology program. The focus of this thesis is to contribute an important study on the value of living systematic review methodology using an example of the evolution of evidence supporting COVID-19 vaccines in solid organ transplant recipients over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this introductory chapter, I provide a narrative summary of the literature on solid organ transplantation, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on solid organ transplant recipients and living systematic review methodology.

1.2 Solid organ transplantation

Solid organ transplantation (SOT) is a medically effective treatment to improve the quality of life and survival of patients living with end-stage organ dysfunction (Black et al., 2018). In 2022, nearly 2900 solid organ transplantations were performed in Canada, of which 59% were kidney, 20% were liver, 12% were lung, 5% were heart, 2% were pancreas, and the remaining 2% were combination transplants (Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2023a; Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2023b).

Following transplantation, SOT recipients are required to strictly adhere to long-term immunosuppressive therapy, including calcineurin inhibitors, glucocorticoids, mycophenolate,

and mTOR inhibitors, to promote allograft survival and reduce their risk of donor organ rejection (Shi et al., 2020). However, this immunosuppressive regimen also increases SOT recipients' risk of infections, including viral (e.g., cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus), bacterial (e.g., urinary tract infections, pneumonia), and parasitic and fungal infections (e.g., toxoplasmosis, candidiasis) (Tarhini et al., 2023; Pappas et al., 2010; Hamandi et al., 2016; Fishman, 2017). These infections may increase SOT recipients' risk of mortality, allograft rejection, and development of malignancy (Sanromán Budiño et al., 2004).

1.3 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SOT recipients

Given their need for life long immunosuppressive therapy and their frequent underlying comorbidities, including diabetes mellitus (Jenssen & Hartmann, 2019) and hypertension (Zbroch et al., 2012), SOT recipients are at a high risk of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 (Pereira et al., 2020). Evidence from early stages of the pandemic suggests that SOT recipients are at a 3.5-fold higher risk of COVID-19-related mortality compared to their healthy counterparts (Williamson et al., 2020). Previous literature suggests that 26% to 63% (Cochran et al., 2022; Schaenman et al., 2022) of SOT recipients are hospitalized and 13% to 30% (Azzi et al., 2021) die due to COVID-19.

Despite their enhanced risk of infection, SOT recipients were excluded from the initial randomized controlled trials (RCTs) investigating the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccines (Polack et al., 2020; Baden et al., 2021; Voysey et al., 2021), leading to a paucity of direct evidence evaluating their use in this population. Furthermore, previous studies have demonstrated that SOT

recipients may experience a reduced immune response due to their immunosuppressive medications (Boyarsky et al., 2021; Georgery et al., 2021; Hoffman et al., 2022; Mazzola et al., 2022). However, evidence from other immunosuppressed populations has shown that seroconversion does not strongly confer protection against the COVID-19 infection and mortality (Ollila et al., 2022), demonstrating a need for studies evaluating the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on clinical outcomes in SOT recipients.

1.4 Living systematic reviews

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses serve as means to bridge the gap between primary research evidence and clinical practice, promoting the provision of optimal health care (Sarkies et al., 2017). However, traditional systematic reviews frequently suffer from significant limitations, including their long production time and the fact that their findings can become quickly outdated with the publication of new studies (Sampson et al., 2008; Shojania et al., 2007). Living systematic reviews—reviews that are continuously updated, critically appraising and incorporating new studies as they are published—offer a novel solution to the limitations of traditional systematic reviews (Elliott et al., 2014). These living systematic reviews have been increasingly used in instances where the topic is a priority for decision-making, there is rapidly emerging and evolving evidence, and there is low certainty in the current evidence, such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Heron et al., 2023). Living systematic reviews are also an approach to reduce research waste created by outdated systematic reviews (Vandvik et al., 2016), which is a prevalent issue in the field of solid organ transplantation research (Salih et al., 2023).

1.5 Research questions

Given the paucity of evidence evaluating COVID-19 vaccines in SOT recipients in relation to clinical outcomes and the rapidly emerging evidence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we developed a living international clinical practice guideline on COVID-19 vaccination in SOT recipients. To inform this guideline, we conducted a living systematic review and network meta-analysis evaluating different COVID-19 vaccination strategies in SOT recipients. Through our systematic review and network meta-analysis, we answered the following research questions:

- (1) In SOT recipients, what is the impact of the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses on clinical outcomes?
- (2) In SOT recipients, what is the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccine on clinical outcomes?
- (3) How do the conclusions drawn from the evidence evaluating COVID-19 vaccines in SOT recipients evolve over time?

CHAPTER 2: Key Methodological Considerations

2.1 Types of included studies

To answer our research questions, we chose to include both randomized and non-randomized comparative studies in our systematic review. Generally, RCTs offer the best source of evidence for evidence syntheses of interventions informing clinical practice guidelines due to the risk of confounding and other sources of bias that non-randomized studies of interventions suffer from (Sterne et al., 2016). Despite these limitations, non-randomized studies may provide evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to complement evidence from RCTs (in the paucity of randomized evidence) (Cuello-Garcia et al., 2022). Given the expected limited randomized evidence evaluating COVID-19 vaccines in the SOT population, we elected to incorporate both randomized and non-randomized studies and evaluate them in parallel. However, we restricted non-randomized studies to those reporting multivariable analyses (propensity matching, Cox proportional hazards models, logistic regression models) to minimize the risk of confounding in our analysis.

2.2 Evaluating dose-response relationships

In answering our first research question (i.e., what is the impact of the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses on clinical outcomes?), we expected to encounter instances where we would need to assess the credibility of a dose-response relationship. To assess the credibility of a dose-response relationship, we followed existing guidance from the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation) Working Group (Murad et al., 2023), which involves consideration of (a) an appropriate analytical approach, (b) the likelihood of residual confounding,

(c) the likelihood of ecological bias, (d) consistency across studies, (e) and support from indirect bias. If the dose-response gradient was determined to be credible, we rated up our certainty in the evidence by one level.

2.3 Living review methodology

In answering our third research question (i.e., how do the conclusions drawn from the evidence evaluating COVID-19 vaccines in SOT recipients evolve over time?), we had to determine which metrics we would use to compare the conclusions drawn between timepoints. The GRADE approach, which is used to evaluate the certainty in the evidence, has four levels of evidence: (a) high, (b) moderate, (c) low, and (d) very low (Guyatt et al., 2008). When using the GRADE approach relative to a non-zero effect, one can make two distinct directional inferences: (a) the intervention increases the outcome compared to the comparator, (b) the intervention decreases the outcome compared to the comparator, and (c) the intervention has little to no difference on the outcome compared to the comparator. To evaluate the conclusions drawn from the evidence over multiple time periods, we assessed the changes in the certainty of the evidence and the directions of the inferences.

CHAPTER 3: Study Methods

3.1 Study design and reporting

We conducted this systematic review and network meta-analysis with guidance from the Cochrane Handbook (Higgins & Green, 2008) and we report its results in accordance with PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses) and MOOSE (Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) guidelines (Page et al., 2021; Stroup et al., 2000). We prospectively registered our systematic review protocol in PROSPERO (The International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews) (CRD42022348418).

3.2 Data sources and searches

With assistance from a health research librarian with experience in solid organ transplantation, we conducted a systematic search of MEDLINE (Ovid), Embase (Ovid), CENTRAL (Ovid), the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Ovid), Clinicaltrials.gov, and the WHO COVID-19 Database. This search was repeated on a monthly basis between February 1st, 2022 and March 1st, 2024. **Appendix 1** presents the search strategies for each database. To identify additional eligible studies, we searched the reference lists of all included studies. We did not impose any restrictions based on language or publication status of the identified citations.

3.3 Study selection and data collection

We included RCTs and comparative observational (non-randomized) studies that enrolled SOT recipients and compared the impact of different COVID-19 vaccine strategies (i.e., number

of doses [3 doses vs 2 doses, 3 doses vs no vaccination, etc.], the type of COVID-19 vaccine [Moderna vs Pfizer, AstraZeneca vs Pfizer]). We included observational studies if they evaluated outcomes using multivariable analyses (Cox proportional hazards models, or logistic regression models) or propensity matching. We did not place any restrictions based on language or on publication status. If more than one study assessed the same source population, comparators, and outcomes, we included the study with the largest analyzed sample size.

Pairs of calibrated reviewers screened titles and abstracts and reviewed full-texts independently and in duplicate using Covidence (Veritas Health Innovation, Melbourne, Australia). Subsequently, paired reviewers independently extracted data using standardized pre-piloted Excel forms. We resolved disagreements between reviewers through discussion, and if necessary, a third reviewer. Collected data included study design, setting, patient characteristics (e.g., age, sex, type of SOT, management strategies of recipients, etc.), intervention and comparator characteristics, outcomes, and sources of funding. We extracted outcome data from RCTs according to the intention-to-treat principle.

3.4 Outcome measures

As part of a living international clinical practice guideline, we consulted our panel of patient partners, transplant physicians, and infectious disease specialists, who prioritized ten patient-important outcomes for assessment of benefits and harms. These outcomes included:

- (1) all-cause mortality (critical)
- (2) all-cause hospitalization (critical)
- (3) intensive care unit (ICU) admission (critical)

- (4) symptomatic COVID-19 infection (important)
- (5) graft-related adverse events (important)
- (6) worsening allograft function and/or allograft failure (important)
- (7) mental health impact (important)
- (8) quality of life (important)
- (9) long COVID-19 symptoms or post-COVID-19 conditions (important)
- (10) long-term impact on functioning and health status (important)

Based on the availability of the data, for the purpose of this thesis project, we assessed the following patient-important outcomes: mortality, COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and ICU admission.

3.5 Risk of bias assessment

Pairs of calibrated reviewers independently assessed the risk of bias of eligible studies using the Cochrane Collaboration’s Risk-of-Bias 2.0 tool for RCTs (Sterne et al., 2019) and the ROBINS-I (Risk Of Bias In Non-randomised Studies - of Interventions) tool for observational studies (Sterne et al., 2016). Risk of bias assessments were conducted for each eligible outcome for all included studies.

3.6 Data synthesis and data analysis

We analyzed outcomes from RCTs and observational studies separately. We calculated effect estimates in pairwise meta-analyses using DerSimonian and Laird random-effects models using the ‘meta’ R package. Similarly, where appropriate, we performed contrast-based,

frequentist, random-effects network meta-analyses using the ‘netmeta’ R package. For network meta-analyses evaluating the number of COVID-19 vaccines, network nodes represented unique numbers of doses (i.e., 4 vs 3 vs 2 vs 1 vs 0 doses).

We pooled dichotomous outcomes as odds ratios (OR) with accompanying 95% confidence intervals (CIs). For observational studies reporting point estimates and 95% CIs using relative risks (RR) or hazard ratios (HR), we converted values to OR by calculating absolute risks using formulas derived by Foroutan et al. (2020). We determined absolute effect estimates using the median baseline risk reported in the control arm (e.g., no vaccination) of the included observational studies.

All analyses were conducted in R version 4.1.2 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria). A p-value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

3.7 Subgroup analyses

We analyzed prespecified subgroups using pairwise comparisons in instances where at least two subgroups had two or more studies. We appraised the credibility of the subgroup effects using the Instrument for assessing the Credibility of Effect Modification Analyses (ICEMAN) (Schandelmaier et al., 2020). Our prespecified subgroups were risk of bias, pregnancy status at the time of COVID-19 infection, sex, organ group (e.g., heart, lung, liver, kidney), use of mycophenolate-based immunosuppression, and number of maintenance immunosuppressive agents used. We hypothesized that the use of mycophenolate-based immunosuppression, and greater numbers of maintenance immunosuppressants used in studies would decrease the efficacy

of COVID-19 vaccines. Subgroups involving the impact of sex, organ group or pregnancy status were exploratory in nature and did not have a hypothesized direction.

3.8 Certainty of evidence

We used the GRADE approach to evaluate the certainty of the evidence in relation to a non-zero effect (Brignardello-Petersen et al., 2020). The GRADE approach for network meta-analysis involves assessment of risk of bias, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, publication bias, intransitivity, and incoherence. We evaluated incoherence using node splitting and intransitivity by evaluating for imbalanced distributions of potential effect modifiers across studies included in the network meta-analyses. We evaluated publication bias through visual assessment of funnel plots. In the instance of potential dose-response relationships, we assessed their credibility using established guidance (Murad et al., 2023), and if credible, we rated our certainty in the evidence up one level. We presented our synthesized results and their associated certainty in the evidence in summary of findings tables.

3.9 Living systematic review

To evaluate the evolution of evidence surrounding COVID-19 vaccines in SOT recipients over time, the aforementioned methodology was conducted using the cumulative set of studies captured by the systematic literature searches at four timepoints:

- (1) Timepoint 1 - October 1st, 2022
- (2) Timepoint 2 - March 1st, 2023
- (3) Timepoint 3 - July 1st, 2023
- (4) Timepoint 4 - March 1st, 2024

We descriptively compared the directions of the inferences drawn and the certainty of the evidence for each comparison across the four timepoints.

CHAPTER 4: Results

4.1 Summary of included studies

Our systematic literature searches up to March 1st, 2024 yielded 8,994 unique records, of which 1,056 full-texts were retrieved for further screening. Ultimately, we included 48 studies in our systematic review (6 RCTs and 42 observational studies). Three studies (6%) were pre-prints, and the remaining 45 (94%) studies were published articles. **Appendix 2** lists the studies included in our systematic review. **Appendix 3** lists examples of studies excluded during the full-text screening process. The PRISMA flowchart illustrating the study selection process is presented as

Figure 1.

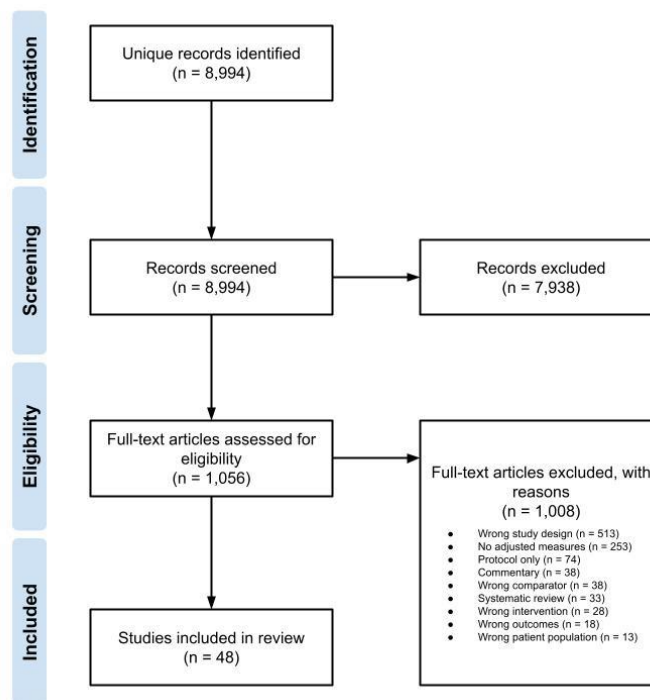


Figure 1. PRISMA flow diagram showing study selection process.

The included studies were published between August 2021 and December 2023. **Figure 2** presents the months and years of publication of the included studies.

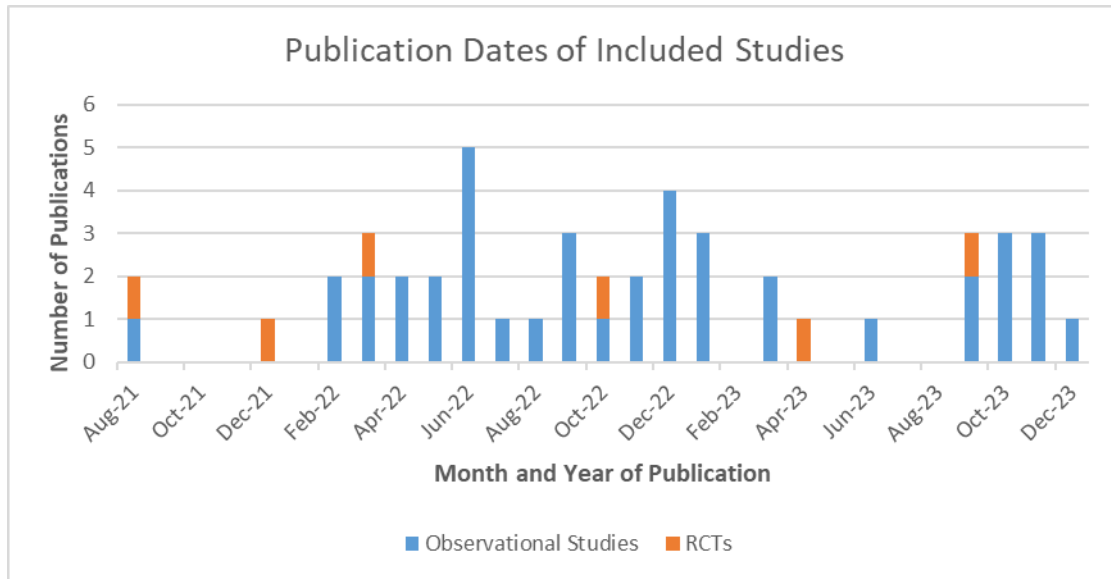


Figure 2. Stacked column chart demonstrating publication trends of the included studies.

Key characteristics of the included RCTs ($n = 814$ patients) are summarized in **Table 1**. Among the 6 included RCTs, the median number of participants randomized was 123 (range: 60–201). These RCTs included participants with a median of mean ages of 58.5 years (range of means: 50.7–67.0 years) and a median of 35% female patients (range of proportions: 34–58%). Three RCTs (50%) evaluated populations of mixed SOT recipients, and three RCTs (50%) evaluated only kidney transplant recipients.

Table 1. Characteristics of the included RCTs (n = 6).

| Study (First Author Last Name, Year) | Country | Recruitment Period | N Randomized | Mean Age (Years) | Female (%) | Mean Time from Transplant (Years) | Transplanted Organ Group |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Drenko 2023 | Czech Republic | Sep 2021 – Oct 2021 | 125 | 59.5 | 34% | 7.7 | Kidney |
| Hall 2021 | Canada | May 2021 – Jun 2021 | 120 | 67.0 | 34% | 3.6 | Mixed |
| Kho 2022 | The Netherlands | Apr 2021 – Jul 2021 | 230 | 57.4 | 35% | 7.0 | Kidney |
| Natori 2023 | USA | Sep 2021 – Dec 2021 | 60 | 54.2 | 34% | 1.2 | Mixed |
| Reindl-Schwaighofer 2022 | Austria | Jun 2021 – Aug 2021 | 201 | 61.2 | 58% | 4.8 | Kidney |
| Speich 2022 | Switzerland | Apr 2021 – Jun 2021 | 78 | 50.7 | 37% | NR | Mixed |

Note: NR = Not reported; USA = United States of America.

Key characteristics of the included observational studies (n = 125,101 patients) are summarized in **Table 2**. Of the 42 observational studies, the median number of participants included was 618 (range: 41–18,174). These studies included participants with a median of mean ages of 54.5 years (range of means: 42.9–66.6 years) and had a median of 41% female patients (range of proportions: 4–72%). Eighteen studies (43%) assessed a mixed SOT population, followed by kidney (n = 17, 40%), liver (n = 4, 10%), lung (n = 2, 5%), and heart (n = 1, 2%) transplant recipients.

Table 2. Characteristics of the included observational studies (n = 42).

| Study (First Author Last Name, Year) | Country | Recruitment Period | N Included | Mean Age (Years) | Female (%) | Mean Time from Transplant (Years) | Transplanted Organ Group |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Aslam 2022 | USA | Jan 2021 – Aug 2021 | 1904 | 56.9 | 36% | 4.4 | Mixed |
| Bonazzetti 2023 | Italy | Feb 2021 – Jan 2022 | 614 | 57.3 | 35% | 7.6 | Mixed |
| Callaghan 2023 | England | Dec 2020 – Mar 2022 | 12454 | NR | 41% | NR | Mixed |
| Chen 2023 | Taiwan | Apr 2022 – Aug 2022 | 622 | 53.6 | 51% | 11.4 | Kidney |
| Collaborative 2022 | United Kingdom | Dec 2020 – May 2022 | 8925 | NR | 37% | NR | Kidney |
| Demir 2022 | Turkey | Apr 2020 – Oct 2021 | 164 | 48.7 | 50% | 8.8 | Kidney |
| Elhadji 2023 | France | Jan 2015 – Dec 2021 | 10637 | NR | NR | NR | Kidney |
| Hall 2022 | Canada | Jan 2020 – Sep 2021 | 297 | 55.3 | 33% | 6.7 | Mixed |
| Hamm 2022 | Denmark | Dec 2020 – Dec 2021 | 143 | 49.3 | 36% | 6.2 | Mixed |
| Hardgrave 2022 | USA | Feb 2020 – Jan 2022 | 144 | 51.2 | 44% | NR | Mixed |
| Hiam 2021 | Qatar | Feb 2021 – Jul 2021 | 782 | 50.4 | 33% | 8.0 | Kidney |
| Hod 2022 | Israel | Dec 2021 – Mar 2022 | 447 | 61.5 | 70% | 4.6 | Kidney |
| Joerns 2022 | USA | Mar 2020 – Sep 2021 | 54 | 54.5 | 54% | 4.1 | Lung |
| John 2022 | USA | Dec 2020 – Sep 2021 | 1924 | NR | 4% | 6.8 | Liver |
| Kee 2022 | Multiple | Jan 2020 – Mar 2022 | 657 | NR | NR | NR | Kidney |
| Korogiannou 2023 | Greece | Dec 2021 – Sep 2022 | 451 | 51.8 | 39% | 6.6 | Kidney |
| Kwon 2022 | USA | Mar 2021 – Dec 2021 | 227 | NR | NR | NR | Mixed |
| Lerner 2022 | USA | Dec 2021 – May 2022 | 103 | 56.2 | 48% | 6.1 | Mixed |
| Llamas 2023 | Mexico | Mar 2020 – Feb 2022 | 153 | 55.0 | 50% | 4.9 | Liver |
| Ma 2022 | China | NR – Jun 2022 | 1881 | 42.9 | 72% | NR | Liver |
| Masetti 2023 | Italy | Dec 2021 – Nov 2022 | 268 | 61.4 | 26% | 12.3 | Heart |
| Mazuecos 2022 | Spain | Apr 2021 – Oct 2021 | 481 | 55.0 | 38% | 6.0 | Kidney |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|------|-----|-----|--------|
| McEvoy 2022 | Canada | Mar 2020 – Jul 2021 | 1793 | 60.2 | 36% | 8.5 | Kidney |
| Mikhailov 2023 | Germany | Feb 2020 – Jul 2022 | 578 | 54.2 | 61% | 8.4 | Kidney |
| Mues 2022 | USA | Dec 2020 – Jan 2022 | 18174 | 50.9 | 53% | NR | Mixed |
| Naylor 2022 | Canada | Dec 2020 – Nov 2021 | 12842 | 57.7 | 38% | 7.7 | Mixed |
| Naylor 2024 | Canada | Aug 2021 – Apr 2022 | 6240 | 62.5 | 39% | 7.5 | Mixed |
| Pinto-Alvarez 2022 | Colombia | Mar 2021 – May 2022 | 6963 | 51.8 | 42% | NR | Mixed |
| Rasmussen 2022 | Denmark | Sep 2021 – Jul 2022 | 800 | 52.9 | 43% | NR | Mixed |
| Sanayei 2023 | USA | Jan 2022 – Sep 2022 | 323 | 60.8 | 37% | 7.3 | Mixed |
| Sandoval 2022 | USA | Mar 2020 – Oct 2021 | 646 | 57.0 | 45% | 5.1 | Mixed |
| Sindu 2023 | USA | Mar 2020 – Aug 2022 | 195 | 66.6 | 58% | 3.1 | Lung |
| Singh 2024 | USA | Feb 2021 – Apr 2022 | 400 | 54.0 | 41% | 1.1 | Kidney |
| Thotsiri 2022 | Thailand | Jan 2021 – Jul 2022 | 146 | 47.0 | 44% | 4.3 | Kidney |
| Tucker 2022 | USA | Jan 2021 – Aug 2021 | 1668 | 55.1 | 38% | 9.1 | Mixed |
| Udomkarnjananun 2023 | Thailand | Mar 2021 – Oct 2022 | 413 | 47.0 | 57% | 5.1 | Kidney |
| Vieira 2022 | USA | Mar 2020 – Nov 2021 | 109 | NR | NR | NR | Kidney |
| Vinson 2022a | USA | Dec 2020 – May 2022 | 12969 | NR | 41% | NR | Mixed |
| Vinson 2022b | USA | Dec 2020 – Oct 2021 | 15560 | NR | NR | NR | Mixed |
| Wong 2022 | Australia | Dec 2021 – Jan 2022 | 41 | 52.0 | 49% | 8.5 | Kidney |
| Zhang 2023 | China | Dec 2022 – May 2023 | 930 | 51.0 | 22% | 3.2 | Liver |
| Zona 2023 | USA | Apr 2020 – Apr 2022 | 979 | 56.1 | 58% | NR | Kidney |

Note: NR = Not reported; USA = United States of America.

Risk of bias assessments conducted for each outcome are presented in **Appendix 4**. From the 6 RCTs included, 9 unique risk of bias assessments were conducted, of which all were at an overall low risk of bias. Of the 42 observational studies included, 64 unique risk of bias assessments were conducted, of which 60 were at a serious risk of bias; the remaining 4 were at a moderate risk of bias. No outcomes from observational studies were at a low risk of bias. Of those at a serious risk of bias, study limitations included a lack of adjustment for important confounders, and the potential for immortal-time bias due to the selection of participants for the study.

Appendices 5 and 6 present the forest plots and funnel plots for all pairwise meta-analyses. **Appendix 7** presents the subgroup analyses. For all timepoints, we did not observe any credible subgroup differences by organ group (e.g., heart, lung, liver, kidney). We were unable to explore effect modification by pregnancy status, sex, use of mycophenolate-based immunosuppression, or the number of maintenance immunosuppressive agents used due to an insufficient number of studies reporting data necessary to evaluate these subgroups.

Appendix 8 presents the network meta-analysis plots, network league tables, and node-splitting plots for all timepoints. **Appendix 9** presents the comparison of potential effect modifiers across pairwise comparisons to assess network transitivity in the networks. We did not observe any significant incoherence or intransitivity.

4.2 Review findings from Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022)

4.2.1 Summary of included studies

The systematic review capturing studies published until October 1st, 2022 identified 22 eligible studies (3 RCTs [n = 399 patients] and 19 observational studies [n = 69,892 patients]).

Among the 3 included RCTs, the median number of participants randomized was 120 (range: 78–201). These RCTs included participants with a median of mean ages of 61.2 years (range of means: 50.7–67.0 years) and a median of 37% female patients (range of proportions: 34–58%). Two RCTs (67%) evaluated populations of mixed SOT recipients, and one RCTs (33%) evaluated only kidney transplant recipients.

Across the 19 included observational studies, the median number of participants included was 657 (range: 41–18,174). These studies included participants with a median of mean ages of 55.0 years (range of means: 48.7–60.2 years) and had a median of 38% female patients (range of proportions: 4–54%). Ten studies (53%) assessed a mixed SOT population, followed by kidney (n = 7, 37%), liver (n = 1, 5%), and lung (n = 1, 5%) recipients. No study evaluated solely heart transplant recipients.

4.2.2 Number of vaccine doses

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of vaccine doses using data from RCTs. One RCT evaluated the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses on patient-important outcomes. Based on randomized data, we are very uncertain on the impact of three doses on the risk of COVID-19 infection compared to two doses (**Table 3**).

Table 3. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (randomized data) using evidence up to October 1st, 2022.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (Two doses) | 270 per 1000 | - | - | - |
| Three doses | -161 (-266 to 482) | - | - | - |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to October 1st, 2022. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| More effective than two doses | Probably more effective than two doses |
| Less effective than two doses | Probably less effective than two doses |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than two doses | Very uncertain on the comparison to two doses |
| May be less effective than two doses | |

We identified a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of COVID-19 doses received on the risk of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization from COVID-19, and mortality from COVID-19 (**Table 4**). Pairwise meta-analyses were conducted to evaluate the impact of the number of COVID-19 doses on the risk of ICU admission from COVID-19. We observed a credible dose-response relationship between increasing the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and a reduced risk of COVID-19 infection and mortality from COVID-19, but not for other patient-important outcomes (**Appendix 10**). Moderate certainty evidence demonstrates that three and two doses of any COVID-19 vaccine probably reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and mortality from COVID-19. Low certainty evidence suggests that three doses may reduce the risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 and that one dose may have little to no difference compared to no vaccination on the risk of COVID-19 infection. There was very low certainty evidence for all other combinations of COVID-19 vaccine doses and patient-important outcomes.

Table 4. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (non-randomized data) using evidence up to October 1st, 2022.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (No Vaccination) | 51 per 1000 | 530 per 1000 | 122 per 1000 | 110 per 1000 |
| Four doses | - | - | - | - |
| Three doses | -43 (-46 to -39) | -156 (-265 to -32) | - | -92 (-105 to -52) |
| Two doses | -27 (-33 to -19) | -82 (-174 to 17) | -61 (-102 to 44) | -40 (-64 to -5) |
| One dose | -13 (-26 to 7) | -50 (-230 to 131) | - | -8 (-63 to 98) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to October 1st, 2022. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

High certainty evidence

More effective than no vaccination

Less effective than no vaccination

Moderate certainty evidence

Probably more effective than no vaccination

Probably less effective than no vaccination

Low certainty evidence

May be more effective than no vaccination

May be less effective than no vaccination

Very low certainty evidence

Very uncertain on the comparison to no vaccination

4.2.3 Vaccine type

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the type of vaccine using data from RCTs. Two RCTs evaluated the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes; one trial compared any mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) to the J&J vaccine and one trial compared the Moderna vaccine to the Pfizer vaccine. Based on randomized data, we are very uncertain on the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes (**Table 5**).

Table 5. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (randomized data) using evidence up to October 1st, 2022.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (J&J) | 40 per 1000 | - | 20 per 1000 | 40 per 1000 |
| Pfizer or Moderna | -10 (-33 to 83) | - | -10 (-19 to 81) | 0 (-30 to 105) |
| Baseline (Pfizer) | 148 per 1000 | - | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | 11 (-136 to 611) | - | - | 1 (-6 to 92) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to October 1st, 2022. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
|--|---|
| More effective than the reference group | Probably more effective than the reference group |
| Less effective than the reference group | Probably less effective than the reference group |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than the reference group | Very uncertain on the comparison to the reference group |
| May be less effective than the reference group | |

We did not identify a sufficient number of observational studies to perform a network meta-analysis evaluating the impact of the type of vaccine on patient-important outcomes. Based on pairwise comparisons, compared to Pfizer, Moderna may reduce the risk of COVID-19-related mortality. However, the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccine on other patient-important outcomes is very uncertain (**Table 6**).

Table 6. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (non-randomized data) using evidence up to October 1st, 2022.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Pfizer | 148 per 1000 | 12 per 1000 | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | -8 (-37 to 29) | -1 (-5 to 7) | - | -3 (-4 to -1) |
| AstraZeneca | - | - | - | - |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to October 1st, 2022. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
| More effective than Pfizer | Probably more effective than Pfizer |
| Less effective than Pfizer | Probably less effective than Pfizer |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than Pfizer | Very uncertain on the comparison to Pfizer |
| May be less effective than Pfizer | |

4.3 Review findings from Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023)

4.3.1 Summary of included studies

The systematic review capturing studies published until March 1st, 2023 identified 33 eligible studies (4 RCTs [n = 629 patients] and 29 observational studies [n = 102,912 patients]).

Among the 4 included RCTs, the median number of participants randomized was 161 (range: 78–230). These RCTs included participants with a median of mean ages of 59.3 years (range of means: 50.7–67.0 years) and a median of 36% female patients (range of proportions: 34–58%). Two RCTs (50%) evaluated populations of mixed SOT recipients, and two RCTs (50%) evaluated only kidney transplant recipients.

Across the 29 included observational studies, the median number of participants included was 657 (range: 41–18,174). These studies included participants with a median of mean ages of 54.5 years (range of means: 42.9–61.5 years) and had a median of 41% female patients (range of

proportions: 4–72%). Sixteen studies (55%) assessed a mixed SOT population, followed by kidney (n = 10, 35%), liver (n = 2, 7%), and lung (n = 1, 3%) recipients. No study evaluated solely heart transplant recipients.

4.3.2 Number of vaccine doses

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of vaccine doses using data from RCTs. One RCT evaluated the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses on patient-important outcomes. Based on randomized data, we are very uncertain on the impact of three doses on the risk of COVID-19 infection compared to two doses (Table 7).

Table 7. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (Two doses) | 270 per 1000 | - | - | - |
| Three doses | -161 (-266 to 482) | - | - | - |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

High certainty evidence

More effective than two doses

Less effective than two doses

Moderate certainty evidence

Probably more effective than two doses

Probably less effective than two doses

Low certainty evidence

May be more effective than two doses

May be less effective than two doses

Very low certainty evidence

Very uncertain on the comparison to two doses

We identified a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of COVID-19 doses received on the risk of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization from COVID-19, and mortality from COVID-19 (**Table 8**). Pairwise meta-analyses were conducted to evaluate the impact of the number of COVID-19 doses on the risk of ICU admission from COVID-19. We observed a credible dose-response relationship between increasing the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and a reduced risk of COVID-19 infection, but not for other patient-important outcomes (**Appendix 10**). Moderate certainty evidence demonstrates that four, three, and two doses of any COVID-19 vaccine probably reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. Low certainty evidence suggests that three doses may reduce the risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 and mortality from COVID-19. Low certainty evidence suggests that two doses may reduce the risk of ICU admission and mortality from COVID-19. There was very low certainty evidence for all other combinations of COVID-19 vaccine doses and patient-important outcomes.

Table 8. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (non-randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (No Vaccination) | 51 per 1000 | 491 per 1000 | 177 per 1000 | 111 per 1000 |
| Four doses | -45 (-49 to -30) | 22 (-372 to 398) | - | -80 (-105 to 34) |
| Three doses | -41 (-46 to -33) | -213 (-343 to -24) | - | -95 (-105 to -71) |
| Two doses | -29 (-36 to -18) | -124 (-261 to 37) | -87 (-128 to -22) | -63 (-84 to -30) |
| One dose | -12 (-33 to 33) | -49 (-380 to 340) | - | -8 (-94 to 316) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

High certainty evidence

More effective than no vaccination

Less effective than no vaccination

Moderate certainty evidence

Probably more effective than no vaccination

Probably less effective than no vaccination

Low certainty evidence

May be more effective than no vaccination

May be less effective than no vaccination

Very low certainty evidence

Very uncertain on the comparison to no vaccination

4.3.3 Vaccine type

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the type of vaccine using data from RCTs. Three RCTs evaluated the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes; two trials compared any mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) to the J&J vaccine and one trial compared the Moderna vaccine to the Pfizer vaccine. Based on randomized data, we are very uncertain on the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes (**Table 9**).

Table 9. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (J&J) | 39 per 1000 | - | 20 per 1000 | 40 per 1000 |
| Pfizer or Moderna | -16 (-33 to 38) | - | -10 (-19 to 81) | 0 (-30 to 105) |
| Baseline (Pfizer) | 148 per 1000 | - | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | 11 (-136 to 611) | - | - | 1 (-6 to 92) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
|--|---|
| More effective than the reference group | Probably more effective than the reference group |
| Less effective than the reference group | Probably less effective than the reference group |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than the reference group | Very uncertain on the comparison to the reference group |
| May be less effective than the reference group | |

We did not identify a sufficient number of observational studies to perform a network meta-analysis evaluating the impact of the type of vaccine on patient-important outcomes. Based on pairwise comparisons, compared to Pfizer, Moderna may reduce the risk of COVID-19-related mortality and AstraZeneca may increase the risk of COVID-19 infection. However, the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccine on other patient-important outcomes is very uncertain (**Table 10**).

Table 10. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (non-randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Pfizer | 115 per 1000 | 12 per 1000 | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | -25 (-61 to 30) | -1 (-5 to 7) | - | -3 (-4 to -1) |
| AstraZeneca | 41 (17 to 69) | 5 (0 to 11) | - | 1 (-2 to 7) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
| More effective than Pfizer | Probably more effective than Pfizer |
| Less effective than Pfizer | Probably less effective than Pfizer |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than Pfizer | Very uncertain on the comparison to Pfizer |
| May be less effective than Pfizer | |

4.4 Review findings from Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023)

4.4.1 Summary of included studies

The systematic review capturing studies published until July 1st, 2023 identified 38 eligible studies (5 RCTs [n = 689 patients] and 33 observational studies [n = 114,890 patients]).

Among the 5 included RCTs, the median number of participants randomized was 120 (range: 60–230). These RCTs included participants with a median of mean ages of 57.4 years (range of means: 50.7–67.0 years) and a median of 35% female patients (range of proportions: 34–58%). Three RCTs (60%) evaluated populations of mixed SOT recipients, and two RCTs (40%) evaluated only kidney transplant recipients.

Across the 33 included observational studies, the median number of participants included was 646 (range: 41–18,174). These studies included participants with a median of mean ages of 54.1 years (range of means: 42.9–61.5 years) and had a median of 41% female patients (range of

proportions: 4–72%). Sixteen studies (49%) assessed a mixed SOT population, followed by kidney (n = 13, 39%), liver (n = 2, 6%), lung (n = 1, 3%), and heart (n = 1, 3%) recipients.

4.4.2 Number of vaccine doses

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of vaccine doses using data from RCTs. One RCT evaluated the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses on patient-important outcomes. Based on randomized data, we are very uncertain on the impact of three doses on the risk of COVID-19 infection compared to two doses (Table 11).

Table 11. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (randomized data) using evidence up to July 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (Two doses) | 297 per 1000 | - | - | - |
| Three doses | -175 (-293 to 479) | - | - | - |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to July 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

High certainty evidence

More effective than two doses

Less effective than two doses

Moderate certainty evidence

Probably more effective than two doses

Probably less effective than two doses

Low certainty evidence

May be more effective than two doses

May be less effective than two doses

Very low certainty evidence

Very uncertain on the comparison to two doses

We identified a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of COVID-19 doses received on the risk of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization from COVID-19, and mortality from COVID-19 (**Table 12**). Pairwise meta-analyses were conducted to evaluate the impact of the number of COVID-19 doses on the risk of ICU admission from COVID-19. We observed a credible dose-response relationship between increasing the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and a reduced risk of COVID-19 infection, but not for other patient-important outcomes (**Appendix 10**). Moderate certainty evidence demonstrates that four, three, and two doses of any COVID-19 vaccine probably reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. Low certainty evidence suggests that three doses may reduce the risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 and mortality from COVID-19. Low certainty evidence suggests that two doses may reduce the risk of ICU admission and mortality from COVID-19. There was very low certainty evidence for all other combinations of COVID-19 vaccine doses and patient-important outcomes.

Table 12. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (non-randomized data) using evidence up to July 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (No Vaccination) | 51 per 1000 | 491 per 1000 | 177 per 1000 | 111 per 1000 |
| Four doses | -46 (-49 to -37) | 22 (-365 to 394) | - | -80 (-105 to 27) |
| Three doses | -41 (-45 to -34) | -218 (-336 to -59) | - | -91 (-102 to -67) |
| Two doses | -29 (-36 to -19) | -113 (-244 to 41) | -87 (-128 to -22) | -62 (-83 to -30) |
| One dose | -12 (-33 to 31) | -49 (-372 to 333) | - | -8 (-93 to 298) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to July 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

High certainty evidence

More effective than no vaccination

Less effective than no vaccination

Moderate certainty evidence

Probably more effective than no vaccination

Probably less effective than no vaccination

Low certainty evidence

May be more effective than no vaccination

May be less effective than no vaccination

Very low certainty evidence

Very uncertain on the comparison to no vaccination

4.4.3 Vaccine type

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the type of vaccine using data from RCTs. Four RCTs evaluated the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes; three trials compared any mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) to the J&J vaccine and one trial compared the Moderna vaccine to the Pfizer vaccine. Based on randomized data, low certainty evidence suggests that any mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) probably has little to no difference on COVID-19 infection compared to J&J. We are very uncertain on the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes (Table 13).

Table 13. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (randomized data) using evidence up to July 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (J&J) | 38 per 1000 | - | 20 per 1000 | 40 per 1000 |
| Pfizer or Moderna | -17 (-32 to 26) | - | -10 (-19 to 81) | 0 (-30 to 105) |
| Baseline (Pfizer) | 148 per 1000 | - | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | 11 (-136 to 611) | - | - | 1 (-6 to 92) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to July 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
|--|---|
| More effective than the reference group | Probably more effective than the reference group |
| Less effective than the reference group | Probably less effective than the reference group |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than the reference group | Very uncertain on the comparison to the reference group |
| May be less effective than the reference group | |

We did not identify a sufficient number of observational studies to perform a network meta-analysis evaluating the impact of the type of vaccine on patient-important outcomes. Based on pairwise comparisons, compared to Pfizer, Moderna may reduce the risk of COVID-19-related mortality and AstraZeneca may increase the risk of COVID-19 infection. However, the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccine on other patient-important outcomes is very uncertain (**Table 14**).

Table 14. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (non-randomized data) using evidence up to July 1st, 2023.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Pfizer | 115 per 1000 | 12 per 1000 | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | -25 (-61 to 30) | -1 (-5 to 7) | - | -3 (-4 to -1) |
| AstraZeneca | 41 (17 to 69) | 5 (0 to 11) | - | 1 (-2 to 7) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to July 1st, 2023. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| High certainty evidence | | Moderate certainty evidence | |
| More effective than Pfizer | | Probably more effective than Pfizer | |
| Less effective than Pfizer | | Probably less effective than Pfizer | |
| Low certainty evidence | | Very low certainty evidence | |
| May be more effective than Pfizer | | Very uncertain on the comparison to Pfizer | |
| May be less effective than Pfizer | | | |

4.5 Review findings from Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024)

4.5.1 Summary of included studies

The systematic review capturing studies published until March 1st, 2024 identified 48 eligible studies (6 RCTs [n = 689 patients] and 42 observational studies [n = 114,890 patients]).

Among the 6 included RCTs, the median number of participants randomized was 123 (range: 60–230). These RCTs included participants with a median of mean ages of 58.5 years (range of means: 50.7–67.0 years) and a median of 35% female patients (range of proportions: 34–58%). Three RCTs (50%) evaluated populations of mixed SOT recipients, and three RCTs (50%) evaluated only kidney transplant recipients.

Across the 42 included observational studies, the median number of participants included was 618 (range: 41–18,174). These studies included participants with a median of mean ages of 54.5 years (range of means: 42.9–66.6 years) and had a median of 41% female patients (range of

proportions: 4–72%). Eighteen studies (43%) assessed a mixed SOT population, followed by kidney (n = 17, 40%), liver (n = 4, 10%), lung (n = 2, 5%), and heart (n = 1, 2%) transplant recipients.

4.5.2 Number of vaccine doses

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of vaccine doses using data from RCTs. Two RCTs evaluated the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses on patient-important outcomes; one trial evaluated three doses versus two doses and one trial evaluated four doses versus three doses. Based on randomized data, we are very uncertain on the impact of the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses on the risk of COVID-19 infection (**Table 15**).

Table 15. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2024.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (Two doses) | 297 per 1000 | - | - | - |
| Three doses | -175 (-293 to 479) | - | - | - |
| Baseline (Three doses) | 214 per 1000 | - | - | - |
| Four doses | -62 (-162 to 155) | - | - | - |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2024. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

High certainty evidence

More effective than the reference group

Less effective than the reference group

Moderate certainty evidence

Probably more effective than the reference group

Probably less effective than the reference group

Low certainty evidence

May be more effective than the reference group

May be less effective than the reference group

Very low certainty evidence

Very uncertain on the comparison to the reference group

We identified a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the number of COVID-19 doses received on the risk of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization from COVID-19, ICU admission from COVID-19, and mortality from COVID-19 (**Table 16**). We observed a credible dose-response relationship between increasing the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and a reduced risk of COVID-19 infection, but not for other patient-important outcomes (**Appendix 10**). Moderate certainty evidence demonstrates that four, three, and two doses of any COVID-19 vaccine probably reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. Low certainty evidence suggests that three and two doses may reduce the risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 and mortality from COVID-19. There was very low certainty evidence for all other combinations of COVID-19 vaccine doses and patient-important outcomes.

Table 16. GRADE summary of findings table for number of doses (non-randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2024.

| | COVID-19 Infection | Hospitalization from COVID-19 | ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Mortality from COVID-19 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (No Vaccination) | 54 per 1000 | 512 per 1000 | 171 per 1000 | 111 per 1000 |
| Four doses | -47 (-51 to -40) | 21 (-324 to 337) | - | -80 (-105 to 26) |
| Three doses | -43 (-48 to -35) | -232 (-318 to -122) | -43 (-104 to 57) | -87 (-99 to -66) |
| Two doses | -29 (-37 to -19) | -122 (-216 to -18) | -61 (-104 to 6) | -60 (-80 to -30) |
| One dose | -13 (-34 to 31) | -103 (-304 to 137) | - | -62 (-99 to 60) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2024. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

High certainty evidence

More effective than no vaccination

Less effective than no vaccination

Moderate certainty evidence

Probably more effective than no vaccination

Probably less effective than no vaccination

Low certainty evidence

May be more effective than no vaccination

May be less effective than no vaccination

Very low certainty evidence

Very uncertain on the comparison to no vaccination

4.5.3 Vaccine type

We did not identify a sufficient number of studies to conduct a network meta-analysis evaluating the type of vaccine using data from RCTs. Four RCTs evaluated the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes; three trials compared any mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) to the J&J vaccine and one trial compared the Moderna vaccine to the Pfizer vaccine. Based on randomized data, low certainty evidence suggests that any mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) probably has little to no difference on COVID-19 infection compared to J&J. We are very uncertain on the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes (Table 17).

Table 17. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2024.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Baseline (J&J) | 38 per 1000 | - | 20 per 1000 | 40 per 1000 |
| Pfizer or Moderna | -17 (-32 to 26) | - | -10 (-19 to 81) | 0 (-30 to 105) |
| Baseline (Pfizer) | 148 per 1000 | - | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | 11 (-136 to 611) | - | - | 1 (-6 to 92) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2024. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
|--|---|
| More effective than the reference group | Probably more effective than the reference group |
| Less effective than the reference group | Probably less effective than the reference group |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than the reference group | Very uncertain on the comparison to the reference group |
| May be less effective than the reference group | |

We did not identify a sufficient number of observational studies to perform a network meta-analysis evaluating the impact of the type of vaccine on patient-important outcomes. Based on pairwise comparisons, compared to Pfizer, Moderna may reduce the risk of COVID-19-related mortality and AstraZeneca may increase the risk of COVID-19 infection. However, the impact of the type of COVID-19 vaccine on other patient-important outcomes is very uncertain (**Table 18**).

Table 18. GRADE summary of findings table for type of vaccine (non-randomized data) using evidence up to March 1st, 2024.

| | COVID-19 Infection | COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | COVID-19-Related Mortality |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) | RD (95%CI) |
| Pfizer | 115 per 1000 | 12 per 1000 | - | 6 per 1000 |
| Moderna | -25 (-61 to 30) | -1 (-5 to 7) | - | -3 (-4 to -1) |
| AstraZeneca | 41 (17 to 69) | 5 (0 to 11) | - | 1 (-2 to 7) |

Note: RD = Risk difference. Baseline risks were derived by taking the median reported risk in the comparator group across the included observational studies up to March 1st, 2024. The certainty and direction of the evidence is indicated by the colours below.

| High certainty evidence | Moderate certainty evidence |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| More effective than Pfizer | Probably more effective than Pfizer |
| Less effective than Pfizer | Probably less effective than Pfizer |
| Low certainty evidence | Very low certainty evidence |
| May be more effective than Pfizer | Very uncertain on the comparison to Pfizer |
| May be less effective than Pfizer | |

4.6 Comparison of review findings across timepoints

4.6.1 Number of vaccine doses

Across the four timepoints, the conclusions drawn from the randomized evidence largely remained unchanged (**Table 19**). Seven of eight (88%) combinations of interventions and patient-important outcomes remained unchanged over the course of the living systematic review. Most (n = 6, 86%) of these intervention and outcome combinations persistently had an absence of evidence. In Timepoint 4, evidence comparing four doses and three doses of any COVID-19 vaccine was identified, albeit with very low certainty.

Table 19. Evolution of randomized evidence assessing the number of vaccine doses.

| Four doses vs three doses | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | - | - | - | Very uncertain | Changed |
| COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Mortality | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| Three doses vs two doses | | | | | |
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Mortality | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |

Based on the observational studies, over half (n = 9, 56%) of the combinations of interventions and patient-important outcomes changed over the course of the living systematic review (**Table 20**). Of these nine changes, four (44%) stemmed from the identification of new studies in the previous absence of evidence, and the remaining five (56%) were a result of changes in the certainty in the evidence.

Table 20. Evolution of non-randomized evidence assessing the number of vaccine doses.

| Four doses vs no vaccination | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | - | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Changed |
| Hospitalization from COVID-19 | - | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Changed |
| ICU Admission from COVID-19 | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| Mortality from COVID-19 | - | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Changed |
| Three doses vs no vaccination | | | | | |
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Unchanged |
| Hospitalization from COVID-19 | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | Unchanged |
| ICU Admission from COVID-19 | - | - | - | Very uncertain | Changed |
| Mortality from COVID-19 | Probably ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | Changed |
| Two doses vs no vaccination | | | | | |
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Probably ↓ risk | Unchanged |
| Hospitalization from COVID-19 | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | May ↓ risk | Changed |
| ICU Admission from COVID-19 | Very uncertain | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | Very uncertain | Changed |
| Mortality from COVID-19 | Probably ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | Changed |
| One doses vs no vaccination | | | | | |
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | May ↓ risk | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Changed |
| Hospitalization from COVID-19 | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |
| ICU Admission from COVID-19 | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| Mortality from COVID-19 | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |

4.6.2 Vaccine type

Across the four timepoints, the conclusions drawn from the randomized evidence evaluating the type of COVID-19 vaccines also largely remained unchanged (**Table 21**). Seven of eight (88%) combinations of interventions and patient-important outcomes remained unchanged over the course of the living systematic review. Most (n = 3, 38%) of these intervention and outcome combinations persistently had an absence of evidence. The evidence evaluating mRNA vaccines versus J&J on risk of COVID-19 infection changed from very low certainty evidence to low certainty evidence suggesting mRNA vaccines may reduce risk of COVID-19 infection over the course of the living review.

Table 21. Evolution of randomized evidence assessing the type of vaccine.

| mRNA vs J&J | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | Changed |
| COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Mortality | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |
| Moderna vs Pfizer | | | | | |
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Mortality | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |

Based on the observational studies, over half (n = 5, 63%) of the combinations of interventions and patient-important outcomes remained unchanged over the course of the living systematic review (**Table 22**). All three changes (37%) stemmed from the identification of new studies in the previous absence of evidence.

Table 22. Evolution of non-randomized evidence assessing the type of vaccine.

| Moderna vs Pfizer | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Mortality | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | May ↓ risk | Unchanged |
| AstraZeneca vs Pfizer | | | | | |
| Outcome | Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022) | Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023) | Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024) | Evolution of Evidence |
| COVID-19 Infection | - | May ↑ risk | May ↑ risk | May ↑ risk | Changed |
| COVID-19-Related Hospitalization | - | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Changed |
| COVID-19-Related ICU Admission | - | - | - | - | Unchanged |
| COVID-19-Related Mortality | - | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Very uncertain | Changed |

CHAPTER 5: Discussion

5.1 Summary of study findings

We conducted this living systematic review and network meta-analysis to address the uncertainty regarding the clinical efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines in SOT recipients and to evaluate the evolution of the evidence over time. Incorporating evidence up to March 1st, 2024, moderate certainty evidence demonstrated that four, three, and two doses of any COVID-19 vaccine received probably reduces the risk of COVID-19 infection compared to no vaccination. A dose-response relationship between the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and risk of COVID-19 infection was observed, but this was not present for other patient-important outcomes. The evidence comparing different vaccine types on patient-important outcomes had low to very low certainty. Across the four iterations of this living systematic review, the conclusions drawn from the evidence supported by randomized data largely remained unchanged; however, half of the conclusions drawn from the evidence supported by observational data changed in certainty or direction of conclusion.

5.2 Study strengths and limitations

Strengths of our living systematic review include its comprehensive search strategy encompassing published and unpublished sources of data, and the use of standardized approaches, including GRADE (Guyatt et al., 2008) and ICEMAN (Schandelmaier et al., 2020), to assist with the interpretation of our review findings. Furthermore, this systematic review and meta-analysis is the first to comprehensively evaluate the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on patient-important outcomes in SOT recipients and to formally assess the evolution of the evidence over time. Finally,

our review is informed by guideline panel members, including patient partners, transplant clinicians, and infectious disease specialists. These panel members defined our clinical questions and prioritized patient-important outcomes, ensuring that the findings of our review are relevant to clinical practice.

Our systematic review suffers from several limitations. Unfortunately, our investigations are limited by the paucity of RCTs evaluating the effectiveness of different COVID-19 vaccination strategies in SOT recipients. These trials were designed with relatively small sample sizes, short follow-up periods, and were powered to assess immunogenicity outcomes rather than patient-important outcomes, and ultimately led to low and very low certainty evidence due to concerns related to imprecision. Given the limited quality randomized evidence, we leveraged observational studies that typically have larger sample sizes. Unfortunately, observational studies are prone to selection and confounding bias, thus limiting the certainty of the findings drawn from this body of evidence (Sterne et al., 2016). To mitigate this potential limitation, we restricted our included observational studies to those leveraging multivariable analysis or propensity matching.

Furthermore, our review was unable to compare the impact of all available COVID-19 vaccines on patient-important outcomes. Our review only identified evidence evaluating four vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer, J&J and AstraZeneca); we did not identify evidence for other World Health Organization-approved vaccines, including CoronaVac, BBIBP-CorV, and NVX-CoV2373. Moreover, our network meta-analysis evaluating the number of doses relies on the assumption that different vaccine types yield similar effects on patient-important outcomes. However, our review did not identify any high or moderate certainty evidence that the type of COVID-19 vaccine substantially influences its effect on patient-important outcomes.

Finally, our systematic review was unable to account for the time period in which the included studies took place and the country they were conducted in. The baseline infection rate at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and during the post-vaccination era were likely substantially different. Likewise, baseline infection rates likely differed between countries over the course of the pandemic. The changing characteristics of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, combined with the refinements made to COVID-19 vaccines over the course of the pandemic likely affected the relationship between the various COVID-19 vaccine strategies and clinical outcomes.

5.3 Relation to previous work and implications for future research

Previous systematic reviews have highlighted the dose-response relationship between the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses and enhanced seroconversion in SOT recipients (Alotaibi et al., 2023; Efros et al., 2022). Our review supports these previous findings—we identified a dose-response relationship between the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and the risk of COVID-19 infection. However, such a relationship was not confirmed for other patient-important outcomes, including hospitalization, ICU admission, and mortality due to COVID-19. This lack of dose response for mortality may be related to the less virulent strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the impact of previous COVID-19 infections during the time period in which fourth doses were available.

Our systematic review was unable to evaluate the impact of mycophenolate-based immunosuppression on COVID-19 vaccination responsiveness and patient-important outcomes. Previous systematic reviews have identified mycophenolate use as a predictor of nonresponse following COVID-19 vaccination (Meshram et al., 2022; Manothumetha et al., 2022).

Conversely, one small RCT found no significant difference in seroconversion and risk of COVID-19 infection between continuing or discontinuing antimetabolite therapy around the time of vaccination (Kho et al., 2023). Future research is needed to assess the potential modulating relationship of mycophenolate-based immunosuppressive therapies on the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination towards patient-important outcomes.

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, several national and international transplant organizations, including the American Society of Transplantation (AST), the Canadian Society of Transplantation (CST), the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), and the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) developed recommendations related to COVID-19 vaccination in solid organ transplant recipients (ISHLT/AST/ASTS, 2022; Canadian Society of Transplantation, 2023; American Society of Transplantation, 2023). All organizations strongly recommend vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 in transplant recipients. Furthermore, they recommend that transplant recipients receive 3 doses of an mRNA vaccine as their “primary series.” These recommendations are consistent with our review’s findings; across all timepoints, our review found a credible dose-response relationship between increasing the number of COVID-19 vaccines received and a reduction in the risk of COVID-19 infection. Furthermore, our review identified low certainty evidence that mRNA vaccines may reduce the risk of infection compared to non-mRNA vaccines, such as J&J and AstraZeneca. However, our review also identified low certainty observational evidence suggesting that vaccination with Moderna may reduce the risk of COVID-19 mortality compared to vaccination with Pfizer. Transplant organizations did not develop any recommendations regarding the type of mRNA vaccine during the pandemic. This decision may have been due to the paucity of evidence

comparing these COVID-19 vaccines, combined with the availability of certain vaccines in their jurisdiction at the time.

Overall, it remains difficult to assess the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on patient-important outcomes in SOT recipients due to the inherent limitations of observational studies and the limited randomized evidence throughout the course of the pandemic. Should future public health emergencies occur, clinicians and researchers should collaborate closely with patient partners to ensure there is not a paucity of research on patient-important outcomes.

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CHAPTER 7: Appendices

Appendix 1. Systematic database search strategies.

| MEDLINE | |
|--|--|
| Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to March 01, 2024> | |
| # | Searches |
| 1 | ((covid or covid-19 or covid19 or SARS-COV-2 or coronavirus or 2019-nCoV or SARS2 or 2019nCoV or SARSCOV2 or SARS-COV2 or nCov-19 or nCov19 or cov19 or cov2019 or cov-19 or cov-2019) and (vaccine\$ or vaccinating or vaccination\$1 or immunization\$ or immuniz\$ or "herd immunity" or "anti adj vaccination")).mp. |
| 2 | ((exp vaccines/ or exp vaccinations/ or vaccination refusal/ or anti-vaccination movement/ or immunization programs/ or mass vaccination/ or vaccination coverage/ or Immunity, Herd/) and (COVID-19/ or SARS-CoV-2/)) or exp COVID-19 vaccines/ |
| 3 | mRNA 1273.mp. |
| 4 | Elasomeran.mp. |
| 5 | TAK-919.mp. |
| 6 | TAK919.mp. |
| 7 | M-1273.mp. |
| 8 | M1273.mp. |
| 9 | EPK39PL4R4.af. |
| 10 | Ad26COVS1.mp. |
| 11 | JNJ-78436735.mp. |
| 12 | JNJ78436735.mp. |
| 13 | JT2NS6183B.af. |
| 14 | BNT162.mp. |
| 15 | BNT162b2.mp. |
| 16 | BNT-162B2.mp. |
| 17 | Pidacmeran.mp. |
| 18 | BNT-162C2.mp. |
| 19 | BNT-162.mp. |
| 20 | BNT162C2.mp. |
| 21 | BNT-162B1.mp. |
| 22 | BNT162B1.mp. |
| 23 | BNT-162A1.mp. |
| 24 | BNT162A1.mp. |
| 25 | Tozinameran.mp. |
| 26 | ChAdOx1 nCoV-19.mp. |
| 27 | Covishield.mp. |
| 28 | AZD1222.mp. |
| 29 | AZD-1222.mp. |
| 30 | B5S3K2V0G8.af. |
| 31 | ChAdOx1-S.mp. |
| 32 | Vaxzevria.mp. |
| 33 | Ad26-COV2-S.mp. |
| 34 | BBIBP-CorV.mp. |
| 35 | Covilo.mp. |
| 36 | CoronaVac.mp. |
| 37 | COVAXIN.mp. |
| 38 | NVX-CoV2373.mp. |
| 39 | Covovax.mp. |
| 40 | Nuvaxovid.mp. |
| 41 | Sputnik V.mp. |
| 42 | Gam-COVID-Vac.mp. |
| 43 | Ad5-nCoV.mp. |
| 44 | CoV2 preS dTM.mp. |

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 45 | SCB-2019.mp. |
| 46 | (Vero Cell adj5 vaccin*).mp. |
| 47 | (CHO Cell adj5 vaccin*).mp. |
| 48 | CVnCoV.mp. |
| 49 | CV07050101.mp. |
| 50 | EpiVacCorona.mp. |
| 51 | Aurora-CoV.mp. |
| 52 | "Soberana 01".mp. |
| 53 | FINLAY-FR-1.mp. |
| 54 | "Soberana 02".mp. |
| 55 | FINLAY-FR-2.mp. |
| 56 | PastoCovac.mp. |
| 57 | Soberana Plus.mp. |
| 58 | FINLAY-FR-1A.mp. |
| 59 | (cilgavimab adj2 tixagevimab).mp. |
| 60 | (azd 1061 adj2 azd 8895).mp. |
| 61 | azd 7442.mp. |
| 62 | azd7442.mp. |
| 63 | (azd1061 adj2 azd8895).mp. |
| 64 | evusheld.mp. |
| 65 | or/1-64 |
| 66 | [Solid Organ Transplantation] |
| 67 | Organ Transplantation/ |
| 68 | exp Heart Transplantation/ |
| 69 | Kidney Transplantation/ |
| 70 | Liver Transplantation/ |
| 71 | exp Lung Transplantation/ |
| 72 | Pancreas Transplantation/ |
| 73 | Transplant Recipients/ |
| 74 | Transplantation/ |
| 75 | Immunocompromised Host/ |
| 76 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 host?).mp. |
| 77 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 patient*).mp. |
| 78 | (immunosuppressed adj2 host?).mp. |
| 79 | (immunosuppressed adj2 patient*).mp. |
| 80 | Transplant*.mp. |
| 81 | (organ? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 82 | (organ? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 83 | (organ? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 84 | (organ? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 85 | (organ? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 86 | (organ? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 87 | (organ? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 88 | (organ? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 89 | (heart? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 90 | (heart? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 91 | (heart? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 92 | (heart? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 93 | (heart? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 94 | (heart? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 95 | (heart? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 96 | (heart? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 97 | (cardiac adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 98 | (cardiac adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 99 | (cardiac adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 100 | (cardiac adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 101 | (cardiac adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 102 | (cardiac adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 103 | (cardiac adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |

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| 104 | (cardiac adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 105 | (cardiothoracic adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 106 | (cardiothoracic adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 107 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 108 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 109 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 110 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 111 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 112 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 113 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 114 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 115 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 116 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 117 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 118 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 119 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 120 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 121 | (liver? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 122 | (liver? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 123 | (liver? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 124 | (liver? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 125 | (liver? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 126 | (liver? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 127 | (liver? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 128 | (liver? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 129 | (hepat* adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 130 | (hepat* adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 131 | (hepat* adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 132 | (hepat* adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 133 | (hepat* adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 134 | (hepat* adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 135 | (hepat* adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 136 | (hepat* adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 137 | (pancrea* adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 138 | (pancrea* adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 139 | (pancrea* adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 140 | (pancrea* adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 141 | (pancrea* adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 142 | (pancrea* adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 143 | (pancrea* adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 144 | (pancrea* adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 145 | (lung? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 146 | (lung? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 147 | (lung? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 148 | (lung? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 149 | (lung? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 150 | (lung? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 151 | (lung? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 152 | (lung? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 153 | (thoracic adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 154 | (thoracic adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 155 | (thoracic adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 156 | (thoracic adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 157 | (thoracic adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 158 | (thoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 159 | (thoracic adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 160 | (thoracic adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 161 | (pulmonary adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 162 | (pulmonary adj2 graft*).mp. |

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|--|--|
| 163 | (pulmonary adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 164 | (pulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 165 | (pulmonary adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 166 | (pulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 167 | (pulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 168 | (pulmonary adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 169 | (kidney? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 170 | (kidney? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 171 | (kidney? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 172 | (kidney? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 173 | (kidney? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 174 | (kidney? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 175 | (kidney? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 176 | (kidney? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 177 | (renal adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 178 | (renal adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 179 | (renal adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 180 | (renal adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 181 | (renal adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 182 | (renal adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 183 | (renal adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 184 | (renal adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 185 | or/67-184 |
| 186 | 65 and 185 |
| 187 | animals/ not (animals/ and humans/) |
| 188 | 186 not 187 |
| 189 | limit 188 to ("all infant (birth to 23 months)" or "all child (0 to 18 years)") |
| 190 | limit 188 to "all adult (19 plus years)" |
| 191 | 188 not 189 |
| 192 | 190 or 191 |
| 193 | remove duplicates from 192 |
| CENTRAL | |
| EBM Reviews - Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials | |
| # | Searches |
| 1 | ((covid or covid-19 or covid19 or SARS-COV-2 or coronavirus or 2019-nCoV or SARS2 or 2019nCoV or SARSCOV2 or SARS-COV2 or nCov-19 or nCov19 or cov19 or cov2019 or cov-19 or cov-2019) and (vaccine\$ or vaccinating or vaccination\$1 or immunization\$ or immuniz\$ or "herd immunity" or "anti adj vaccination")).mp. |
| 2 | ((exp vaccines/ or exp vaccinations/ or vaccination refusal/ or anti-vaccination movement/ or immunization programs/ or mass vaccination/ or vaccination coverage/ or Immunity, Herd/) and (COVID-19/ or SARS-CoV-2/)) or exp COVID-19 vaccines/ |
| 3 | mRNA 1273.mp. |
| 4 | Elasomeran.mp. |
| 5 | TAK-919.mp. |
| 6 | TAK919.mp. |
| 7 | M-1273.mp. |
| 8 | M1273.mp. |
| 9 | EPK39PL4R4.af. |
| 10 | Ad26COVS1.mp. |
| 11 | JNJ-78436735.mp. |
| 12 | JNJ78436735.mp. |
| 13 | JT2NS6183B.af. |
| 14 | BNT162.mp. |
| 15 | BNT162b2.mp. |
| 16 | BNT-162B2.mp. |
| 17 | Pidacmeran.mp. |
| 18 | BNT-162C2.mp. |
| 19 | BNT-162.mp. |
| 20 | BNT162C2.mp. |
| 21 | BNT-162B1.mp. |

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 22 | BNT162B1.mp. |
| 23 | BNT-162A1.mp. |
| 24 | BNT162A1.mp. |
| 25 | Tozinameran.mp. |
| 26 | ChAdOx1 nCoV-19.mp. |
| 27 | Covishield.mp. |
| 28 | AZD1222.mp. |
| 29 | AZD-1222.mp. |
| 30 | B5S3K2V0G8.af. |
| 31 | ChAdOx1-S.mp. |
| 32 | Vaxzevria.mp. |
| 33 | Ad26-COV2-S.mp. |
| 34 | BBIBP-CorV.mp. |
| 35 | Covilo.mp. |
| 36 | CoronaVac.mp. |
| 37 | COVAXIN.mp. |
| 38 | NVX-CoV2373.mp. |
| 39 | Covovax.mp. |
| 40 | Nuvaxovid.mp. |
| 41 | Sputnik V.mp. |
| 42 | Gam-COVID-Vac.mp. |
| 43 | Ad5-nCoV.mp. |
| 44 | CoV2 preS dTM.mp. |
| 45 | SCB-2019.mp. |
| 46 | (Vero Cell adj5 vaccin*).mp. |
| 47 | (CHO Cell adj5 vaccin*).mp. |
| 48 | CVnCoV.mp. |
| 49 | CV07050101.mp. |
| 50 | EpiVacCorona.mp. |
| 51 | Aurora-CoV.mp. |
| 52 | "Soberana 01".mp. |
| 53 | FINLAY-FR-1.mp. |
| 54 | "Soberana 02".mp. |
| 55 | FINLAY-FR-2.mp. |
| 56 | PastoCovac.mp. |
| 57 | Soberana Plus.mp. |
| 58 | FINLAY-FR-1A.mp. |
| 59 | (cilgavimab adj2 tixagevimab).mp. |
| 60 | (azd 1061 adj2 azd 8895).mp. |
| 61 | azd 7442.mp. |
| 62 | azd7442.mp. |
| 63 | (azd1061 adj2 azd8895).mp. |
| 64 | evusheld.mp. |
| 65 | ot/1-64 |
| 66 | Organ Transplantation/ |
| 67 | exp Heart Transplantation/ |
| 68 | Kidney Transplantation/ |
| 69 | Liver Transplantation/ |
| 70 | exp Lung Transplantation/ |
| 71 | Pancreas Transplantation/ |
| 72 | Transplant Recipients/ |
| 73 | Transplantation/ |
| 74 | Immunocompromised Host/ |
| 75 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 host?).mp. |
| 76 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 patient*).mp. |
| 77 | (immunosuppressed adj2 host?).mp. |
| 78 | (immunosuppressed adj2 patient*).mp. |
| 79 | Transplant*.mp. |
| 80 | (organ? adj2 transplant*).mp. |

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| 81 | (organ? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 82 | (organ? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 83 | (organ? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 84 | (organ? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 85 | (organ? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 86 | (organ? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 87 | (organ? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 88 | (heart? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 89 | (heart? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 90 | (heart? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 91 | (heart? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 92 | (heart? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 93 | (heart? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 94 | (heart? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 95 | (heart? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 96 | (cardiac adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 97 | (cardiac adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 98 | (cardiac adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 99 | (cardiac adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 100 | (cardiac adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 101 | (cardiac adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 102 | (cardiac adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 103 | (cardiac adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 104 | (cardiothoracic adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 105 | (cardiothoracic adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 106 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 107 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 108 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 109 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 110 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 111 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 112 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 113 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 114 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 115 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 116 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 117 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 118 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 119 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 120 | (liver? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 121 | (liver? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 122 | (liver? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 123 | (liver? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 124 | (liver? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 125 | (liver? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 126 | (liver? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 127 | (liver? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 128 | (hepat* adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 129 | (hepat* adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 130 | (hepat* adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 131 | (hepat* adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 132 | (hepat* adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 133 | (hepat* adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 134 | (hepat* adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 135 | (hepat* adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 136 | (pancrea* adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 137 | (pancrea* adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 138 | (pancrea* adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 139 | (pancrea* adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |

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| 140 | (pancrea* adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 141 | (pancrea* adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 142 | (pancrea* adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 143 | (pancrea* adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 144 | (lung? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 145 | (lung? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 146 | (lung? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 147 | (lung? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 148 | (lung? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 149 | (lung? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 150 | (lung? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 151 | (lung? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 152 | (thoracic adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 153 | (thoracic adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 154 | (thoracic adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 155 | (thoracic adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 156 | (thoracic adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 157 | (thoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 158 | (thoracic adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 159 | (thoracic adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 160 | (pulmonary adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 161 | (pulmonary adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 162 | (pulmonary adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 163 | (pulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 164 | (pulmonary adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 165 | (pulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 166 | (pulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 167 | (pulmonary adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 168 | (kidney? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 169 | (kidney? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 170 | (kidney? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 171 | (kidney? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 172 | (kidney? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 173 | (kidney? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 174 | (kidney? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 175 | (kidney? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 176 | (renal adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 177 | (renal adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 178 | (renal adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 179 | (renal adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 180 | (renal adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 181 | (renal adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 182 | (renal adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 183 | (renal adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 184 | or/66-183 |
| 185 | 65 and 184 |
| 186 | remove duplicates from 185 |
| Embase | |
| Embase <1974 to 2024 March 01> | |
| # | Searches |
| 1 | ((covid or covid-19 or covid19 or SARS-COV-2 or coronavirus or 2019-nCoV or SARS2 or 2019nCoV or SARSCOV2 or SARS-COV2 or nCov-19 or nCov19 or cov19 or cov2019 or cov-19 or cov-2019) and (vaccine\$ or vaccinating or vaccination\$1 or immunization\$ or immuniz\$ or "herd immunity" or "anti adj vaccination")).mp. |
| 2 | (exp coronavirus disease 2019/ or severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2/ or covid-19.mp. or SARS-COV-2.mp.) and (exp vaccine/ or exp vaccination/ or exp vaccination reaction/ or vaccination refusal/ or exp anti-vaccination movement/ or exp immunization/ or mass immunization/ or vaccination coverage/ or herd immunity/) |
| 3 | exp SARS-CoV-2 vaccine/ |
| 4 | cilgavimab plus tixagevimab/ |
| 5 | mRNA 1273.mp. |

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| 6 | Elasomeran.mp. |
| 7 | TAK-919.mp. |
| 8 | TAK919.mp. |
| 9 | M-1273.mp. |
| 10 | M1273.mp. |
| 11 | EPK39PL4R4.af. |
| 12 | Ad26COVS1.mp. |
| 13 | JNJ-78436735.mp. |
| 14 | JNJ78436735.mp. |
| 15 | JT2NS6183B.af. |
| 16 | BNT162.mp. |
| 17 | BNT162b2.mp. |
| 18 | BNT-162B2.mp. |
| 19 | Pidacmeran.mp. |
| 20 | BNT-162C2.mp. |
| 21 | BNT-162.mp. |
| 22 | BNT162C2.mp. |
| 23 | BNT-162B1.mp. |
| 24 | BNT162B1.mp. |
| 25 | BNT-162A1.mp. |
| 26 | BNT162A1.mp. |
| 27 | Tozinameran.mp. |
| 28 | ChAdOx1 nCoV-19.mp. |
| 29 | Covishield.mp. |
| 30 | AZD1222.mp. |
| 31 | AZD-1222.mp. |
| 32 | B5S3K2V0G8.af. |
| 33 | ChAdOx1-S.mp. |
| 34 | Vaxzevria.mp. |
| 35 | Ad26-COV2-S.mp. |
| 36 | BBIBP-CorV.mp. |
| 37 | Covilo.mp. |
| 38 | CoronaVac.mp. |
| 39 | COVAXIN.mp. |
| 40 | NVX-CoV2373.mp. |
| 41 | Covovax.mp. |
| 42 | Nuvaxovid.mp. |
| 43 | Sputnik V.mp. |
| 44 | Gam-COVID-Vac.mp. |
| 45 | Ad5-nCoV.mp. |
| 46 | CoV2 preS dTM.mp. |
| 47 | SCB-2019.mp. |
| 48 | (Vero Cell adj5 vaccin*).mp. |
| 49 | (CHO Cell adj5 vaccin*).mp. |
| 50 | CVnCoV.mp. |
| 51 | CV07050101.mp. |
| 52 | EpiVacCorona.mp. |
| 53 | Aurora-CoV.mp. |
| 54 | "Soberana 01".mp. |
| 55 | FINLAY-FR-1.mp. |
| 56 | "Soberana 02".mp. |
| 57 | FINLAY-FR-2.mp. |
| 58 | PastoCovac.mp. |
| 59 | Soberana Plus.mp. |
| 60 | FINLAY-FR-1A.mp. |
| 61 | (cilgavimab adj2 tixagevimab).mp. |
| 62 | (azd 1061 adj2 azd 8895).mp. |
| 63 | azd 7442.mp. |
| 64 | azd7442.mp. |

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| 65 | (azd1061 adj2 azd8895).mp. |
| 66 | evusheld.mp. |
| 67 | or/1-66 |
| 68 | [Solid Organ Transplantation] |
| 69 | organ transplantation/ |
| 70 | exp heart transplantation/ |
| 71 | exp hypophysis transplantation/ |
| 72 | exp intestine transplantation/ |
| 73 | exp kidney transplantation/ |
| 74 | exp liver transplantation/ |
| 75 | exp lung transplantation/ |
| 76 | exp pancreas transplantation/ |
| 77 | parathyroid transplantation/ |
| 78 | spleen transplantation/ |
| 79 | exp thymus transplantation/ |
| 80 | graft recipient/ |
| 81 | immunocompromised patient/ |
| 82 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 host?).mp. |
| 83 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 patient*).mp. |
| 84 | (immunosuppressed adj2 host?).mp. |
| 85 | (immunosuppressed adj2 patient*).mp. |
| 86 | Transplant*.mp. |
| 87 | (organ? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 88 | (organ? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 89 | (organ? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 90 | (organ? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 91 | (organ? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 92 | (organ? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 93 | (organ? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 94 | (organ? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 95 | (heart? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 96 | (heart? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 97 | (heart? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 98 | (heart? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 99 | (heart? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 100 | (heart? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 101 | (heart? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 102 | (heart? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 103 | (cardiac adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 104 | (cardiac adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 105 | (cardiac adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 106 | (cardiac adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 107 | (cardiac adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 108 | (cardiac adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 109 | (cardiac adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 110 | (cardiac adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 111 | (cardiothoracic adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 112 | (cardiothoracic adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 113 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 114 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 115 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 116 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 117 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 118 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 119 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 120 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 121 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 122 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 123 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterograft*).mp. |

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| 124 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 125 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 126 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 127 | (liver? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 128 | (liver? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 129 | (liver? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 130 | (liver? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 131 | (liver? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 132 | (liver? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 133 | (liver? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 134 | (liver? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 135 | (hepat* adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 136 | (hepat* adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 137 | (hepat* adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 138 | (hepat* adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 139 | (hepat* adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 140 | (hepat* adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 141 | (hepat* adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 142 | (hepat* adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 143 | (pancrea* adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 144 | (pancrea* adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 145 | (pancrea* adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 146 | (pancrea* adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 147 | (pancrea* adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 148 | (pancrea* adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 149 | (pancrea* adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 150 | (pancrea* adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 151 | (lung? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 152 | (lung? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 153 | (lung? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 154 | (lung? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 155 | (lung? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 156 | (lung? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 157 | (lung? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 158 | (lung? adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 159 | (thoracic adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 160 | (thoracic adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 161 | (thoracic adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 162 | (thoracic adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 163 | (thoracic adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 164 | (thoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 165 | (thoracic adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 166 | (thoracic adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 167 | (pulmonary adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 168 | (pulmonary adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 169 | (pulmonary adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 170 | (pulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 171 | (pulmonary adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 172 | (pulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 173 | (pulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 174 | (pulmonary adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 175 | (kidney? adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 176 | (kidney? adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 177 | (kidney? adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 178 | (kidney? adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 179 | (kidney? adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 180 | (kidney? adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 181 | (kidney? adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 182 | (kidney? adj2 homograft*).mp. |

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| 183 | (renal adj2 transplant*).mp. |
| 184 | (renal adj2 graft*).mp. |
| 185 | (renal adj2 allograft*).mp. |
| 186 | (renal adj2 allotransplant*).mp. |
| 187 | (renal adj2 heterograft*).mp. |
| 188 | (renal adj2 heterotransplant*).mp. |
| 189 | (renal adj2 homotransplant*).mp. |
| 190 | (renal adj2 homograft*).mp. |
| 191 | or/69-190 |
| 192 | 67 and 191 |
| 193 | (exp animals/ or exp animal experimentation/ or nonhuman/) not ((exp animals/ or exp animal experimentation/ or nonhuman/) and exp human/) |
| 194 | 192 not 193 |
| 195 | limit 194 to (embryo <first trimester> or infant <to one year> or child <unspecified age> or preschool child <1 to 6 years> or school child <7 to 12 years> or adolescent <13 to 17 years>) |
| 196 | limit 194 to (adult <18 to 64 years> or aged <65+ years>) |
| 197 | 194 not 195 |
| 198 | 196 or 197 |
| 199 | remove duplicates from 198 |
| Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews | |
| EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews <2005 to March 1, 2024> | |
| # | Searches |
| 1 | ((covid or covid-19 or covid19 or SARS-COV-2 or coronavirus or 2019-nCoV or SARS2 or 2019nCoV or SARSCOV2 or SARS-COV2 or nCov-19 or nCov19 or cov19 or cov2019 or cov-19 or cov-2019) and (vaccine\$ or vaccinating or vaccination\$1 or immunization\$ or immuniz\$ or "herd immunity" or "anti adj vaccination")).ti,ab. |
| 2 | mRNA 1273.ti,ab. |
| 3 | Elasomeran.ti,ab. |
| 4 | TAK-919.ti,ab. |
| 5 | TAK919.ti,ab. |
| 6 | M-1273.ti,ab. |
| 7 | M1273.ti,ab. |
| 8 | EPK39PL4R4.af. |
| 9 | Ad26COVS1.ti,ab. |
| 10 | JNJ-78436735.ti,ab. |
| 11 | JNJ78436735.ti,ab. |
| 12 | JT2NS6183B.af. |
| 13 | BNT162.ti,ab. |
| 14 | BNT162b2.ti,ab. |
| 15 | BNT-162B2.ti,ab. |
| 16 | Pidacmeran.ti,ab. |
| 17 | BNT-162C2.ti,ab. |
| 18 | BNT-162.ti,ab. |
| 19 | BNT162C2.ti,ab. |
| 20 | BNT-162B1.ti,ab. |
| 21 | BNT162B1.ti,ab. |
| 22 | BNT-162A1.ti,ab. |
| 23 | BNT162A1.ti,ab. |
| 24 | Tozinameran.ti,ab. |
| 25 | ChAdOx1 nCoV-19.ti,ab. |
| 26 | Covishield.ti,ab. |
| 27 | AZD1222.ti,ab. |
| 28 | AZD-1222.ti,ab. |
| 29 | B5S3K2V0G8.af. |
| 30 | ChAdOx1-S.ti,ab. |
| 31 | Vaxzevria.ti,ab. |
| 32 | Ad26-COV2-S.ti,ab. |
| 33 | BBIBP-CorV.ti,ab. |
| 34 | Covilo.ti,ab. |
| 35 | CoronaVac.ti,ab. |

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| 36 | COVAXIN.ti,ab. |
| 37 | NVX-CoV2373.ti,ab. |
| 38 | Covovax.ti,ab. |
| 39 | Nuvaxovid.ti,ab. |
| 40 | Sputnik V.ti,ab. |
| 41 | Gam-COVID-Vac.ti,ab. |
| 42 | Ad5-nCoV.ti,ab. |
| 43 | CoV2 preS dTM.ti,ab. |
| 44 | SCB-2019.ti,ab. |
| 45 | (Vero Cell adj5 vaccin*).ti,ab. |
| 46 | (CHO Cell adj5 vaccin*).ti,ab. |
| 47 | CVnCoV.ti,ab. |
| 48 | CV07050101.ti,ab. |
| 49 | EpiVacCorona.ti,ab. |
| 50 | Aurora-CoV.ti,ab. |
| 51 | "Soberana 01".ti,ab. |
| 52 | FINLAY-FR-1.ti,ab. |
| 53 | "Soberana 02".ti,ab. |
| 54 | FINLAY-FR-2.ti,ab. |
| 55 | PastoCovac.ti,ab. |
| 56 | Soberana Plus.ti,ab. |
| 57 | FINLAY-FR-1A.ti,ab. |
| 58 | (cilgavimab adj2 tixagevimab).ti,ab. |
| 59 | (azd 1061 adj2 azd 8895).ti,ab. |
| 60 | azd 7442.ti,ab. |
| 61 | azd7442.ti,ab. |
| 62 | (azd1061 adj2 azd8895).ti,ab. |
| 63 | evusheld.ti,ab. |
| 64 | or/1-63 |
| 65 | (organ? adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 66 | (organ? adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 67 | (organ? adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 68 | (organ? adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 69 | (organ? adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 70 | (organ? adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 71 | (organ? adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 72 | (organ? adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 73 | (heart? adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 74 | (heart? adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 75 | (heart? adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 76 | (heart? adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 77 | (heart? adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 78 | (heart? adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 79 | (heart? adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 80 | (heart? adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 81 | (cardiac adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 82 | (cardiac adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 83 | (cardiac adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 84 | (cardiac adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 85 | (cardiac adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 86 | (cardiac adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 87 | (cardiac adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 88 | (cardiac adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 89 | (cardiothoracic adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 90 | (cardiothoracic adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 91 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 92 | (cardiothoracic adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 93 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 94 | (cardiothoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |

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| 95 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 96 | (cardiothoracic adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 97 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 98 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 99 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 100 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 101 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 102 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 103 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 104 | (cardiopulmonary adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 105 | (liver? adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 106 | (liver? adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 107 | (liver? adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 108 | (liver? adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 109 | (liver? adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 110 | (liver? adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 111 | (liver? adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 112 | (liver? adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 113 | (hepat* adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 114 | (hepat* adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 115 | (hepat* adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 116 | (hepat* adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 117 | (hepat* adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 118 | (hepat* adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 119 | (hepat* adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 120 | (hepat* adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 121 | (pancrea* adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 122 | (pancrea* adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 123 | (pancrea* adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 124 | (pancrea* adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 125 | (pancrea* adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 126 | (pancrea* adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 127 | (pancrea* adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 128 | (pancrea* adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 129 | (lung? adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 130 | (lung? adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 131 | (lung? adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 132 | (lung? adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 133 | (lung? adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 134 | (lung? adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 135 | (lung? adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 136 | (lung? adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 137 | (thoracic adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 138 | (thoracic adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 139 | (thoracic adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 140 | (thoracic adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 141 | (thoracic adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 142 | (thoracic adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 143 | (thoracic adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 144 | (thoracic adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 145 | (pulmonary adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 146 | (pulmonary adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 147 | (pulmonary adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 148 | (pulmonary adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 149 | (pulmonary adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 150 | (pulmonary adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 151 | (pulmonary adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 152 | (pulmonary adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 153 | (kidney? adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |

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| 154 | (kidney? adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 155 | (kidney? adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 156 | (kidney? adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 157 | (kidney? adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 158 | (kidney? adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 159 | (kidney? adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 160 | (kidney? adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 161 | (renal adj2 transplant*).ti,ab. |
| 162 | (renal adj2 graft*).ti,ab. |
| 163 | (renal adj2 allograft*).ti,ab. |
| 164 | (renal adj2 allotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 165 | (renal adj2 heterograft*).ti,ab. |
| 166 | (renal adj2 heterotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 167 | (renal adj2 homotransplant*).ti,ab. |
| 168 | (renal adj2 homograft*).ti,ab. |
| 169 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 host?).ti,ab. |
| 170 | (Immunocompromi?ed adj2 patient*).ti,ab. |
| 171 | (immunosuppressed adj2 host?).ti,ab. |
| 172 | (immunosuppressed adj2 patient*).ti,ab. |
| 173 | Transplant*.ti,ab. |
| 174 | or/65-173 |
| 175 | 64 and 174 |
| Clinicaltrials.gov | |
| # | Searches |
| 1 | Condition: COVID-19 AND transplant Other terms: (vaccine OR vaccines OR vaccination OR vaccinations OR immunization OR immunizations OR immunize OR evusheld OR cilgavimab OR tixagevimab) |
| WHO Covid-19 database (up to June 2023) | |
| # | Searches |
| 1 | (tw:(transplant*)) AND (tw:((vaccine OR vaccines OR vaccination OR vaccinations OR immunization OR immunizations OR immunize OR evusheld OR cilgavimab OR tixagevimab))) |

Appendix 2. List of studies included in the systematic review.**List of included randomized studies (n = 6)**

| Study (First Author Last Name, Year) | Reference |
|---|---|
| Drenko 2023 | Drenko, P., Kacer, M., Kielberger, L., Vlas, T., Topolcan, O., Kucera, R., & Reischig, T. (2023). Safety and efficacy of one and two booster doses of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines in kidney transplant recipients: A randomized clinical trial. <i>Transplant infectious disease</i> , 25(5), e14150. https://doi.org/10.1111/tid.14150 |
| Hall 2021 | Hall, V. G., Ferreira, V. H., Ku, T., Ierullo, M., Majchrzak-Kita, B., Chaparro, C., Selzner, N., Schiff, J., McDonald, M., Tomlinson, G., Kulasingam, V., Kumar, D., & Humar, A. (2021). Randomized Trial of a Third Dose of mRNA-1273 Vaccine in Transplant Recipients. <i>The New England journal of medicine</i> , 385(13), 1244–1246. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMc2111462 |
| Kho 2022 | Kho, M. M. L., Messchendorp, A. L., Frölke, S. C., Imhof, C., Koomen, V. J., Malahe, S. R. K., Vart, P., Geers, D., de Vries, R. D., GeurtsvanKessel, C. H., Baan, C. C., van der Molen, R. G., Diavatopoulos, D. A., Remmerswaal, E. B. M., van Baarle, D., van Binnendijk, R., den Hartog, G., de Vries, A. P. J., Gansevoort, R. T., Bemelman, F. J., ... RECOVAC collaborators (2023). Alternative strategies to increase the immunogenicity of COVID-19 vaccines in kidney transplant recipients not responding to two or three doses of an mRNA vaccine (RECOVAC): a randomised clinical trial. <i>The Lancet Infectious diseases</i> , 23(3), 307–319. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(22)00650-8 |
| Natori 2023 | Natori, Y., Martin, E., Mattiazzi, A., Arosemena, L., Ortigosa-Goggins, M., Shobana, S., Roth, D., Kupin, W. L., Burke, G. W., Ciancio, G., Morsi, M., Phanco, A., Munagala, M. R., Butrous, H., Manickavel, S., Sinha, N., Sota, K., Pallikkuth, S., Bini, J., Simkins, J., ... Guerra, G. (2023). A Pilot Single-Blinded, Randomized, Controlled Trial Comparing BNT162b2 vs. JNJ-78436735 Vaccine as the Third Dose After Two Doses of BNT162b2 Vaccine in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients. <i>Transplant international</i> , 36, 10938. https://doi.org/10.3389/ti.2023.10938 |
| Reindl-Schwaighofer 2022 | Reindl-Schwaighofer, R., Heinzl, A., Mayrdorfer, M., Jabbour, R., Hofbauer, T. M., Merrelaar, A., Eder, M., Regele, F., Doberer, K., Specht, P., Aschauer, C., Koblischke, M., Paschen, C., Eskandary, F., Hu, K., Öhler, B., Bhandal, A., Kleibenböck, S., Jagoditsch, R. I., Reiskopf, B., ... Oberbauer, R. (2022). Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Response 4 Weeks After Homologous vs Heterologous Third Vaccine Dose in Kidney Transplant Recipients: A Randomized Clinical Trial. <i>JAMA internal medicine</i> , 182(2), 165–171. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2021.7372 |
| Speich 2022 | Speich, B., Chammartin, F., Abela, I. A., Amico, P., Stoeckle, M. P., Eichenberger, A. L., Hasse, B., Braun, D. L., Schuurmans, M. M., Müller, T. F., Tamm, M., Audigé, A., Mueller, N. J., Rauch, A., Günthard, H. F., Koller, M. T., Trkola, A., Briel, M., Kusejko, K., Bucher, H. C., ... Swiss HIV Cohort Study and the Swiss Transplant Cohort Study (2022). Antibody Response in Immunocompromised Patients After the Administration of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Vaccine BNT162b2 or mRNA-1273: A Randomized Controlled Trial. <i>Clinical infectious diseases</i> , 75(1), e585–e593. https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciac169 |

List of included non-randomized studies (n = 42)

| Study (First Author Last Name, Year) | Reference |
|--|---|
| Aslam 2022 | Aslam, S., Liu, J., Sigler, R., Syed, R. R., Tu, X. M., Little, S. J., & De Gruttola, V. (2022). Coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination is protective of clinical disease in solid organ transplant recipients. <i>Transplant infectious disease</i> , 24(2), e13788. https://doi.org/10.1111/tid.13788 |
| Bonazzetti 2023 | Bonazzetti, C., Tazza, B., Gibertoni, D., Pasquini, Z., Caroccia, N., Fani, F., Fornaro, G., Pascale, R., Rinaldi, M., Miani, B., Gamberini, C., Morelli, M. C., Tamé, M., Busutti, M., Comai, G., Potena, L., Borgese, L., Salvaterra, E., Lazzarotto, T., Scudeller, L., ... CONTRAST Study Group (2023). Relationship Between Immune Response to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Vaccines and Development of Breakthrough Infection in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: The CONTRAST Cohort. <i>Clinical infectious diseases</i> , 76(10), 1761–1767. https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciad016 |
| Callaghan 2023 | Callaghan, C. J., Curtis, R. M. K., Mumford, L., Whitaker, H., Pettigrew, G., Gardiner, D., Marson, L., Thorburn, D., White, S., Parnar, J., Ushiro-Lumb, I., Manas, D., Ravanan, R., & NHS Blood and Transplant Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Clinical Team (2023). Vaccine Effectiveness Against the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 Omicron Variant in Solid Organ and Islet Transplant Recipients in England: A National Retrospective Cohort Study. <i>Transplantation</i> , 107(5), 1124–1135. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004535 |
| Chen 2023 | Chen, C. C., Hsu, M. K., Huang, Y. J., Lai, M. J., Wu, S. W., Lin, M. H., Hung, H. S., Lin, Y. C., Huang, Y. T., Lee, Y. F., Tsai, M. K., & Lee, C. Y. (2023). Protective Effect of Vaccine Doses and Antibody Titers Against SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Kidney Transplant Recipients. <i>Transplant international</i> , 36, 11196. https://doi.org/10.3389/ti.2023.11196 |
| Collaborative 2022 | OpenSAFELY Collaborative, Parker, E. P. K., Horne, E. M. F., Hulme, W. J., Tazare, J., Zheng, B., Carr, E. J., Loud, F., Lyon, S., Mahalingasivam, V., MacKenzie, B., Mehrkar, A., Scanlon, M., Santhakumaran, S., Steenkamp, R., Goldacre, B., Sterne, J. A. C., Nitsch, D., Tomlinson, L. A., & LH&W NCS (or CONVALESCENCE) Collaborative (2023). Comparative effectiveness of two- and three-dose COVID-19 vaccination schedules involving AZD1222 and BNT162b2 in people with kidney disease: a linked OpenSAFELY and UK Renal Registry cohort study. <i>The Lancet regional health. Europe</i> , 30, 100636. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanpe.2023.100636 |
| Demir 2022 | Demir, E., Dheir, H., Safak, S., Serra Artan, A., Sipahi, S., & Turkmen, A. (2022). Differences in clinical outcomes of COVID-19 among vaccinated and unvaccinated kidney transplant recipients. <i>Vaccine</i> , 40(24), 3313–3319. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.04.066 |
| Elhadji 2023 | Leye, E., Delory, T., Karoui, K. E., Espagnacq, M., Khat, M., Le Coeur, S., Lapidus, N., Hejblum, G. (2023). Direct and indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the survival of kidney transplant recipients: a national observational study in France. <i>medRxiv</i> . https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.04.05.23288113 |
| Hall 2022 | Hall, V. G., Al-Alahmadi, G., Solera, J. T., Marinelli, T., Cardinal, H., Prasad, G. V. R., De Serres, S. A., Isaac, D., Mainra, R., Lamarche, C., Sapir-Pichhadze, R., Gilmour, S., Matelski, J., Humar, A., & Kumar, D. (2022). Outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Unvaccinated Compared With Vaccinated Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: A Propensity Matched Cohort Study. <i>Transplantation</i> , 106(8), 1622–1628. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004178 |
| Hamm 2022 | Hamm, S. R., Rezaehosseini, O., Møller, D. L., Loft, J. A., Poulsen, J. R., Knudsen, J. D., Pedersen, M. S., Schønning, K., Harboe, Z. B., Rasmussen, A., Sørensen, S. S., & Nielsen, S. D. (2022). Incidence and severity of SARS-CoV-2 infections in liver and kidney transplant recipients in the post-vaccination era: Real-life data from Denmark. <i>American journal of transplantation</i> , 22(11), 2637–2650. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.17141 |
| Hardgrave 2022 | Hardgrave, H., Wells, A., Nigh, J., Klutts, G., Krinock, D., Osborn, T., Bhusal, S., Rude, M. K., Burdine, L., & Giorgakis, E. (2022). COVID-19 Mortality in Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated Liver & Kidney Transplant Recipients: A Single-Center United States Propensity Score Matching Study on Historical Data. <i>Vaccines</i> , 10(11), 1921. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10111921 |
| Hiam 2021 | Chemaitelly, H., AlMukdad, S., Joy, J. P., Ayoub, H. H., Yassine, H. M., Benslimane, F. M., Al Khatib, H. A., Tang, P., Hasan, M. R., Coyle, P., Al Kanaani, Z., Al Kuwari, E., Jeremijenko, A., Hassan Kaleeckal, A., Latif, A. N., Shaik, R. M., Abdul Rahim, H. F., Nasrallah, G. K., Al Kuwari, M. G., ..., Al Khal, A. (2021). SARS-CoV-2 vaccine effectiveness in immunosuppressed kidney transplant recipients. <i>medRxiv</i> . https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.08.07.21261578 |
| Hod 2022 | Hod, T., Ben-David, A., Mor, E., Olmer, L., Halperin, R., Indenbaum, V., Beckerman, P., Doolman, R., Asraf, K., Atari, N., Benjamini, O., Lustig, Y., Grossman, E., Mandelboim, M., & Rahav, G. (2023). Humoral Response to the Fourth BNT162b2 Vaccination and Link Between the Fourth Dose, Omicron Infection, and Disease Severity in Renal Transplant Recipients. <i>Transplantation</i> , 107(1), 192–203. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004383 |
| Joerns 2022 | Joerns, J., Bollineni, S., Mahan, L. D., Mohanka, M. R., Lawrence, A., Timofte, I., Torres, F., La Hoz, R. M., Zhang, S., Kershaw, C. D., Kaza, V., Terada, L. S., & Banga, A. (2022). High-dose Mycophenolate Use at Vaccination Is Independently Associated With Breakthrough COVID-19 Among Lung Transplant Patients. <i>Transplantation</i> , 106(5), e271–e274. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004089 |
| John 2022 | John, B. V., Deng, Y., Khakoo, N. S., Taddei, T. H., Kaplan, D. E., & Dahman, B. (2022). Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Is Associated With Reduced Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Infection and Death in Liver Transplant Recipients. <i>Gastroenterology</i> , 162(2), 645–647.e2. https://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2021.11.001 |
| Kee 2022 | Kee, T., Jeong, J. C., Arakama, M. H., Khishgee, T., Tan, M. H., Tiwari, V., Begum, N. A. S., Hustrini, N. M., Jalalonmuhali, M. B., Tan, S. Y., Tan, J., Kim, Y., Mingyao, B. M., Sran, H. K., Ahmad, G. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 Era, Nation's Economic Status, Vaccination Status, Vaccine Doses and New COVID-19 Therapeutics on Mortality From COVID-19 Infections in Kidney Transplant Recipients From Asia: An Asian Society of Transplantation Research Group (ASTREGO). <i>Transplantation</i> , 106(9):S395-S395. |
| Korogiannou 2023 | Korogiannou, M., Vallianou, K., Xagas, E., Rokka, E., Soukoulis, I., Boletis, I. N., & Marinaki, S. (2023). Disease Course, Management and Outcomes in Kidney Transplant Recipients with SARS-CoV-2 Infection during the Omicron-Variant Wave: A Single-Center Experience. <i>Vaccines</i> , 11(3), 632. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines11030632 |
| Kwon 2022 | Kwon, J. H., Tenforde, M. W., Gaglani, M., Talbot, H. K., Ginde, A. A., McNeal, T., Ghamande, S., Douin, D. J., Casey, J. D., Mohr, N. M., Zepeski, A., Shapiro, N. I., Gibbs, K. W., Files, D. C., Hager, D. N., Shehu, A., Prekker, M. E., Caspers, S. D., Exline, M. C., Botros, M., ... Self, W. H. (2022). mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness Against Coronavirus Disease 2019 Hospitalization Among Solid Organ Transplant Recipients. <i>The Journal of infectious diseases</i> , 226(5), 797–807. https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiac118 |
| Lerner 2022 | Lerner, A. H., Arvanitis, P., Vieira, K., Klein, E. J., & Farmakiotis, D. (2022). mRNA Vaccination Decreases COVID-19-Associated Morbidity and Mortality Among Organ Transplant Recipients: A Contemporary Cohort Study. <i>Open forum infectious diseases</i> , 9(10), ofac503. https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofac503 |
| Llamas 2023 | Azamar-Llamas, D., Arenas-Martinez, J. S., Olivas-Martinez, A., Jimenez, J. V., Kauffman-Ortega, E., Garcia-Carrera, C. J., Papacristofilou-Riebeling, B., Rivera-López, F. E., & Garcia-Juárez, I. (2024). Impact of COVID-19 vaccination on liver transplant recipients. Experience in a reference center in Mexico. <i>PLoS one</i> , 19(3), e0301198. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0301198 |

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| Ma 2022 | Ma, E., Ai, J., Zhang, Y., Zheng, J., Gao, X., Xu, J., Yin, H., Fu, Z., Xing, H., Li, L., Sun, L., Huang, H., Zhang, Q., Xu, L., Jin, Y., Chen, R., Lv, G., Zhu, Z., Zhang, W., & Wang, Z. (2022). Omicron infections profile and vaccination status among 1881 liver transplant recipients: a multi-centre retrospective cohort. <i>Emerging microbes & infections</i> , 11(1), 2636–2644. https://doi.org/10.1080/22221751.2022.2136535 |
| Masetti 2023 | Masetti, M., Scuppa, M. F., Aloisio, A., Giovannini, L., Borgese, L., Manno, S., Tazza, B., Pascale, R., Bonazzetti, C., Carocchia, N., Sabatino, M., Spitaleri, G., Viale, P., Giannella, M., & Potena, L. (2023). Effect of a Fourth Dose of mRNA Vaccine and of Immunosuppression in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Breakthrough Infections in Heart Transplant Patients. <i>Microorganisms</i> , 11(3), 755. https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms11030755 |
| Mazuecos 2022 | Mazuecos, A., Villanego, F., Zarraga, S., López, V., Oppenheimer, F., Llinàs-Mallol, L., Hernández, A. M., Rivas, A., Ruiz-Fuentes, M. C., Toapanta, N. G., Jiménez, C., Cabello, S., Beneyto, I., Aladrén, M. J., Rodríguez-Benot, A., Canal, C., Molina, M., Pérez-Flores, I., Saura, I. M., Gavela, E., ... Spanish Society of Nephrology COVID-19 Group (2022). Breakthrough Infections Following mRNA SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination in Kidney Transplant Recipients. <i>Transplantation</i> , 106(7), 1430–1439. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004119 |
| McEvoy 2022 | McEvoy, C. M., Lee, A., Misra, P. S., Lebovic, G., Wald, R., & Yuen, D. A. (2022). Real-world Impact of 2-dose SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination in Kidney Transplant Recipients. <i>Transplantation</i> , 106(5), e279–e280. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004081 |
| Mikhailov 2023 | Mikhailov, M., Budde, K., Halleck, F., Eleftheriadis, G., Naik, M. G., Schrezenmeier, E., Bachmann, F., Choi, M., Duettmann, W., von Hoerschelmann, E., Koch, N., Liefeldt, L., Lücht, C., Straub-Hohenbleicher, H., Waiser, J., Weber, U., Zukunft, B., & Osmanodja, B. (2023). COVID-19 Outcomes in Kidney Transplant Recipients in a German Transplant Center. <i>Journal of clinical medicine</i> , 12(18), 6103. https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm12186103 |
| Mues 2022 | Mues, K. E., Kirk, B., Patel, D. A., Gelman, A., Chavers, S., Talarico, C., Esposito, D. B., Martin, D., Mansi, J., Chen, X., Gatto, N. M., de Velde, N. V. (2022). Real-world comparative effectiveness of mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2 vaccines among immunocompromised adults in the United States. <i>medRxiv</i> . https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.05.13.22274960 |
| Naylor 2022 | Naylor, K. L., Kim, S. J., Smith, G., McArthur, E., Kwong, J. C., Dixon, S. N., Treleaven, D., & Knoll, G. A. (2022). Effectiveness of first, second, and third COVID-19 vaccine doses in solid organ transplant recipients: A population-based cohort study from Canada. <i>American journal of transplantation</i> , 22(9), 2228–2236. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.17095 |
| Naylor 2024 | Naylor, K. L., Knoll, G. A., Smith, G., McArthur, E., Kwong, J. C., Dixon, S. N., Treleaven, D., & Kim, S. J. (2024). Effectiveness of a Fourth COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Dose Against the Omicron Variant in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients. <i>Transplantation</i> , 108(1), 294–302. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004766 |
| Pinto-Alvarez 2022 | Pinto-Alvarez, M., Fernández-Niño, J. A., Arregocés-Castillo, L., Rojas-Botero, M. L., Palacios, A. F., Galvis-Pedraza, M., & Ruiz-Gomez, F. (2023). Real-world Evidence of COVID-19 Vaccines Effectiveness in Solid-organ Transplant Recipient Population in Colombia: A Study Nested in the Esperanza Cohort. <i>Transplantation</i> , 107(1), 216–224. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004411 |
| Rasmussen 2022 | Rasmussen, L. D., Lebeck, A. M., Øvrehus, A., Poulsen, B. K., Christensen, H. R., Nielsen, H., Johansen, I. S., Omland, L. H., Wiese, L., Helleberg, M., Storgaard, M., Dalager-Pedersen, M., Rasmussen, T. A., Benfield, T., Petersen, T. S., Andersen, Å. B., Gram, M. A., Stegger, M., Edslev, S. M., & Obel, N. (2023). Experience with sotrovimab treatment of SARS-CoV-2-infected patients in Denmark. <i>British journal of clinical pharmacology</i> , 89(6), 1820–1833. https://doi.org/10.1111/bcp.15644 |
| Sanayei 2023 | Sanayei, A. M., Montalvan, A., Faria, I., Ochalla, J., Pavlakis, M., Blair, B. M., Alonso, C. D., Curry, M., & Saberi, B. (2023). Tixagevimab-Cilgavimab Decreases the Rate of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Solid Organ Transplant Recipients. <i>Transplantation proceedings</i> , 55(8), 1784–1792. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.transproceed.2023.07.011 |
| Sandoval 2022 | Sandoval, M., Nguyen, D. T., Huang, H. J., Yi, S. G., Ghobrial, R. M., Gaber, A. O., & Graviss, E. A. (2022). COVID-19 mortality may be reduced among fully vaccinated solid organ transplant recipients. <i>PLoS one</i> , 17(12), e0279222. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0279222 |
| Sindu 2023 | Sindu, D., Razia, D., Bay, C., Padiyar, J., Grief, K., Buddhdev, B., Arjuna, A., Abdelrazek, H., Mohamed, H., McAnally, K., Omar, A., Walia, R., Schaheen, L., & Tokman, S. (2024). Evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lung transplant recipients: A single-center experience. <i>The Journal of heart and lung transplantation</i> , 43(3), 442–452. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healun.2023.10.010 |
| Singh 2024 | Singh, P., Von Stein, L., McGowan, M., Nolan, A., Ross, A., Kaur, M., Maxwell, M., Ma, J., Peng, J., & Pesavento, T. (2024). Comparison of outcomes in vaccinated versus unvaccinated COVID-19 kidney transplant recipients, a single center retrospective study-Is the taboo justified?. <i>Clinical transplantation</i> , 38(1), e15187. https://doi.org/10.1111/ctr.15187 |
| Thotsiri 2022 | Thotsiri, S., Sittudomsuk, R., Sutharattanapong, N., Kantachuesiri, S., & Wiwattanathum, P. (2022). The Effect of a Booster Dose mRNA Vaccine on COVID-19 Infection in Kidney Transplant Recipients after Inactivated or Viral Vector Vaccine Immunization. <i>Vaccines</i> , 10(10), 1690. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10101690 |
| Tucker 2022 | Tucker, M., Azar, M. M., Cohen, E., Gan, G., Deng, Y., Foppiano Palacios, C., & Malinis, M. (2022). Evaluating clinical effectiveness of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in solid organ transplant recipients: A propensity score matched analysis. <i>Transplant infectious disease</i> , 24(4), e13876. https://doi.org/10.1111/tid.13876 |
| Udomkarnjananun 2023 | Udomkarnjananun, S., Kerr, S. J., Banjongit, A., Phonphok, K., Larpparisuth, N., Vongwiwatana, A., Noppakun, K., Lumpaopong, A., Supaporn, T., Pongskul, C., Avihingsanon, Y., & Townamchai, N. (2023). Outcomes of COVID-19 in kidney transplant recipients in the vaccination Era: A national multicenter cohort from Thailand. <i>Heliyon</i> , 9(12), e22811. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e22811 |
| Vieira 2022 | Vieira K., Klein E., Lerner A., Farmakioitis D. (2022). High Case Fatality Rate Among Fully Vaccinated Kidney Transplant Recipients with Breakthrough Covid-19 During the Delta Surge. <i>American Journal of Transplantation</i> , 22(Supplement 3):440 |
| Vinson 2022a | Vinson, A. J., Anzalone, A. J., Sun, J., Dai, R., Agarwal, G., Lee, S. B., French, E., Olex, A., Ison, M. G., Mannon, R. B., & N3C consortium (2022). The risk and consequences of breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 infection in solid organ transplant recipients relative to non-immunosuppressed controls. <i>American journal of transplantation</i> , 22(10), 2418–2432. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.17117 |
| Vinson 2022b | Vinson A.J., Anzalone A., Dai R., French E., Olex A., Sun J., Agarwal G., Lee S., Mannon R.B. (2022). Role of Vaccination in the COVID-19 Nationwide Cohort (N3C) of Solid Organ Transplant Recipients. <i>American Journal of Transplantation</i> , 22(Supplement 3):407 |
| Wong 2022 | Wong, G., Rowlandson, M., Sabanayagam, D., Ginn, A. N., Kable, K., Sciberras, F., Au, E., Draper, J., Arnott, A., Sintchenko, V., Dwyer, D. E., Chen, S. C. A., & Kok, J. (2022). COVID-19 Infection With the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 Variant in a Cohort of Kidney and Kidney Pancreas Transplant Recipients: Clinical Features, Risk Factors, and Outcomes. <i>Transplantation</i> , 106(9), 1860–1866. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004203 |
| Zhang 2023 | Zhang, W., Wang, R., Jin, P., Yu, X., Wang, W., Zhang, Y., Bai, X., & Liang, T. (2024). Clinical characteristics and outcomes of liver transplant recipients infected by Omicron during the opening up of the dynamic zero-coronavirus disease policy in China: A prospective, observational study. <i>American journal of transplantation</i> , 24(4), 631–640. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajt.2023.09.022 |
| Zona 2023 | Zona, E. E., Gibes, M. L., Jain, A. S., Danobeitia, J. S., Garonzik-Wang, J., Smith, J. A., Mandelbrot, D. A., & Parajuli, S. (2024). Sequelae of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Infection among Kidney Transplant Recipients: A Large Single-Center Experience. <i>Critical care research and practice</i> , 2024, 7140548. https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/7140548 |

Appendix 3. Examples of studies excluded during the full-text screening phase.

| Study (First Author Last Name, Year) | Reference |
|---|---|
| Exclusion reason: No adjusted measures | |
| Softeland 2024 | Søfteland, J. M., Li, H., Magnusson, J. M., Leach, S., Friman, V., Gisslén, M., Felldin, M., Schult, A., Karason, K., Baid-Agrawal, S., Wallquist, C., & Nyberg, F. (2024). COVID-19 Outcomes and Vaccinations in Swedish Solid Organ Transplant Recipients 2020-2021: A Nationwide Multi-Register Comparative Cohort Study. <i>Viruses</i> , 16(2), 271. https://doi.org/10.3390/v16020271 |
| Exclusion reason: Systematic review | |
| Efros 2022 | Efros, O., Anteby, R., Halfon, M., Meisel, E., Klang, E., & Soffer, S. (2022). Efficacy and Safety of Third Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine among Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: A Systemic Review and Meta-Analysis. <i>Vaccines</i> , 10(1), 95. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10010095 |
| Exclusion reason: Wrong study design | |
| Yin 2022 | Yin, S., Ma, M., Zhong, Q., Lin, T., & Song, T. (2022). Renal Complications in Kidney Transplant Recipients After Whole-virus Inactivated COVID-19 Vaccination. <i>Transplantation</i> , 106(11), e510–e511. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000004330 |
| Exclusion reason: Wrong outcomes | |
| Ferreira 2023 | Ferreira, V. H., Ierullo, M., Mavandadnejad, F., Kurtesi, A., Hu, Q., Hardy, W. R., Hall, V. G., Pinzon, N., Yotis, D., Gingras, A. C., Belga, S., Shalhoub, S., Hébert, M. J., Humar, A., Kabbani, D., & Kumar, D. (2023). Omicron BA.4/5 Neutralization and T-Cell Responses in Organ Transplant Recipients After Booster Messenger RNA Vaccine: A Multicenter Cohort Study. <i>Clinical infectious diseases</i> , 77(2), 229–236. https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciad175 |
| Exclusion reason: Wrong intervention | |
| Benotmane 2022 | Benotmane, I., Velay, A., Gautier-Vargas, G., Olagne, J., Obrecht, A., Cognard, N., Heibel, F., Braun-Parvez, L., Keller, N., Martzloff, J., Perrin, P., Pszczolinski, R., Moulin, B., Fafi-Kremer, S., Thauinat, O., & Caillard, S. (2022). Breakthrough COVID-19 cases despite prophylaxis with 150 mg of tixagevimab and 150 mg of cilgavimab in kidney transplant recipients. <i>American journal of transplantation</i> , 22(11), 2675–2681. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.17121 |
| Exclusion reason: Wrong comparator | |
| Charmetant 2022 | Charmetant, X., Espi, M., Benotmane, I., Barateau, V., Heibel, F., Buron, F., Gautier-Vargas, G., Delafosse, M., Perrin, P., Koenig, A., Cognard, N., Levi, C., Gallais, F., Manière, L., Rossolillo, P., Soulier, E., Pierre, F., Ovize, A., Morelon, E., Defrance, T., ... Thauinat, O. (2022). Infection or a third dose of mRNA vaccine elicits neutralizing antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2 in kidney transplant recipients. <i>Science translational medicine</i> , 14(636), eabl6141. https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.abl6141 |
| Exclusion reason: Wrong patient population | |
| Mohanraj 2022 | Mohanraj, D., Baldwin, S., Singh, S., Gordon, A., & Whitelegg, A. (2022). Cellular and humoral responses to SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in immunosuppressed patients. <i>Cellular immunology</i> , 373, 104501. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cellimm.2022.104501 |
| Exclusion reason: Commentary | |
| Toniutto 2021 | Toniutto, P., Aghemo, A., Grossi, P., Burra, P., & Permanent Transplant Commission of the Italian Association for the Study of the Liver (2021). Clinical update on the efficacy of anti-SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines in patients on the waiting list for liver transplantation and in liver transplant recipients. <i>Digestive and liver disease</i> , 53(10), 1232–1234. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dld.2021.07.019 |
| Exclusion reason: Protocol only | |
| Bouwman 2022 | Bouwman, P., Messchendorp, A. L., Sanders, J. S., Hilbrands, L., Reinders, M. E. J., Vart, P., Bemelman, F. J., Abrahams, A. C., van den Dorpel, M. A., Ten Dam, M. A., de Vries, A. P. J., Rispen, T., Steenhuis, M., Gansevoort, R. T., Hemmelder, M. H., & RECOVAC Collaborators (2022). Long-term efficacy and safety of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in patients with chronic kidney disease, on dialysis or after kidney transplantation: a national prospective observational cohort study. <i>BMC nephrology</i> , 23(1), 55. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12882-022-02680-3 |

Appendix 4. Risk of bias assessments of included studies.

Risk of bias assessments of included RCTs using Cochrane’s RoB 2.0 tool

| Study (First Author Last Name, Year) | Domain 1 | Domain 2 | Domain 3 | Domain 4 | Domain 5 | Overall Risk of Bias |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Outcome: COVID-19 infection | | | | | | |
| Drenko 2023 | Low | Some concerns | Low | Low | Some concerns | Low |
| Hall 2021 | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| Kho 2022 | Low | Some concerns | Low | Some concerns | Low | Low |
| Natori 2023 | Low | Some concerns | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| Reindl-Schwaighofer 2022 | Some concerns | Low | Low | Low | Some concerns | Low |
| Speich 2022 | Low | Some concerns | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| Outcome: ICU Admission | | | | | | |
| Reindl-Schwaighofer 2022 | Some concerns | Low | Low | Low | Some concerns | Low |
| Outcome: Mortality | | | | | | |
| Reindl-Schwaighofer 2022 | Some concerns | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| Speich 2022 | Low | Some concerns | Low | Low | Low | Low |

Note: Domain 1 = Bias arising from the randomization process; **Domain 2** = Bias due to deviations from the intended intervention; **Domain 3** = Bias due to missing outcome data; **Domain 4** = Bias in measurement of the outcome; **Domain 5** = Bias in selection of the reported results.

Risk of bias assessments of included observational studies using ROBINS-I

| Study (First Author Last Name, Year) | Domain 1 | Domain 2 | Domain 3 | Domain 4 | Domain 5 | Domain 6 | Domain 7 | Overall Risk of Bias |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Outcome: COVID-19 Infection | | | | | | | | |
| Aslam 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Bonazzetti 2023 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Chen 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Collaborative 2022 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Hiam 2021 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Hod 2022 | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate |
| Joerns 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| John 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Ma 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Masetti 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| McEvoy 2022 | Serious | Low | Serious | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Serious |
| Mues 2022 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Naylor 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Naylor 2024 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Pinto-Alvarez 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Sanayei 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Singh 2024 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Tucker 2022 | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate |
| Vinson 2022a | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate |
| Outcome: Hospitalization | | | | | | | | |
| Chen 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Collaborative 2022 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Demir 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Hall 2022 | Moderate | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Hamm 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Hardgrave 2022 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Korogiannou 2023 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Kwon 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Mikhailov 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Mues 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Pinto-Alvarez 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Rasmussen 2022 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Sindu 2024 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Vinson 2022a | Moderate | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Vinson 2022b | Moderate | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Wong 2022 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Zhang 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Zona 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Outcome: ICU Admission | | | | | | | | |
| Demir 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Llamas 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Mikhailov 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Sandoval 2022 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Sindu 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Outcome: Mortality | | | | | | | | |
| Callaghan 2023 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Collaborative 2022 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Demir 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |

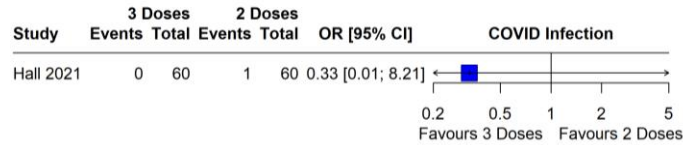
| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|----------|
| Elhadji 2023 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Hall 2022 | Moderate | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Low | Serious |
| Hardgrave 2022 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Serious |
| John 2022 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Kee 2022 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Lerner 2022 | Moderate | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Serious |
| Llamas 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Mazuecos 2022 | Serious | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Mikhailov 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Pinto-Alvarez 2022 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Rasmussen 2022 | Serious | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Sandoval 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Sindu 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Thotsiri 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Tucker 2022 | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate |
| Udomkarnjananun 2023 | Serious | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Vieira 2022 | Serious | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Vinson 2022a | Moderate | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |
| Vinson 2022b | Moderate | Serious | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Serious |

Note: Domain 1 = Bias due to confounding; **Domain 2** = Bias in the selection of participants into the study; **Domain 3** = Bias in classification of interventions; **Domain 4** = Bias due to deviations from intended interventions; **Domain 5** = Bias due to missing outcome data; **Domain 6** = Bias in measurement of the outcome; **Domain 7** = Bias in the selection of the reported result.

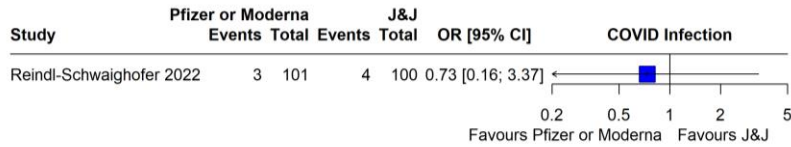
Appendix 5. Pairwise forest plots.

Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022)

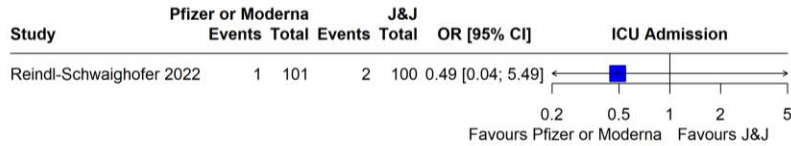
Randomized evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



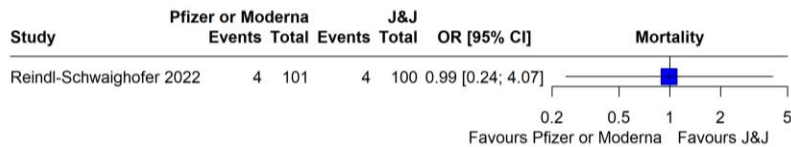
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on COVID-19 infection



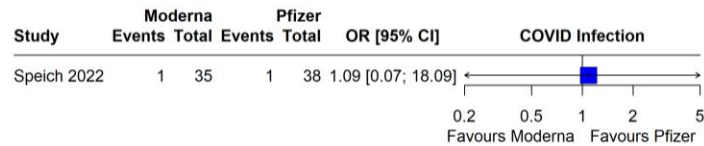
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on ICU admission



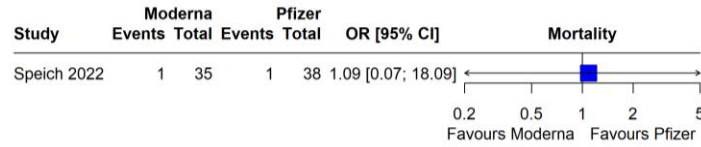
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on mortality



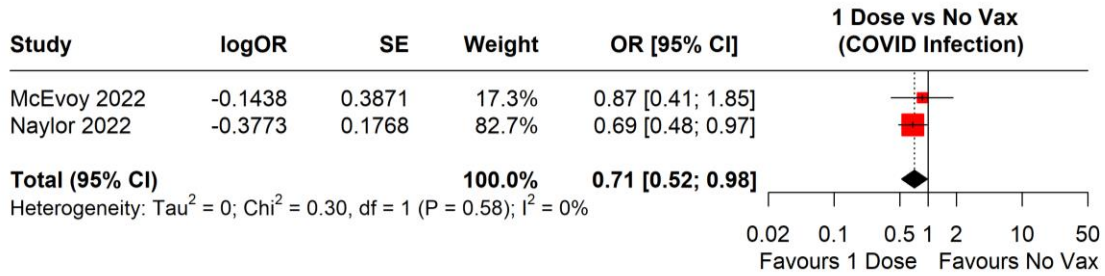
Randomized evidence evaluating Moderna versus Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



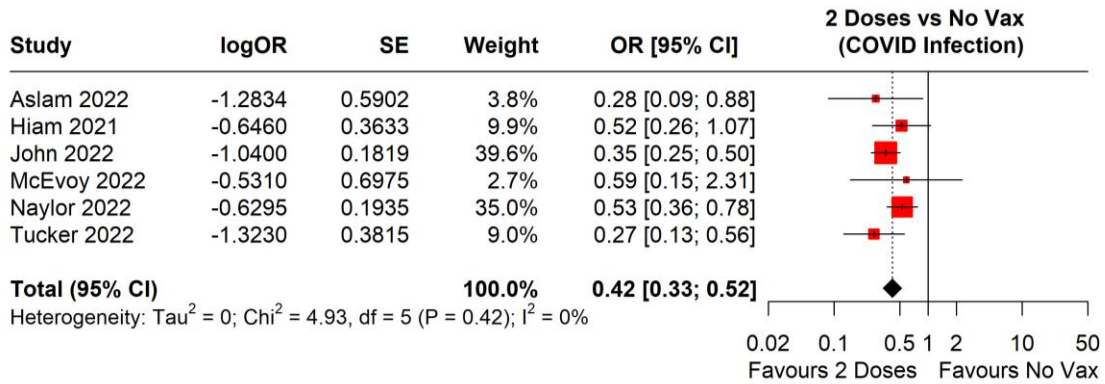
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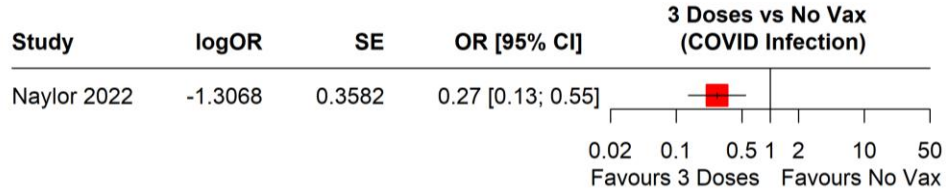
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



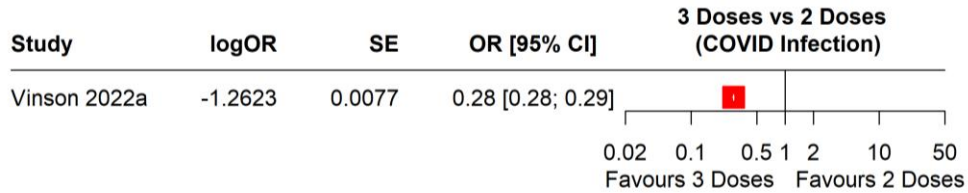
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



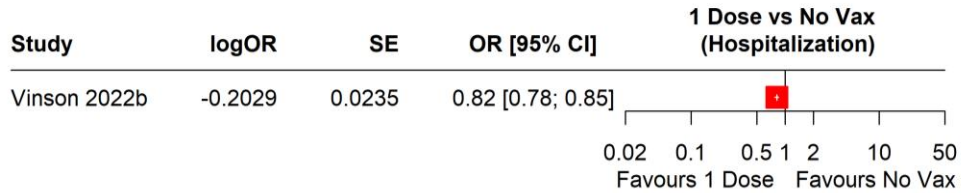
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



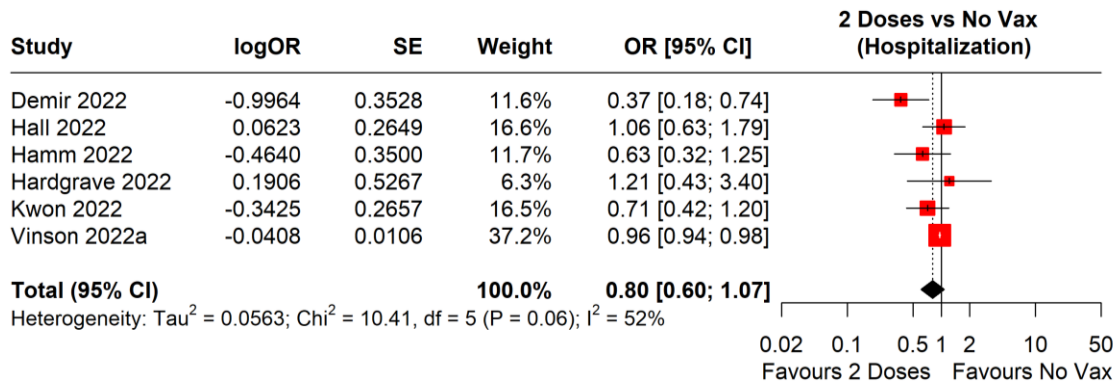
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



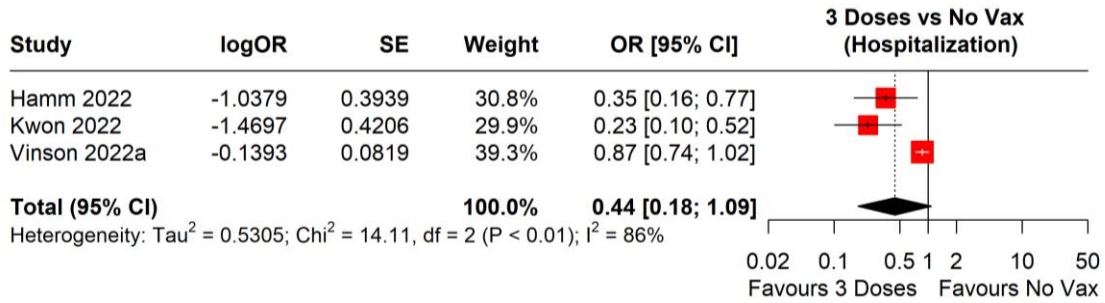
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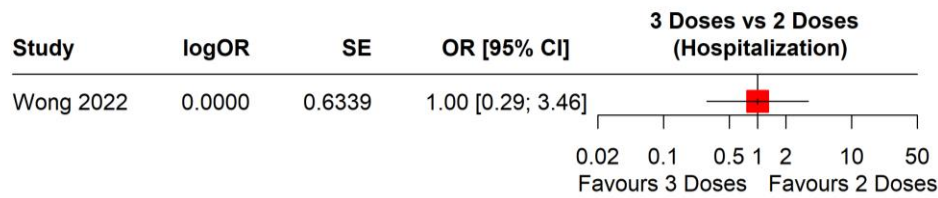
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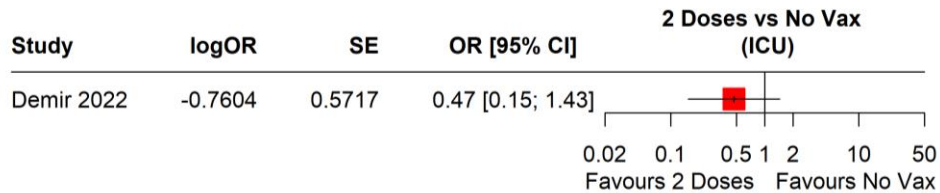
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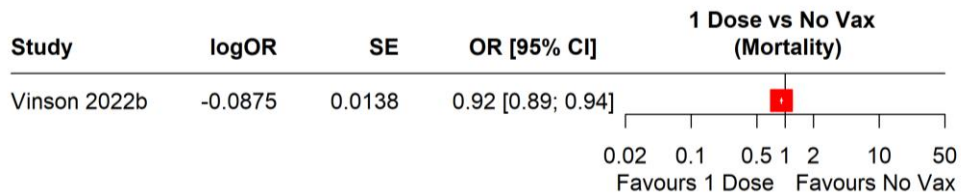
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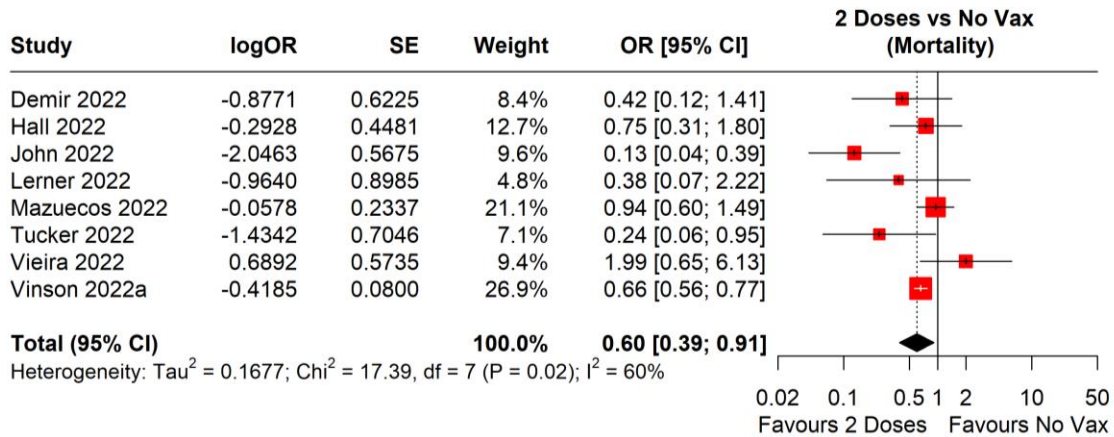
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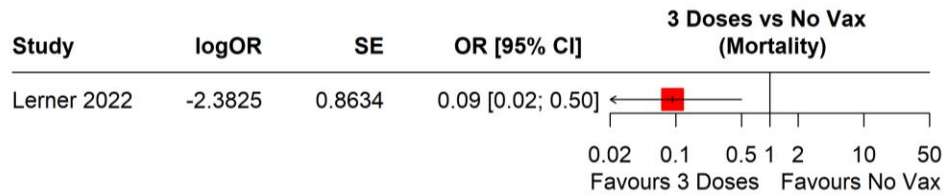
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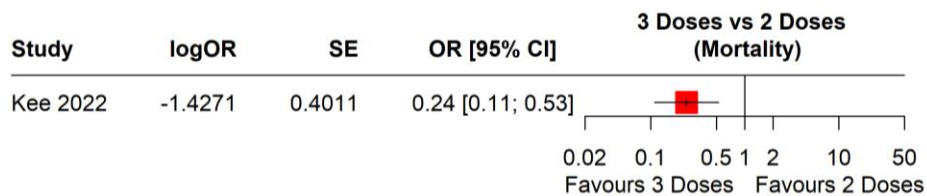
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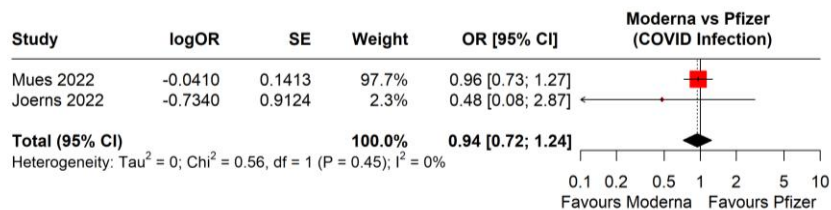
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



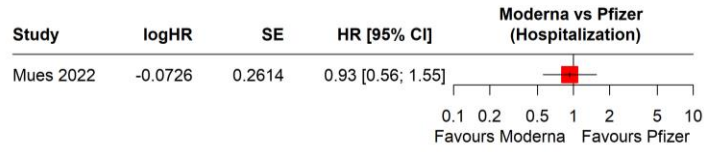
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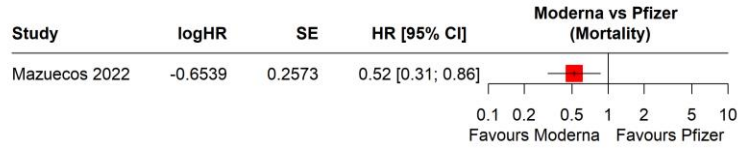
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 hospitalization

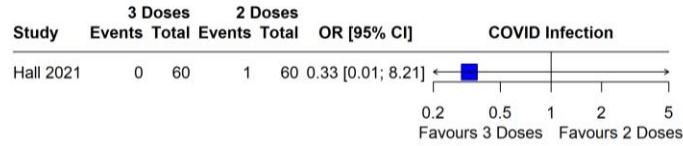


Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 mortality

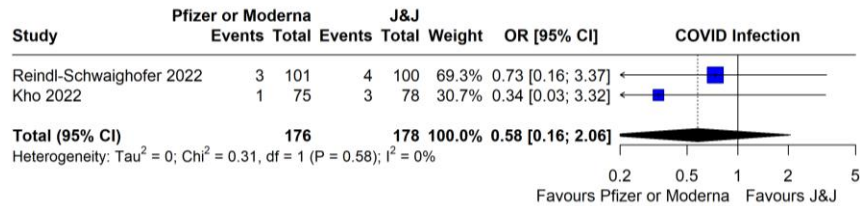


Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023)

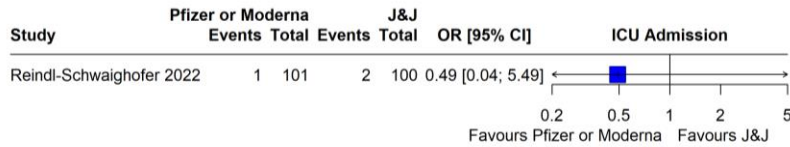
Randomized evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



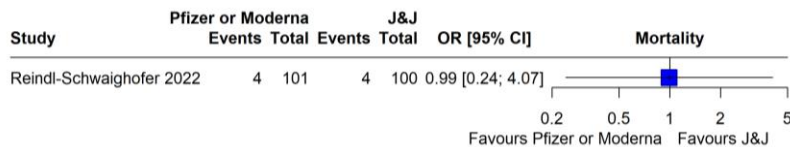
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on COVID-19 infection



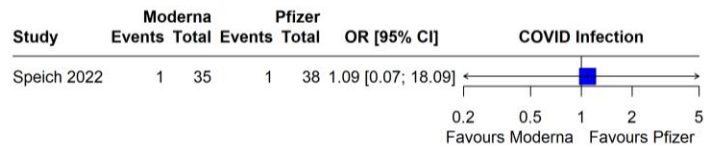
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on ICU admission



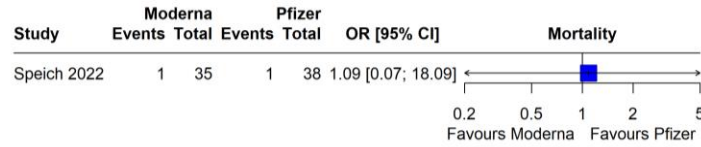
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on mortality



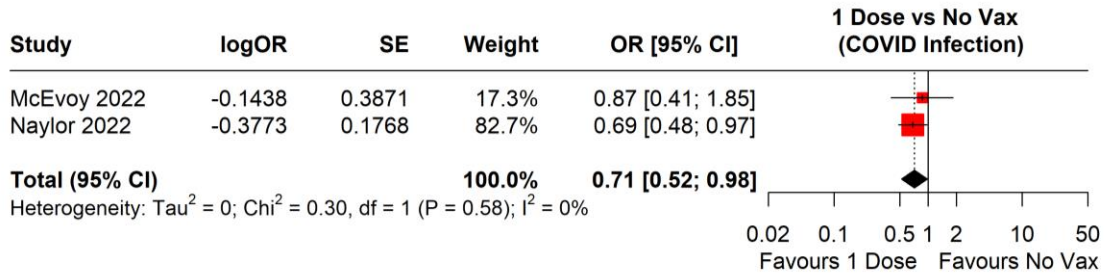
Randomized evidence evaluating Moderna versus Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



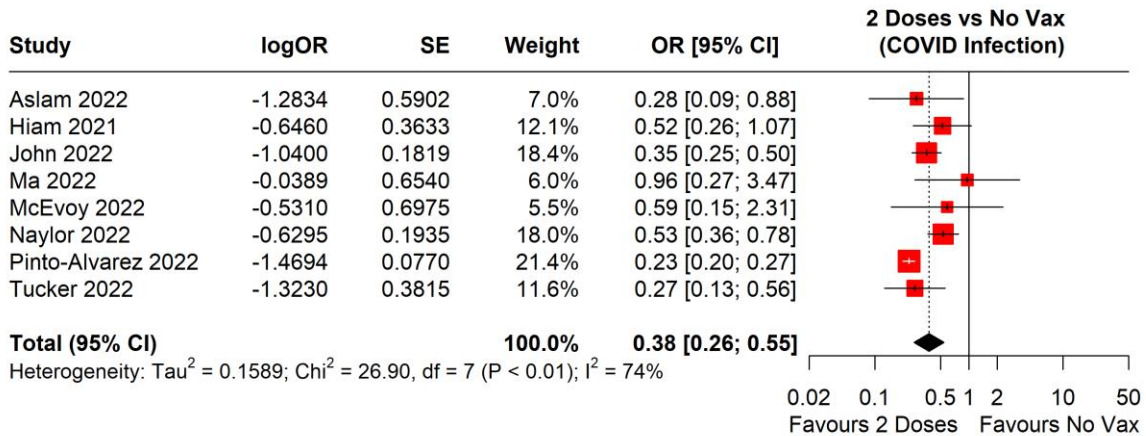
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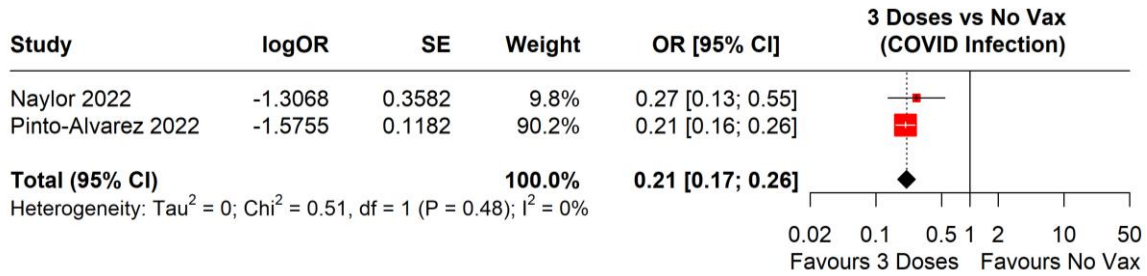
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



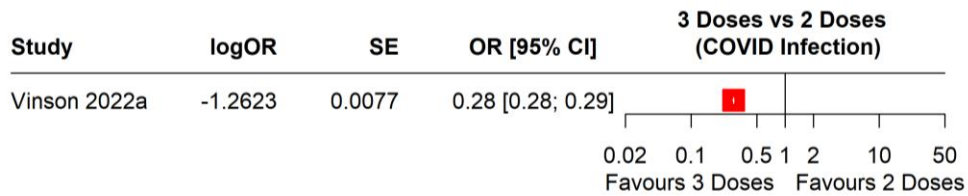
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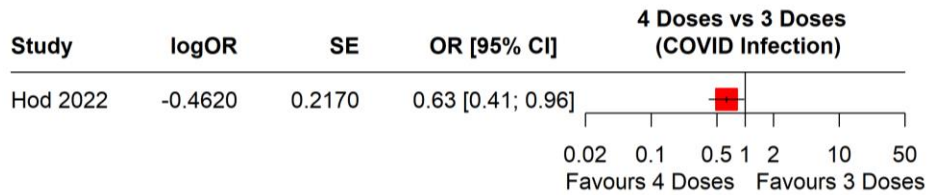
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



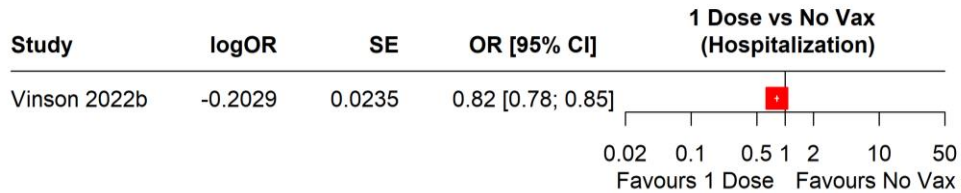
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



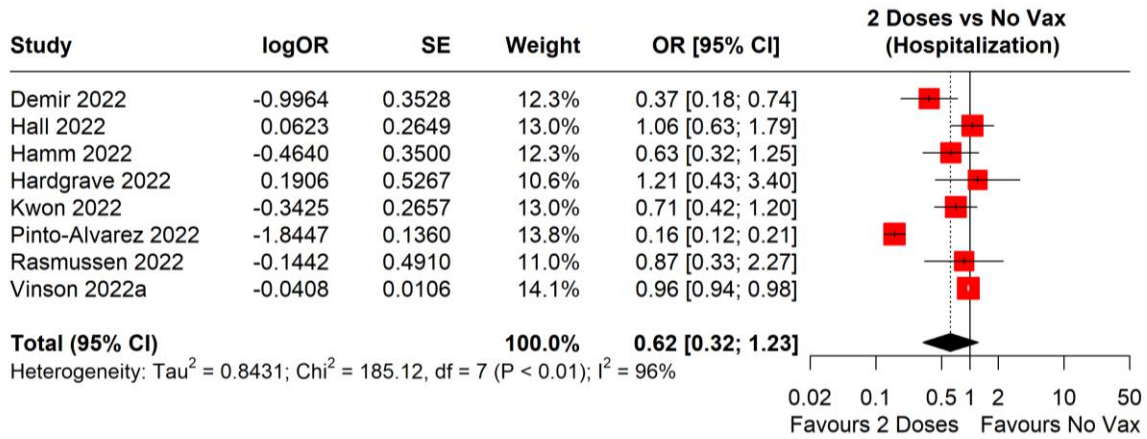
Observational evidence evaluating four versus three doses on COVID-19 infection



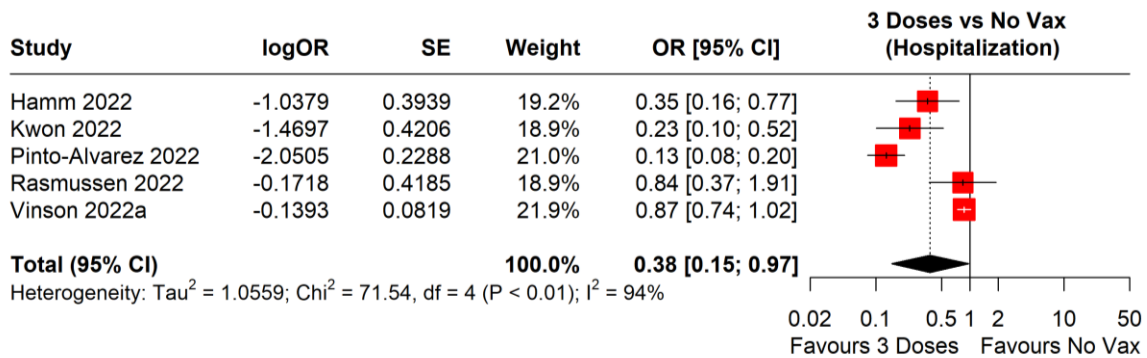
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



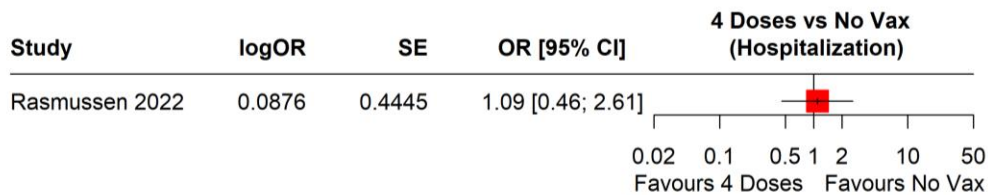
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



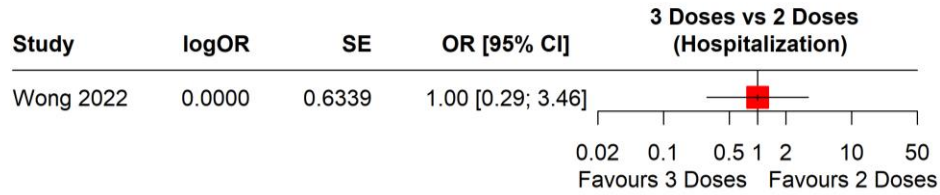
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



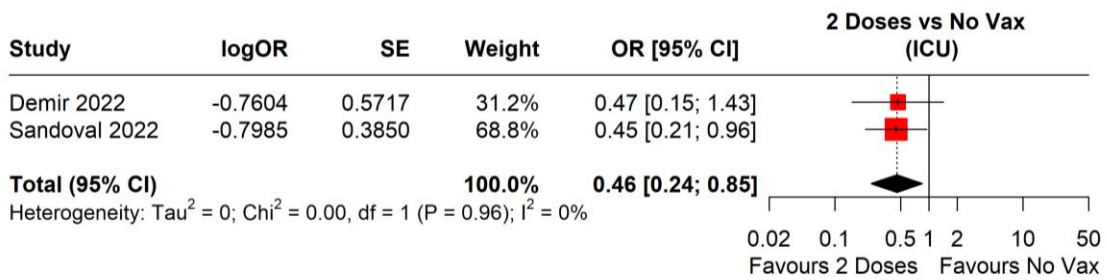
Observational evidence evaluating four doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



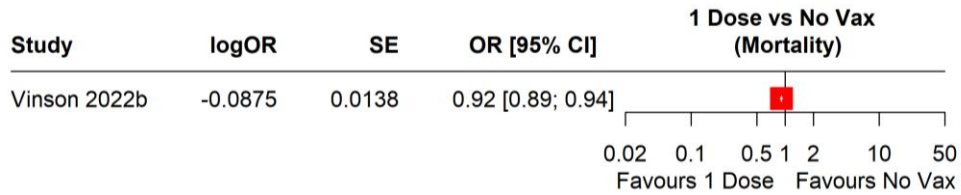
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on hospitalization from COVID-19



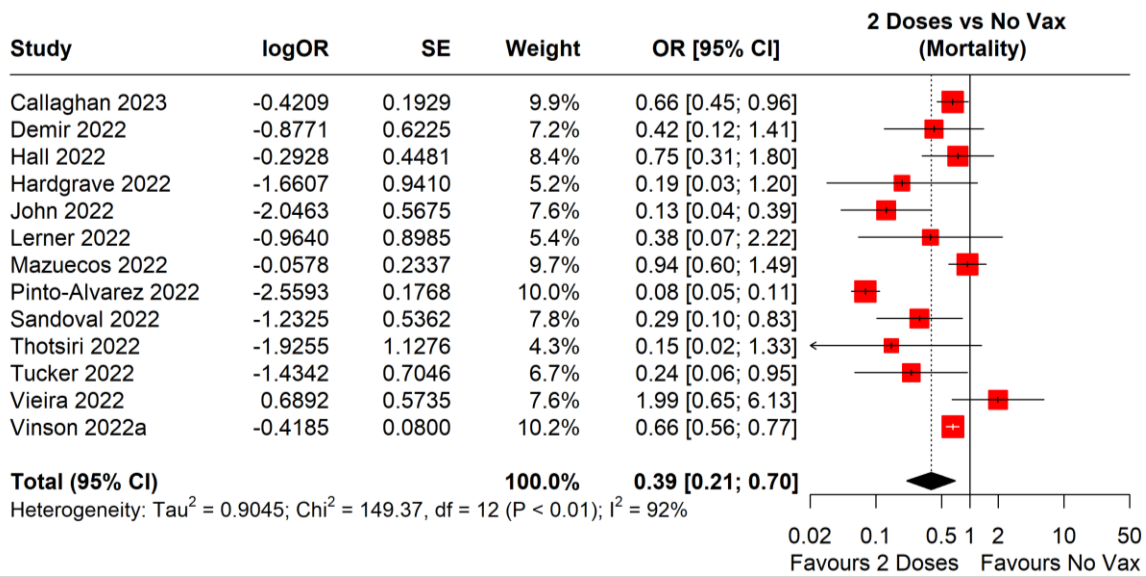
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on ICU admission from COVID-19



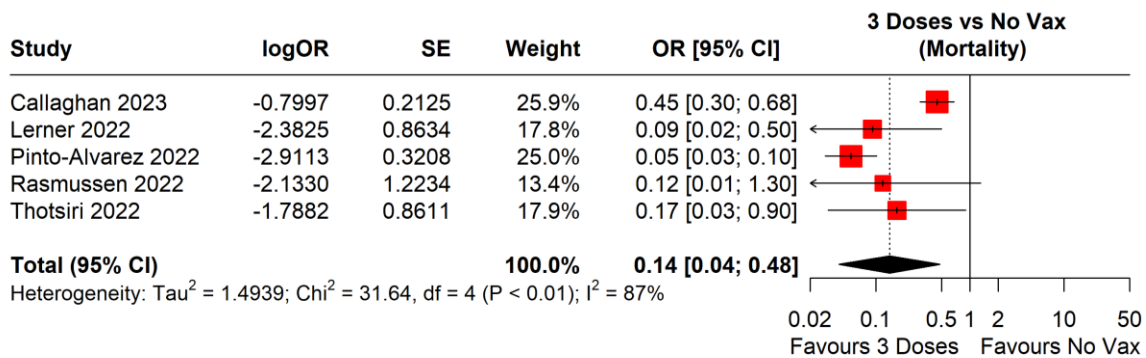
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



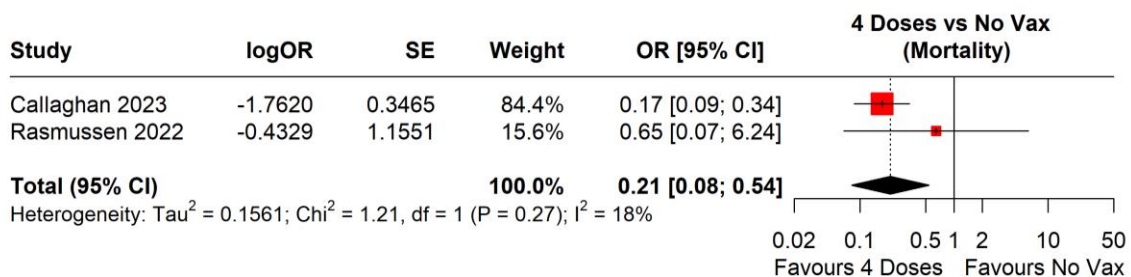
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



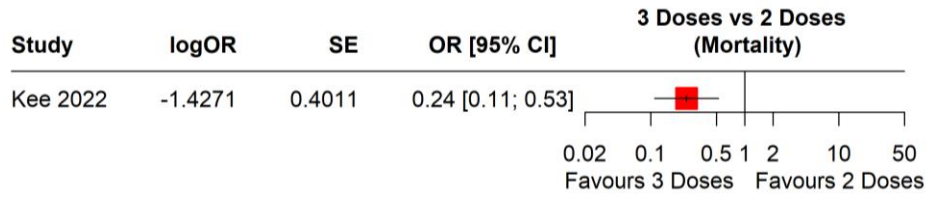
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



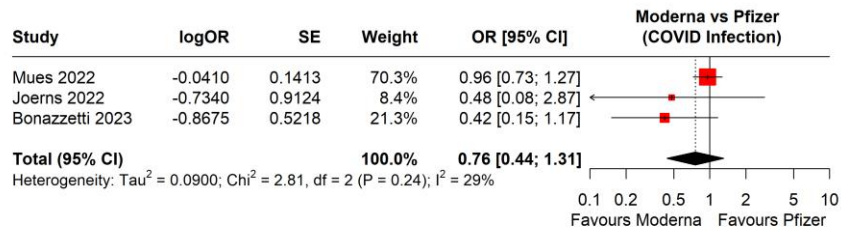
Observational evidence evaluating four doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



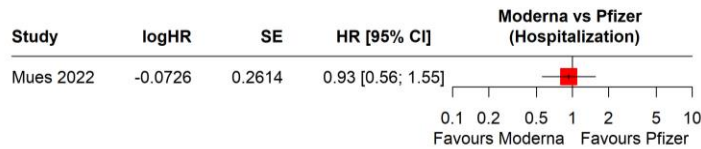
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on mortality from COVID-19



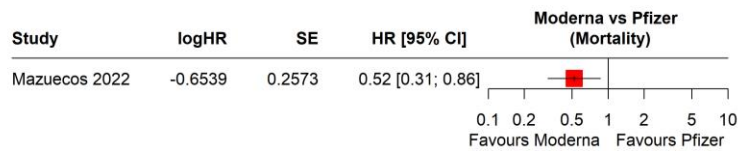
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



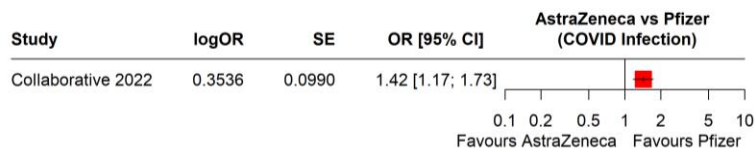
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 hospitalization



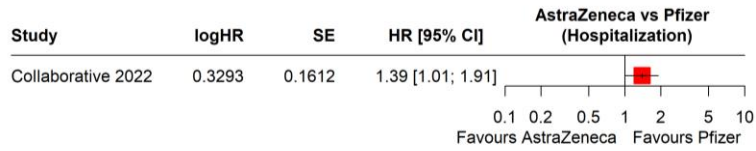
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 mortality



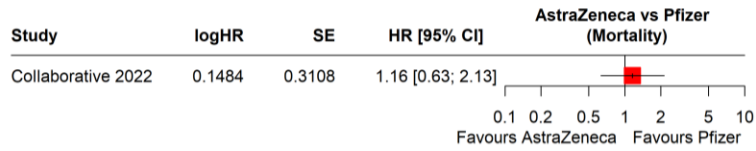
Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 hospitalization

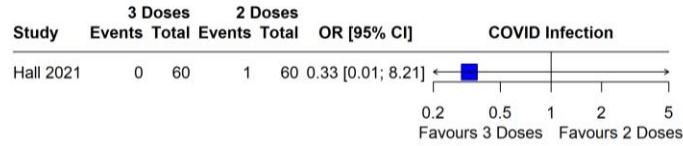


Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 mortality

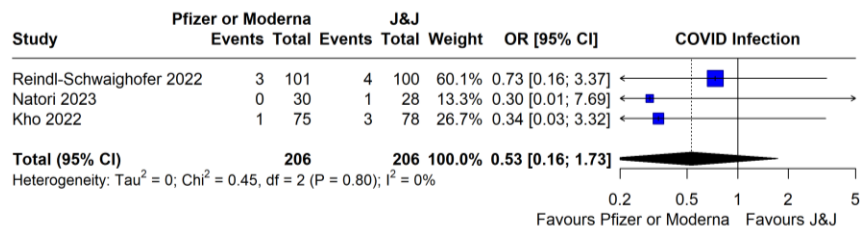


Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023)

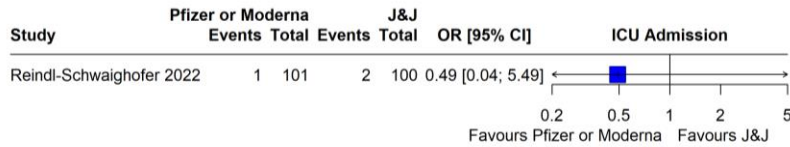
Randomized evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



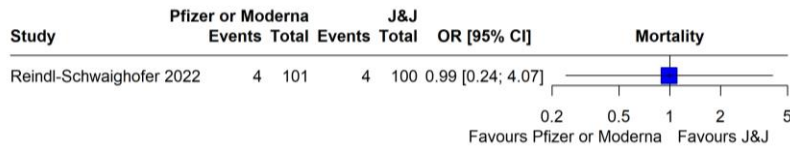
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on COVID-19 infection



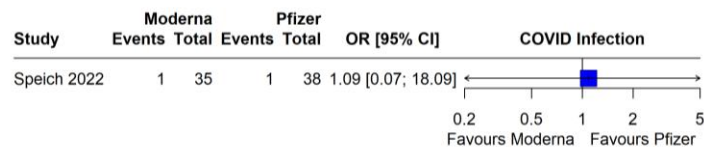
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on ICU admission



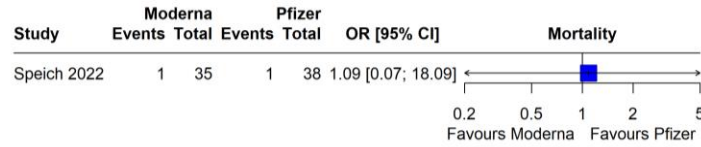
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on mortality



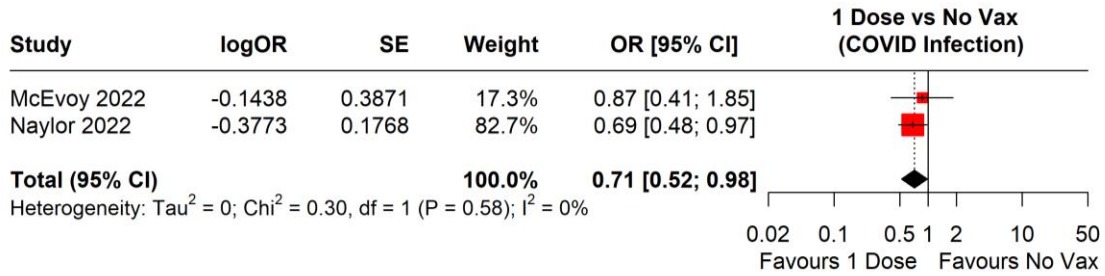
Randomized evidence evaluating Moderna versus Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



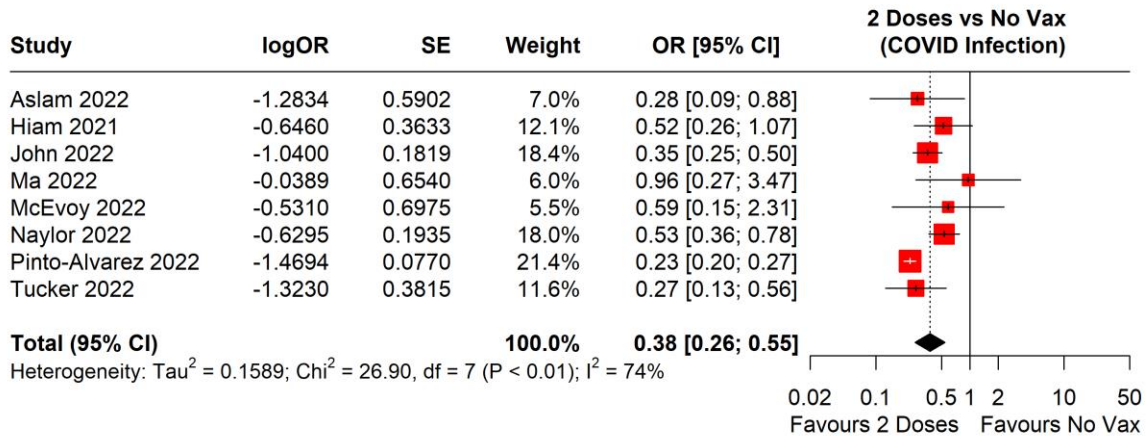
Randomized evidence evaluating Moderna versus Pfizer vaccines on mortality



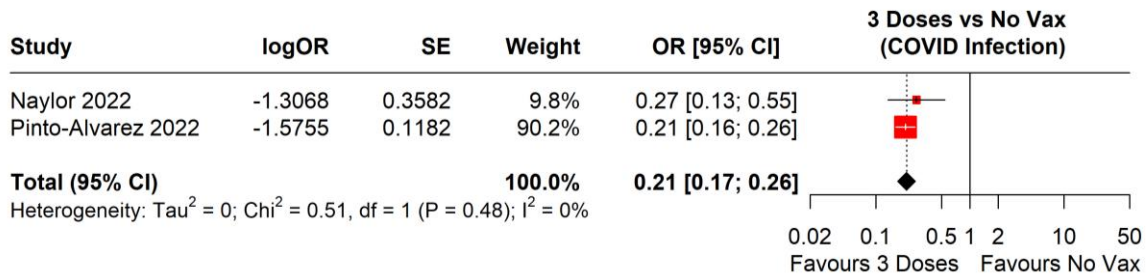
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



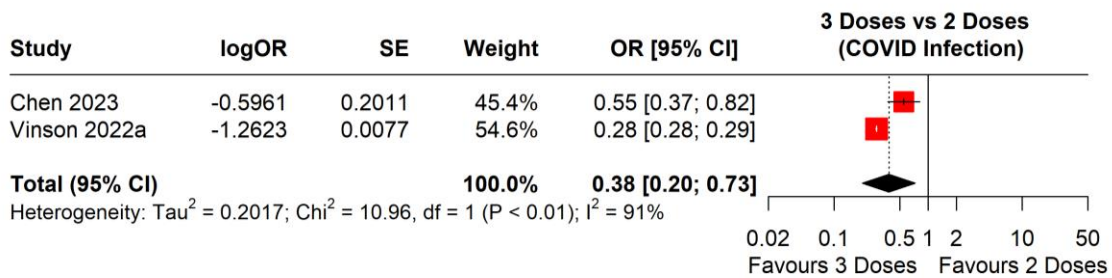
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



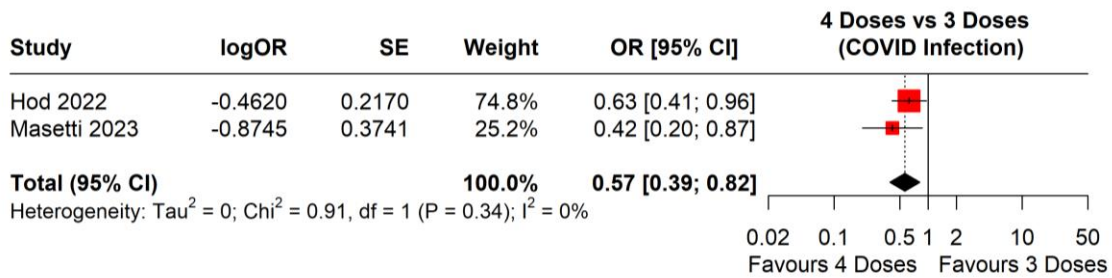
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



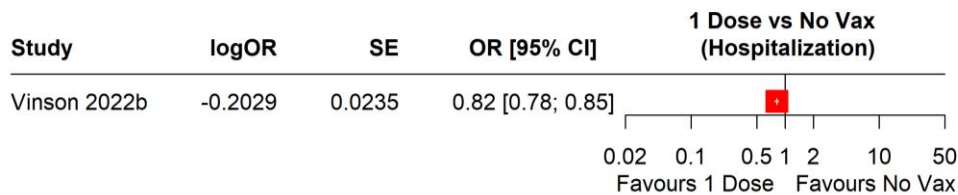
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



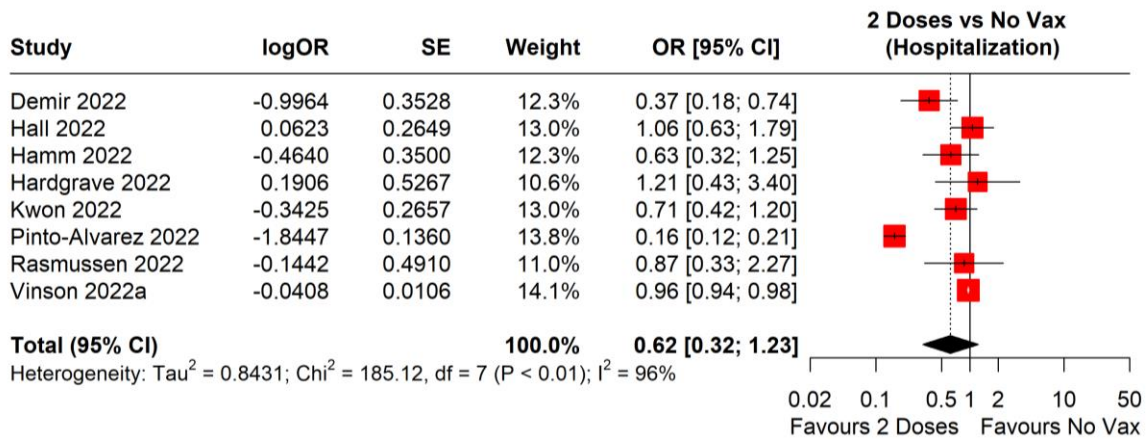
Observational evidence evaluating four versus three doses on COVID-19 infection



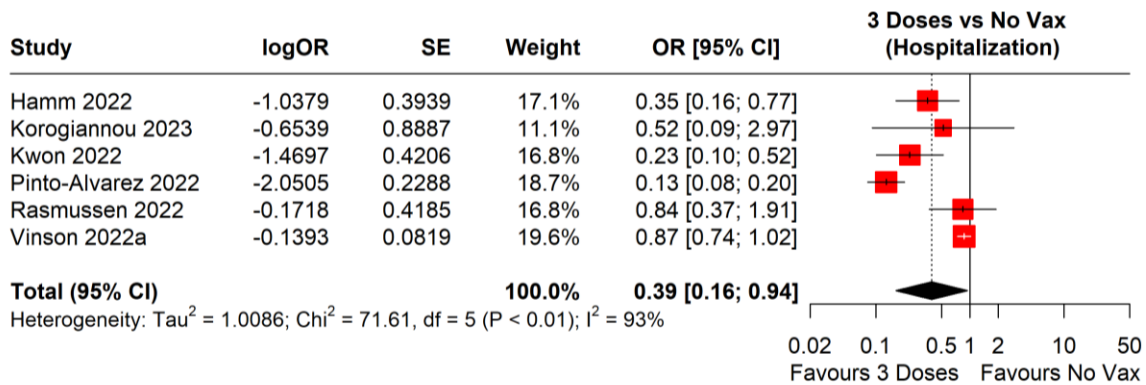
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



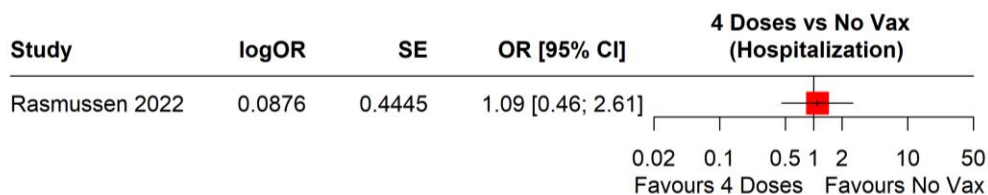
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



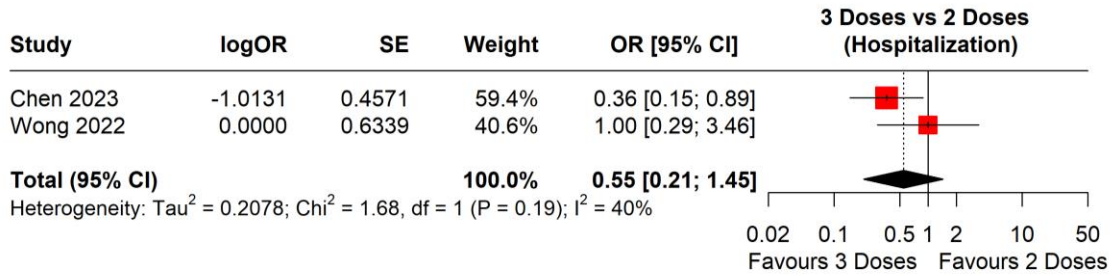
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



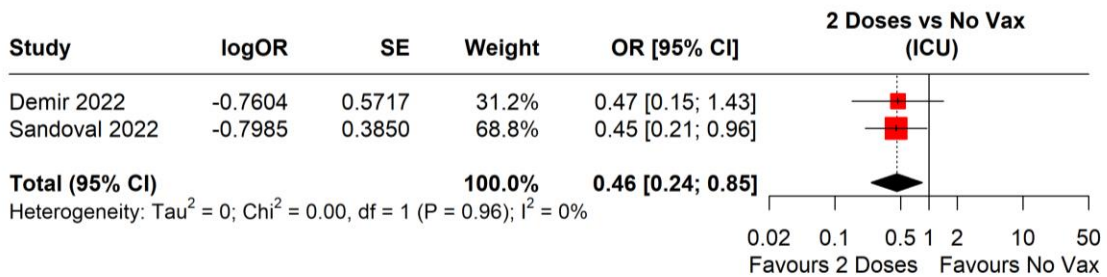
Observational evidence evaluating four doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



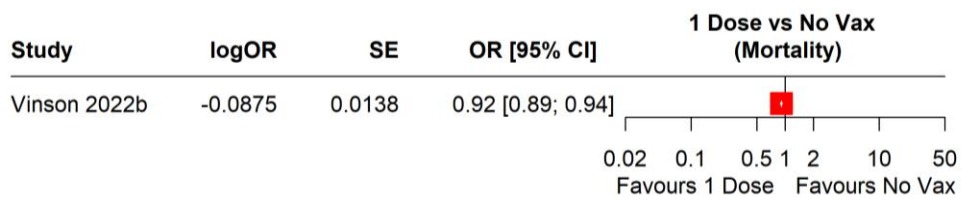
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on hospitalization from COVID-19



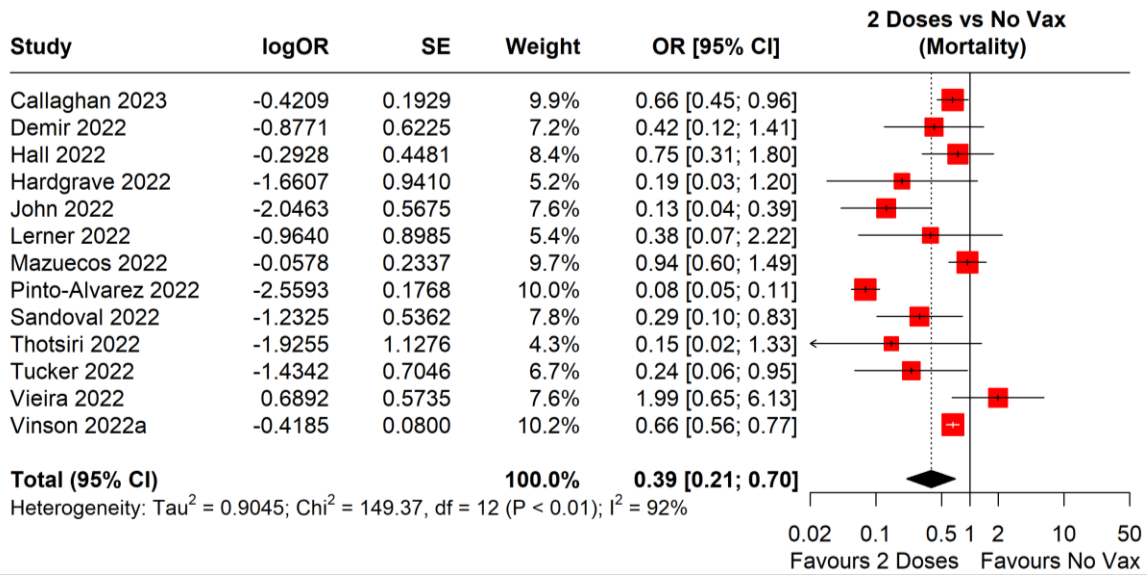
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on ICU admission from COVID-19



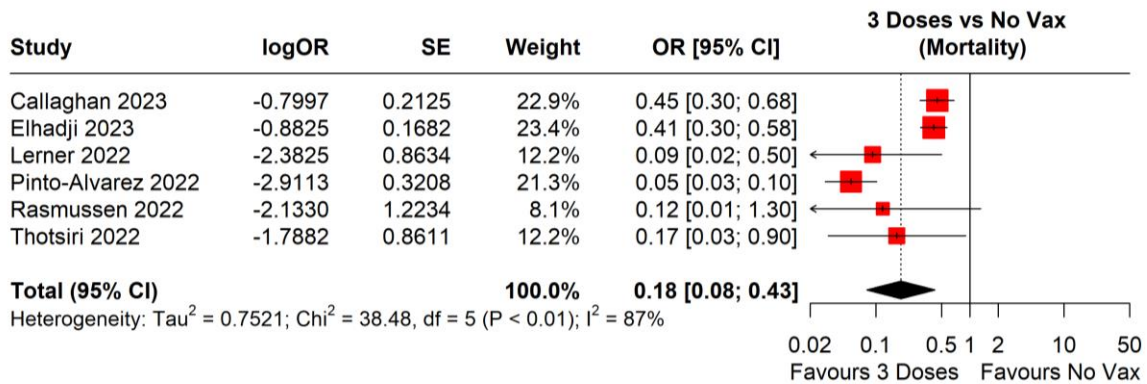
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



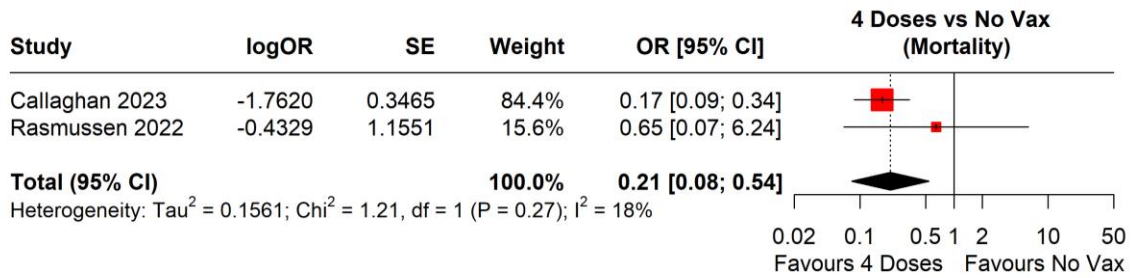
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



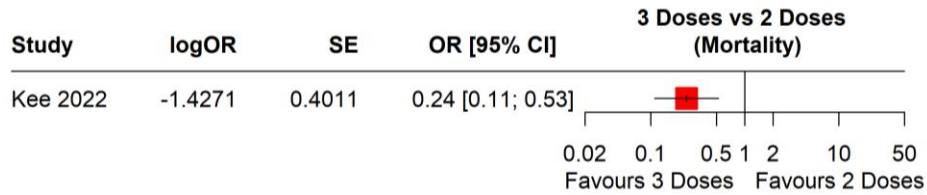
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



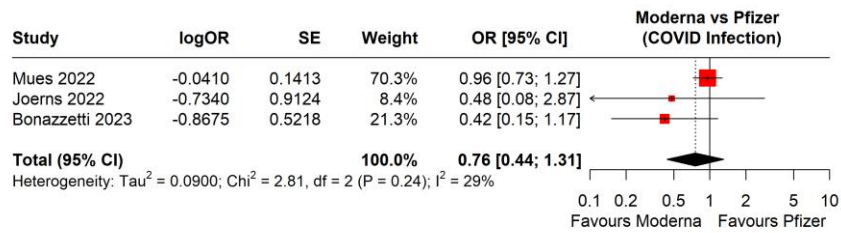
Observational evidence evaluating four doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



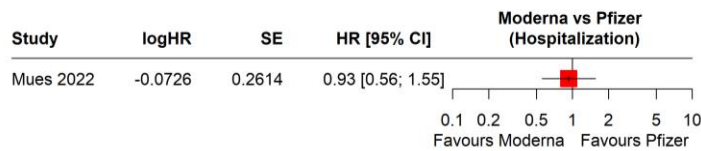
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on mortality from COVID-19



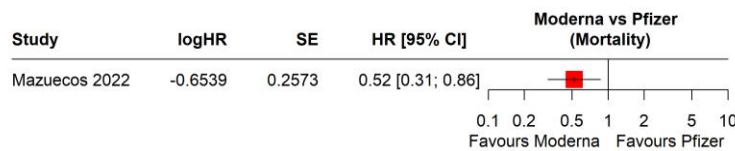
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



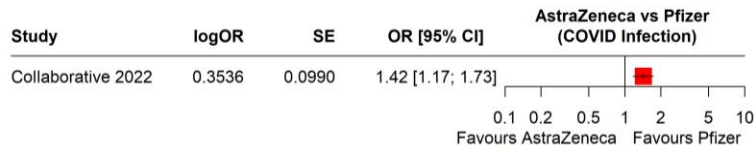
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 hospitalization



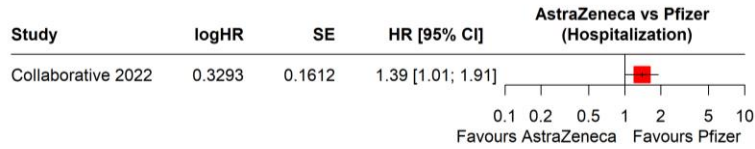
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 mortality



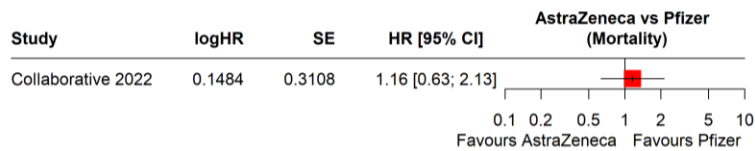
Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 hospitalization

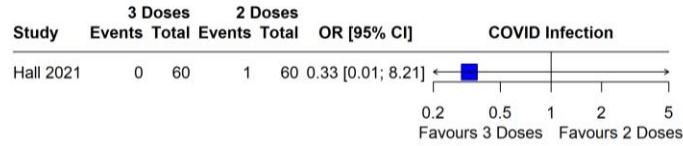


Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 mortality

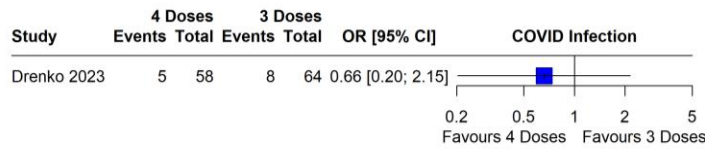


Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024)

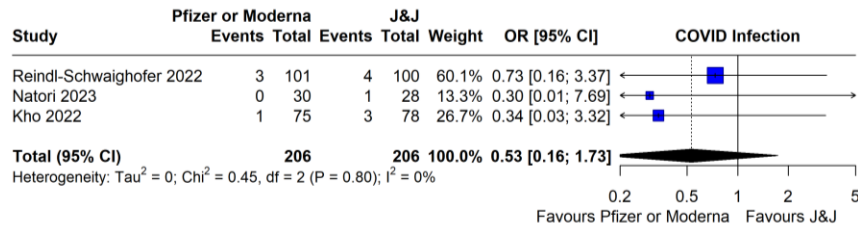
Randomized evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



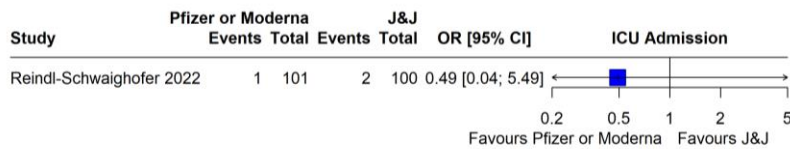
Randomized evidence evaluating four versus three doses on COVID-19 infection



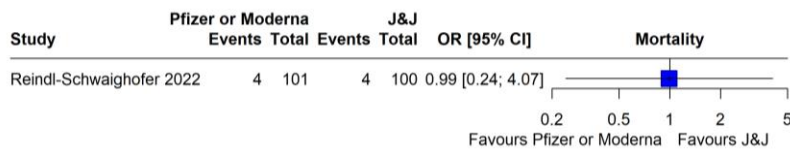
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on COVID-19 infection



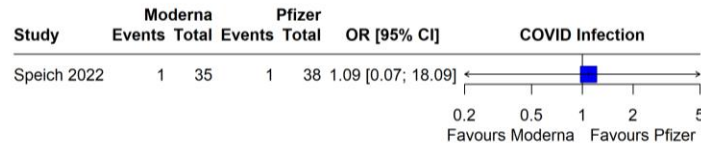
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on ICU admission



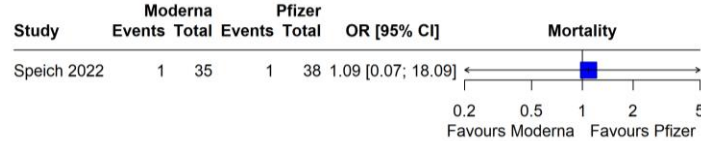
Randomized evidence evaluating mRNA versus J&J vaccines on mortality



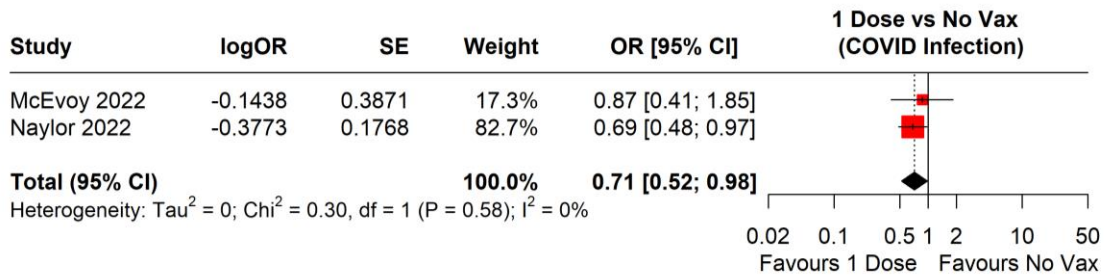
Randomized evidence evaluating Moderna versus Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



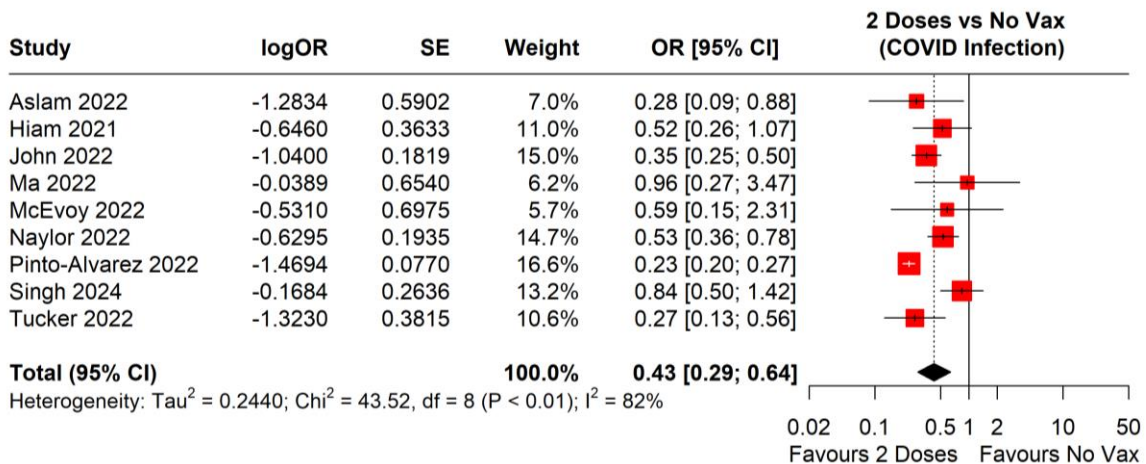
Randomized evidence evaluating Moderna versus Pfizer vaccines on mortality



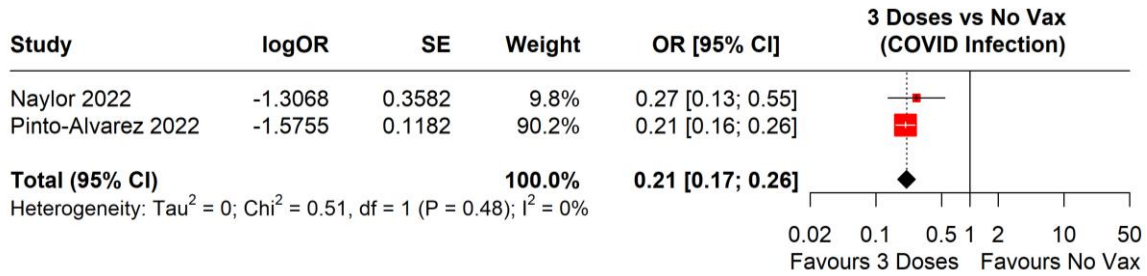
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



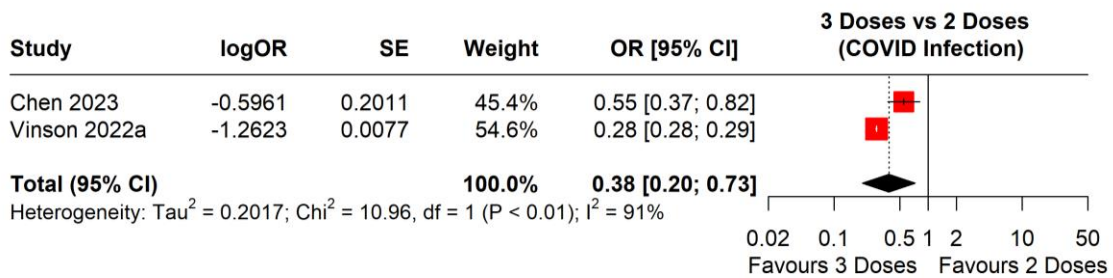
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



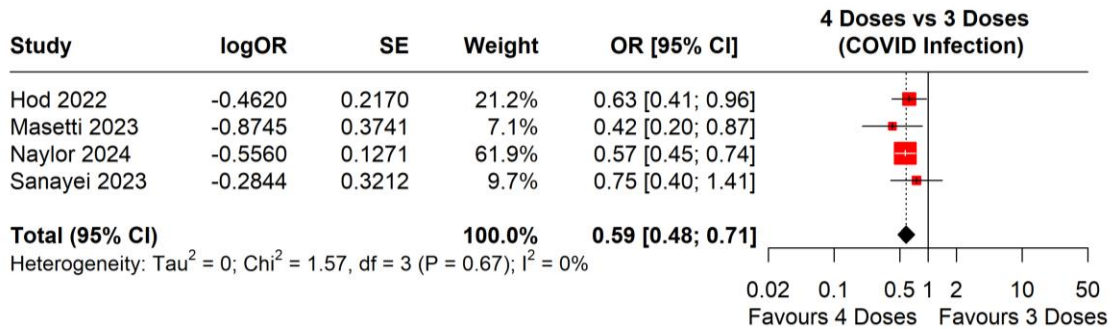
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on COVID-19 infection



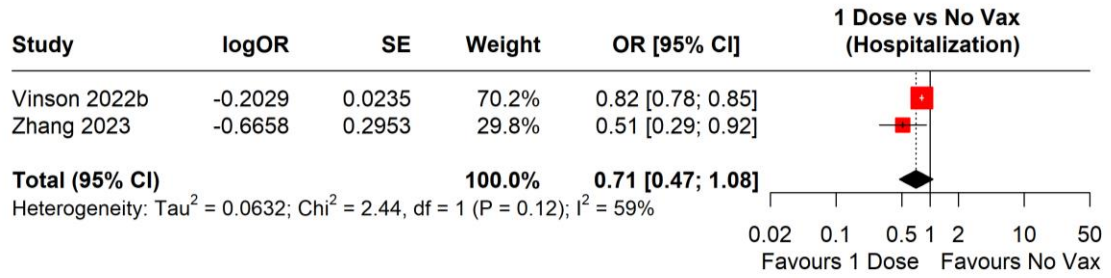
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on COVID-19 infection



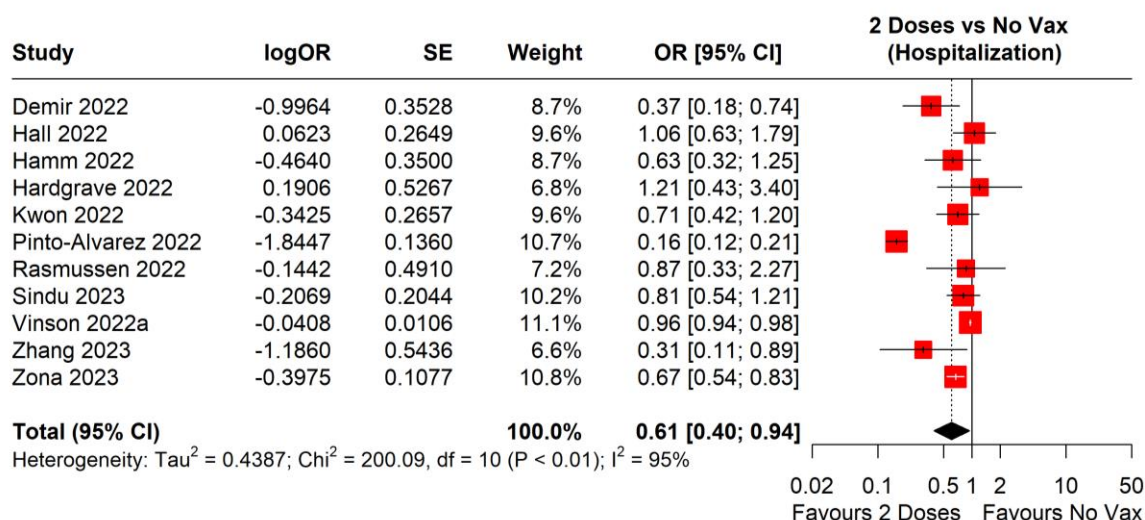
Observational evidence evaluating four versus three doses on COVID-19 infection



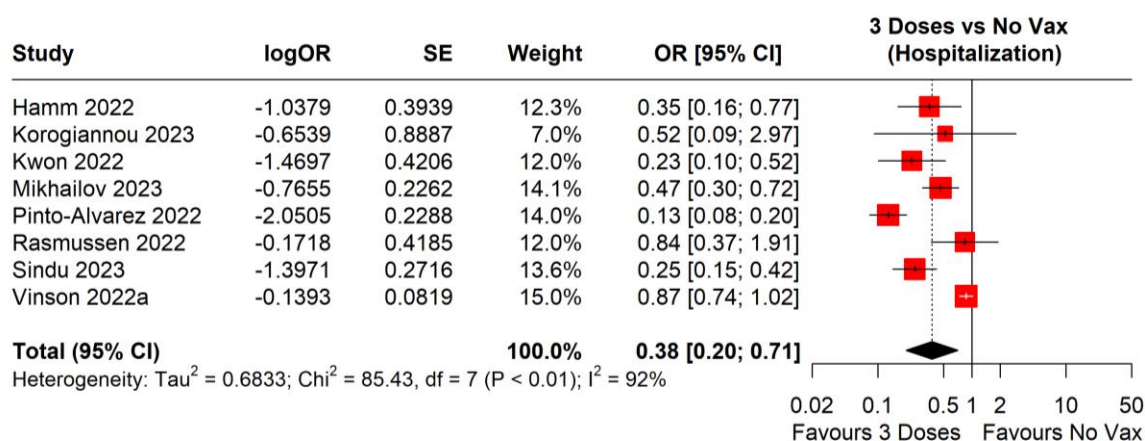
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



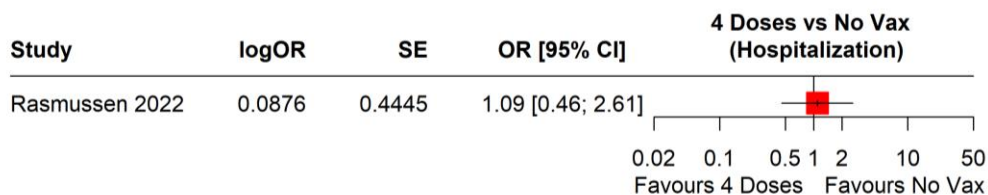
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



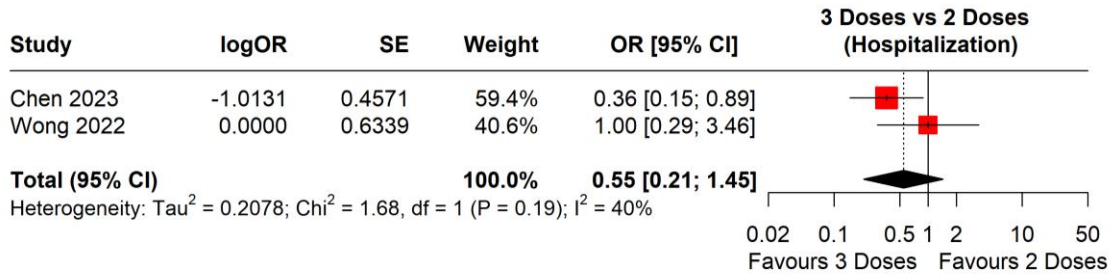
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



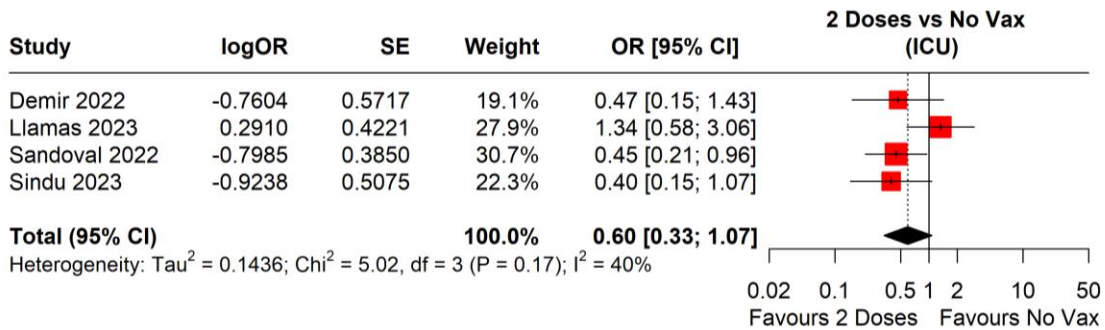
Observational evidence evaluating four doses versus no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



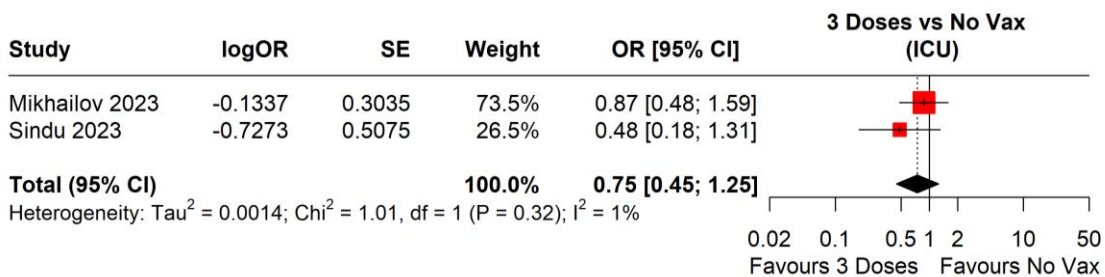
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on hospitalization from COVID-19



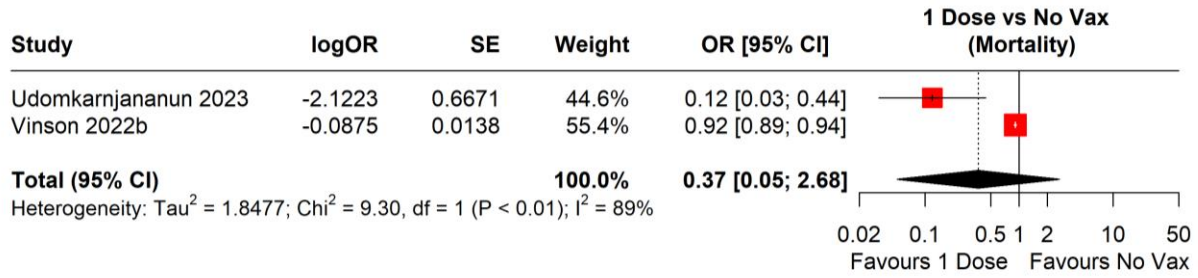
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on ICU admission from COVID-19



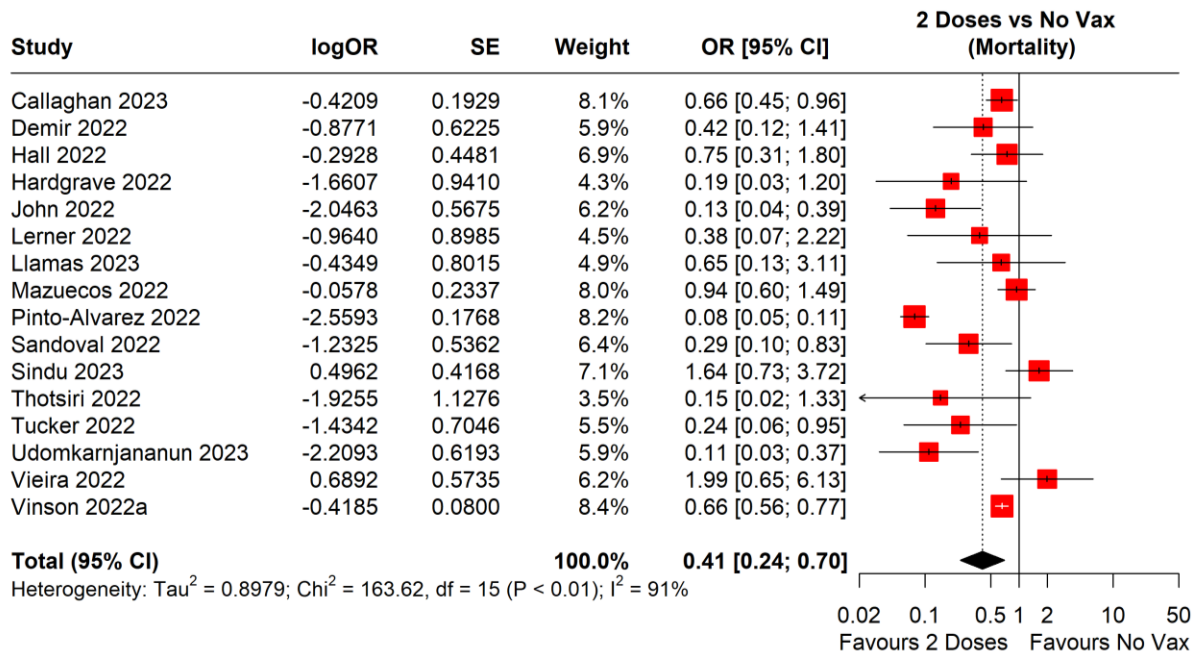
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on ICU admission from COVID-19



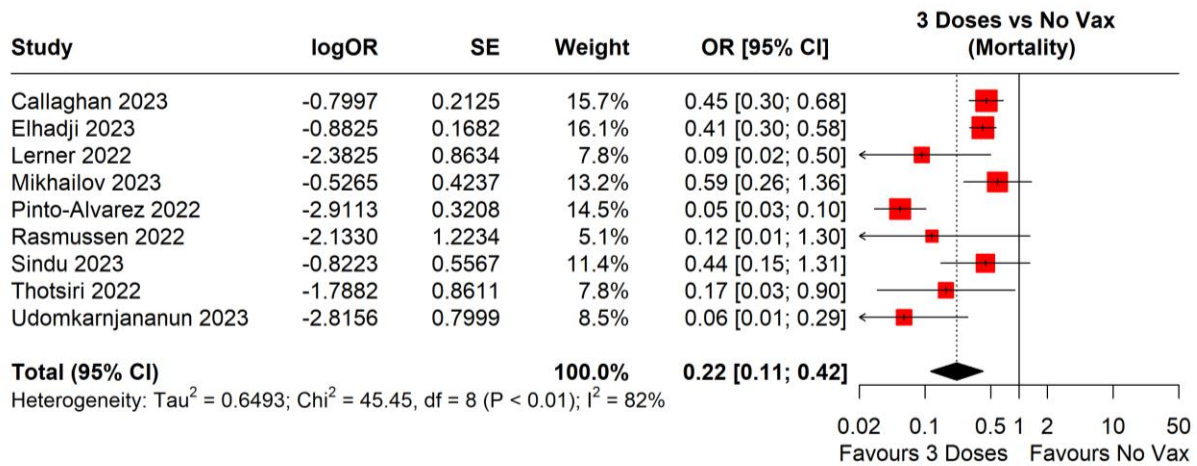
Observational evidence evaluating one dose versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



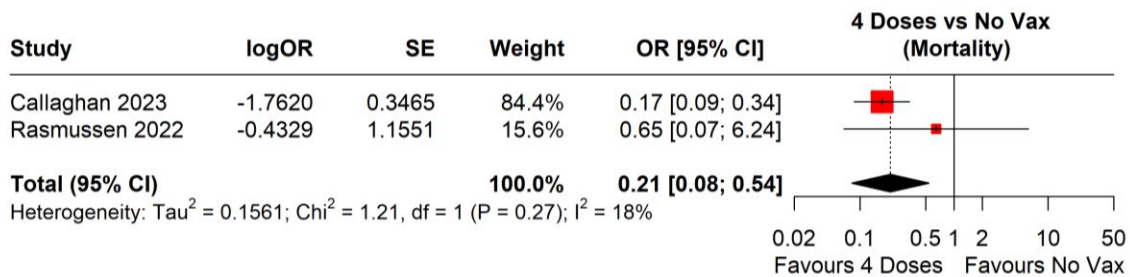
Observational evidence evaluating two doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



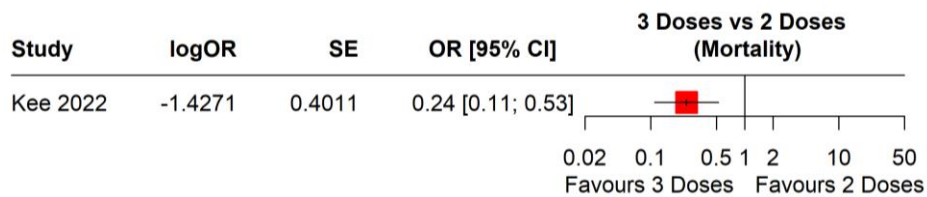
Observational evidence evaluating three doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



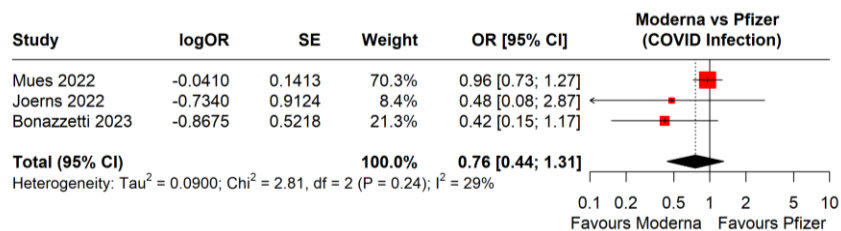
Observational evidence evaluating four doses versus no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



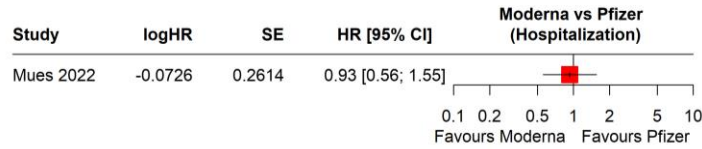
Observational evidence evaluating three versus two doses on mortality from COVID-19



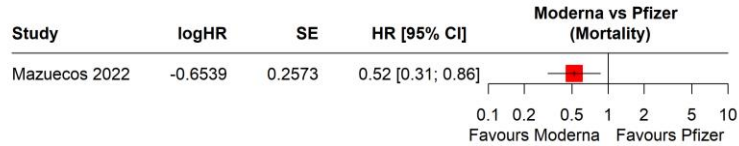
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



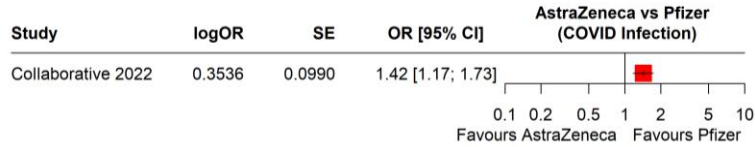
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 hospitalization



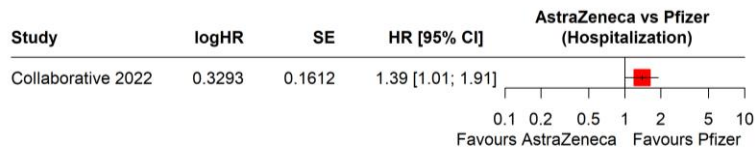
Observational evidence evaluating Moderna vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 mortality



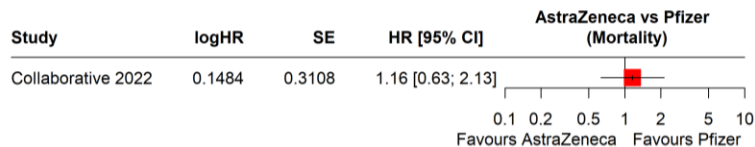
Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 infection



Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 hospitalization



Observational evidence evaluating AstraZeneca vs Pfizer vaccines on COVID-19 mortality



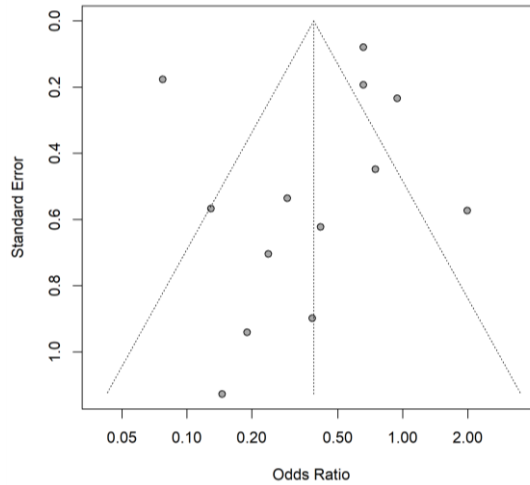
Appendix 6. Pairwise funnel plots.

Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022)

There were an insufficient number of studies to construct funnel plots for all pairwise analyses (i.e., less than 10 studies).

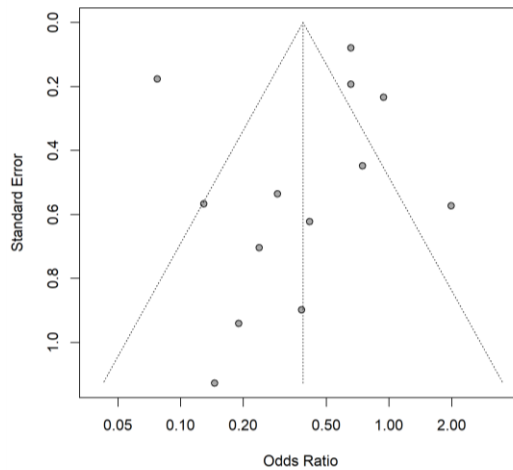
Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023)

Funnel plot for evidence evaluating two doses vs no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



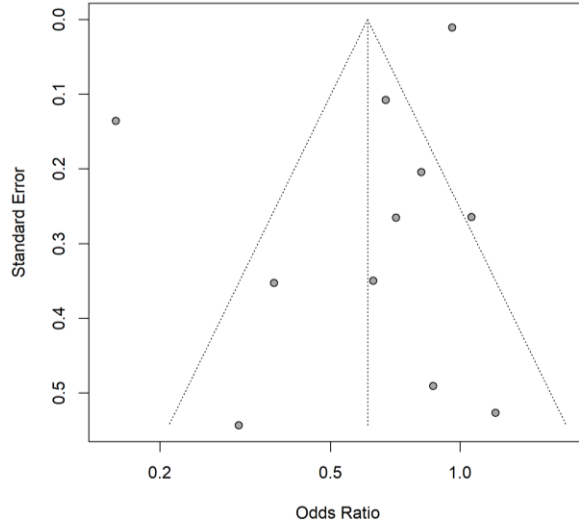
Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023)

Funnel plot for evidence evaluating two doses vs no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19

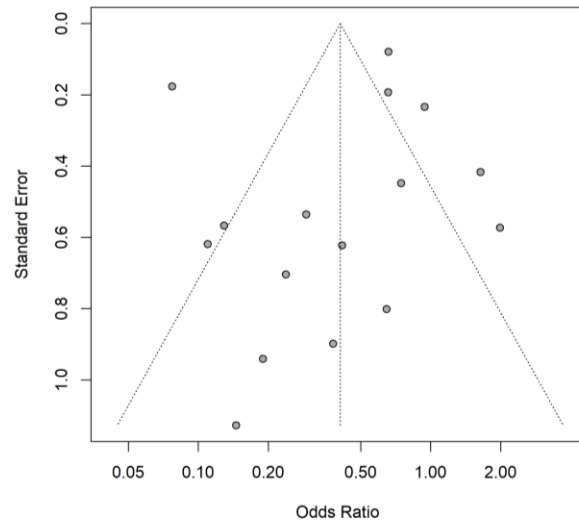


Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024)

Funnel plot for evidence evaluating two doses vs no vaccination on hospitalization from COVID-19



Funnel plot for evidence evaluating two doses vs no vaccination on mortality from COVID-19



Appendix 7. Subgroup analyses.

Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022)

| Two doses vs no vaccination | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Organ Group | COVID-19 Infection OR (95%CI) | Hospitalization from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) | Mortality from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) |
| Mixed | 0.39 (0.24 to 0.65) | N/A | 0.65 (0.56 to 0.76) |
| Kidney | 0.54 (0.29 to 1.01) | N/A | 0.95 (0.49 to 1.84) |
| Liver | 0.35 (0.25 to 0.50) | N/A | 0.13 (0.04 to 0.39) |
| Lung | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Heart | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Interaction p-value | 0.5274 | N/A | 0.0095 |
| Credibility | N/A | N/A | Very Low |

Note: CI = Confidence interval; OR = Odds ratio.

Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023)

| Two doses vs no vaccination | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Organ Group | COVID-19 Infection OR (95%CI) | Hospitalization from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) | Mortality from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) |
| Mixed | 0.31 (0.18 to 0.54) | N/A | 0.33 (0.15 to 0.75) |
| Kidney | 0.54 (0.29 to 1.01) | N/A | 0.79 (0.37 to 1.69) |
| Liver | 0.48 (0.19 to 1.18) | N/A | 0.13 (0.04 to 0.39) |
| Lung | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Heart | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Interaction p-value | 0.4172 | N/A | 0.0280 |
| Credibility | N/A | N/A | Very Low |

Note: CI = Confidence interval; OR = Odds ratio.

Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023)

| Three doses vs no vaccination | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Organ Group | COVID-19 Infection OR (95%CI) | Hospitalization from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) | Mortality from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) |
| Mixed | N/A | N/A | 0.13 (0.03 to 0.57) |
| Kidney | N/A | N/A | 0.39 (0.25 to 0.60) |
| Liver | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Lung | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Heart | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Interaction p-value | N/A | N/A | 0.1672 |
| Credibility | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Two doses vs no vaccination | | | |
| Organ Group | COVID-19 Infection OR (95%CI) | Hospitalization from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) | Mortality from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) |
| Mixed | 0.31 (0.18 to 0.54) | N/A | 0.33 (0.15 to 0.75) |
| Kidney | 0.54 (0.29 to 1.01) | N/A | 0.79 (0.37 to 1.69) |
| Liver | 0.48 (0.19 to 1.18) | N/A | 0.13 (0.04 to 0.39) |
| Lung | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Heart | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Interaction p-value | 0.4172 | N/A | 0.0280 |
| Credibility | N/A | N/A | Very Low |

Note: CI = Confidence interval; OR = Odds ratio.

Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024)

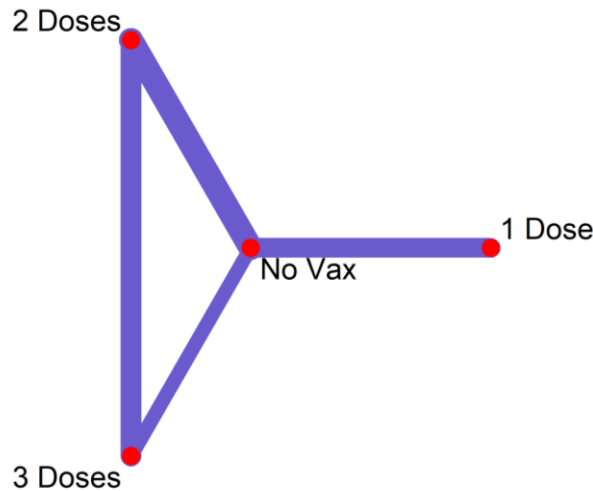
| Three doses vs no vaccination | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Organ Group | COVID-19 Infection OR (95%CI) | Hospitalization from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) | Mortality from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) |
| Mixed | N/A | 0.38 (0.15 to 0.97) | 0.13 (0.03 to 0.57) |
| Kidney | N/A | 0.47 (0.30 to 0.72) | 0.30 (0.14 to 0.64) |
| Liver | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Lung | N/A | 0.25 (0.15 to 0.42) | 0.44 (0.15 to 1.31) |
| Heart | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Interaction p-value | N/A | 0.1872 | 0.4376 |
| Credibility | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Two doses vs no vaccination | | | |
| Organ Group | COVID-19 Infection OR (95%CI) | Hospitalization from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) | Mortality from COVID-19 OR (95%CI) |
| Mixed | 0.31 (0.18 to 0.54) | 0.67 (0.32 to 1.40) | 0.33 (0.15 to 0.75) |
| Kidney | 0.70 (0.47 to 1.05) | 0.55 (0.31 to 0.96) | 0.49 (0.18 to 1.31) |
| Liver | 0.48 (0.19 to 1.18) | 0.31 (0.11 to 0.89) | 0.26 (0.05 to 1.25) |
| Lung | N/A | 0.81 (0.54 to 1.21) | 1.64 (0.73 to 3.72) |
| Heart | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Interaction p-value | 0.0610 | 0.3225 | 0.0280 |
| Credibility | Very Low | N/A | Very Low |

Note: CI = Confidence interval; OR = Odds ratio.

Appendix 8. Network plots, league tables, and node-splitting plots.

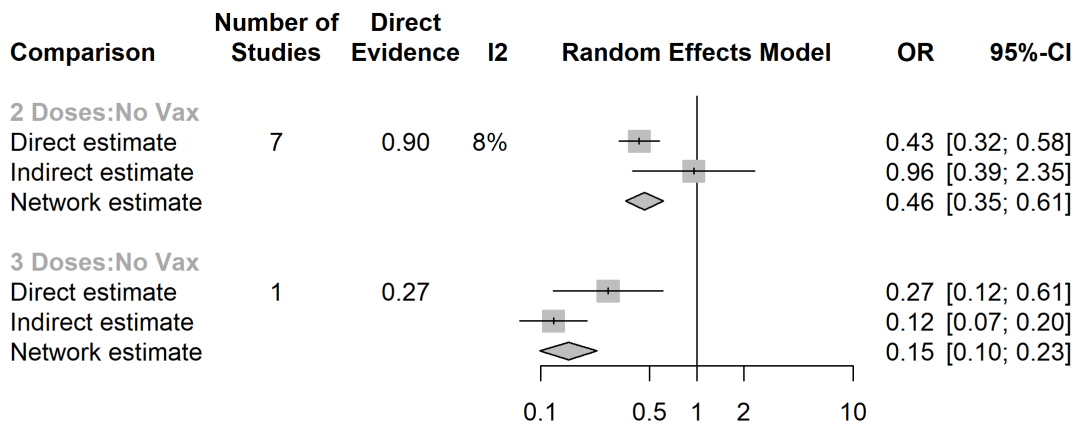
Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022)

Network evaluating the number of vaccines on COVID-19 infection

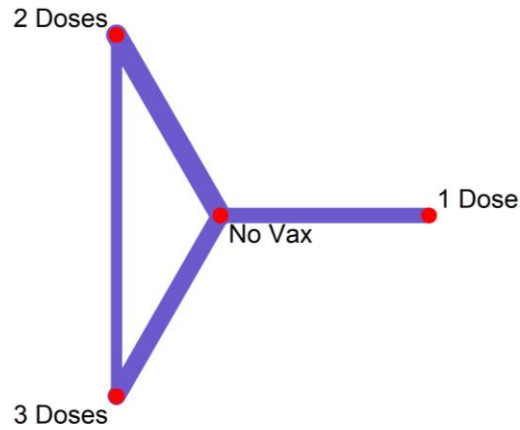


| Four doses | Three doses | Two doses | One dose | No vaccination |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| - | 0.33 (0.23 to 0.47) | 0.63 (0.37 to 1.08) | 0.73 (0.47 to 1.15) | - |
| - | 0.21 (0.11 to 0.38) | 0.46 (0.35 to 0.61) | - | - |
| - | 0.15 (0.10 to 0.23) | - | - | - |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

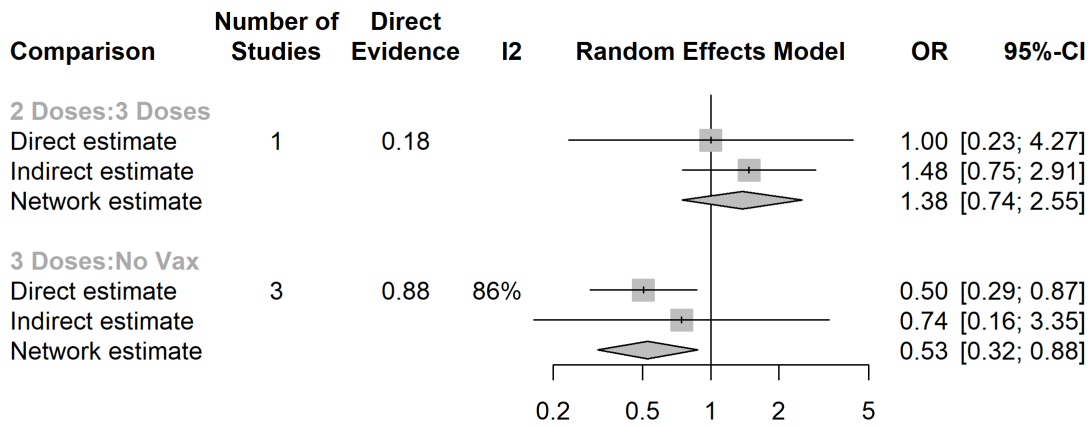


Network evaluating the number of vaccines on hospitalization from COVID-19

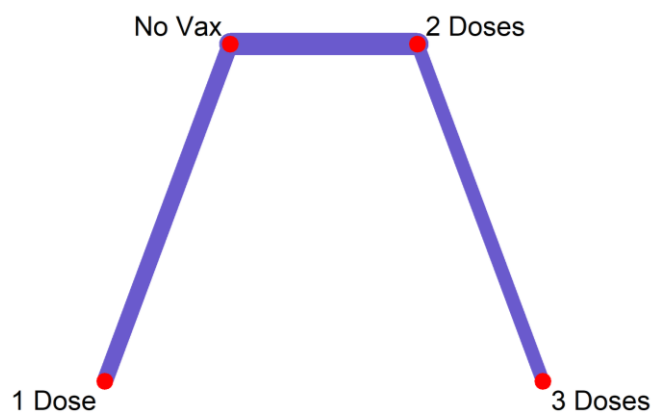


| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| - | Three doses | | | |
| - | 0.73 (0.39 to 1.34) | Two doses | | |
| - | 0.64 (0.26 to 1.60) | 0.89 (0.38 to 2.07) | One dose | |
| - | 0.53 (0.32 to 0.88) | 0.72 (0.49 to 1.07) | 0.82 (0.38 to 1.73) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.



Network evaluating the number of vaccines on mortality from COVID-19

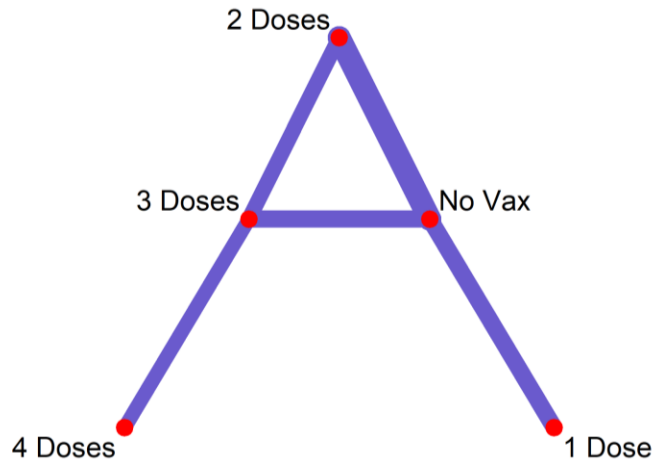


| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| - | Three doses | | | |
| - | 0.28 (0.08 to 0.76) | Two doses | | |
| - | 0.16 (0.04 to 0.71) | 0.66 (0.26 to 1.72) | One dose | |
| - | 0.15 (0.04 to 0.50) | 0.61 (0.39 to 0.95) | 0.92 (0.40 to 2.12) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

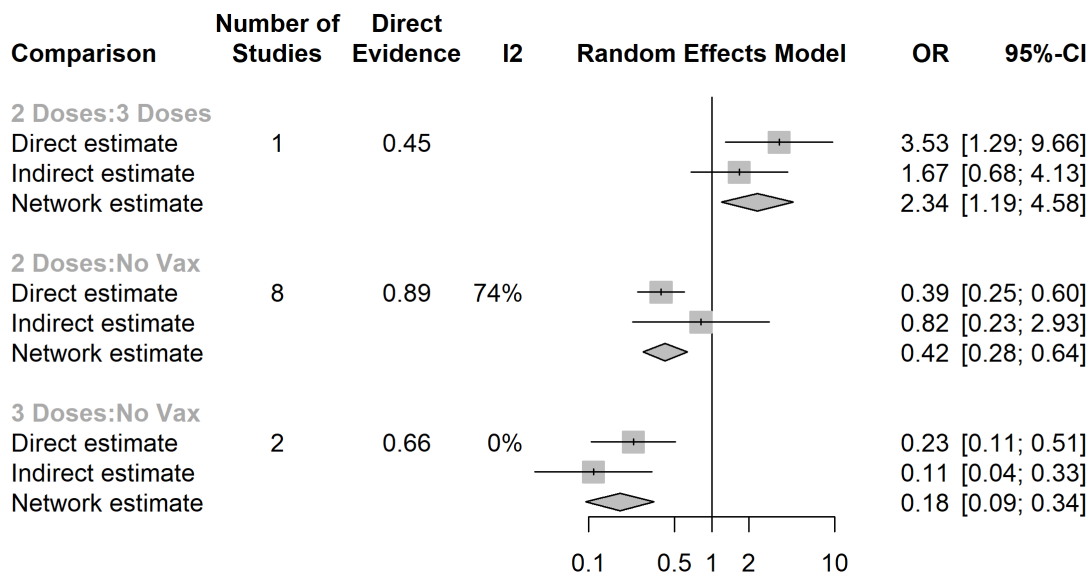
Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023)

Network evaluating the number of vaccines on COVID-19 infection

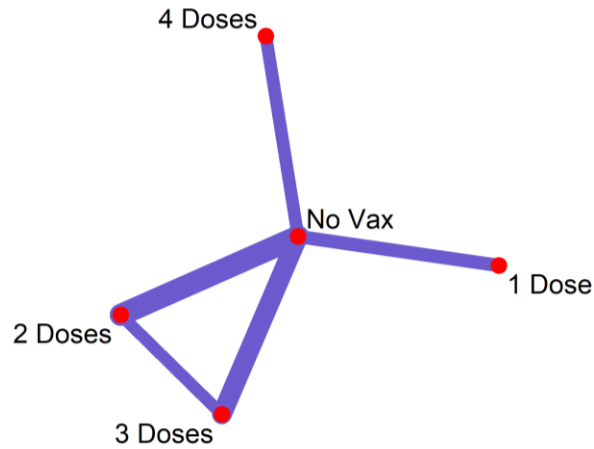


| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| 0.63 (0.21 to 1.88) | Three doses | | | |
| 0.27 (0.07 to 0.97) | 0.43 (0.22 to 0.84) | Two doses | | |
| 0.15 (0.03 to 0.67) | 0.24 (0.08 to 0.67) | 0.55 (0.22 to 1.38) | One dose | |
| 0.11 (0.03 to 0.40) | 0.18 (0.09 to 0.34) | 0.42 (0.28 to 0.64) | 0.76 (0.34 to 1.70) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

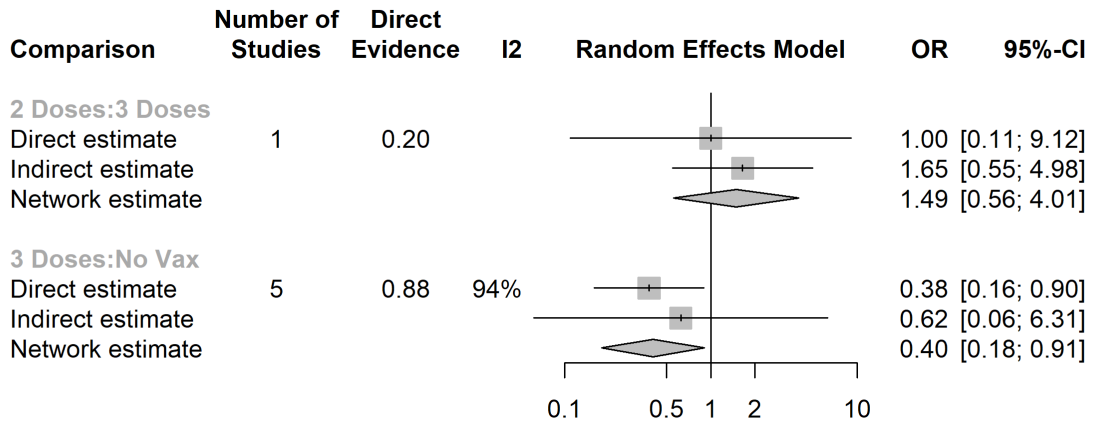


Network evaluating the number of vaccines on hospitalization from COVID-19

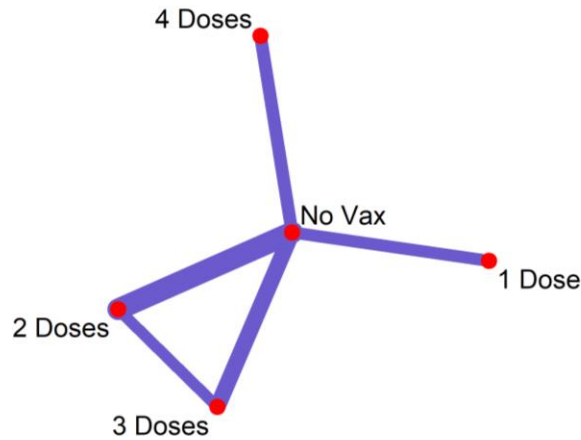


| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| 2.71 (0.31 to 24.00) | Three doses | | | |
| 1.82 (0.22 to 15.27) | 0.67 (0.25 to 1.80) | Two doses | | |
| 1.34 (0.09 to 20.46) | 0.49 (0.07 to 3.65) | 0.74 (0.11 to 5.14) | One dose | |
| 1.09 (0.14 to 8.27) | 0.40 (0.18 to 0.91) | 0.60 (0.31 to 1.16) | 0.82 (0.13 to 5.08) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

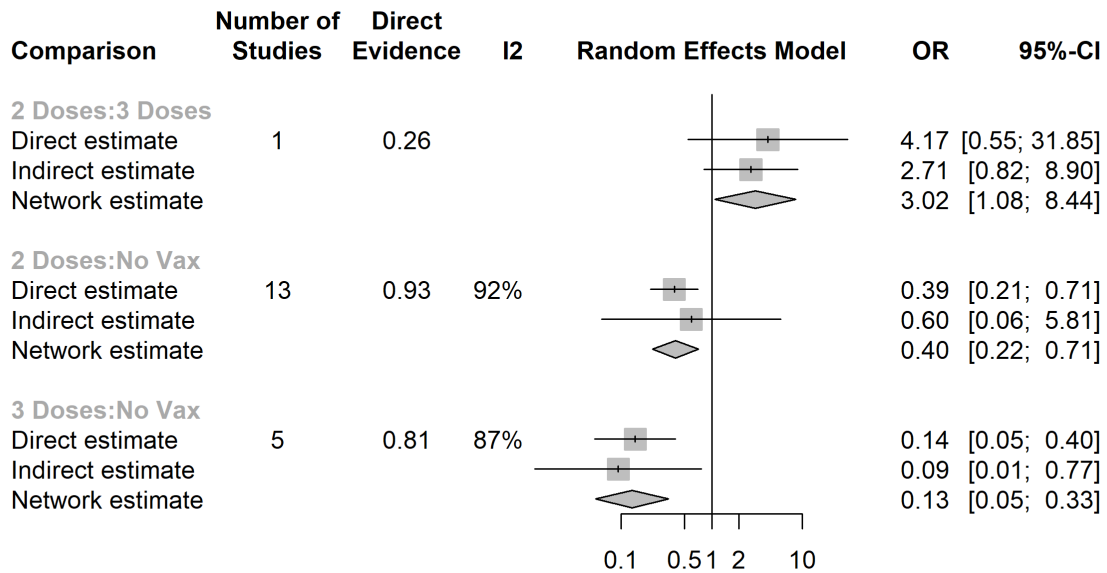


Network evaluating the number of vaccines on mortality from COVID-19



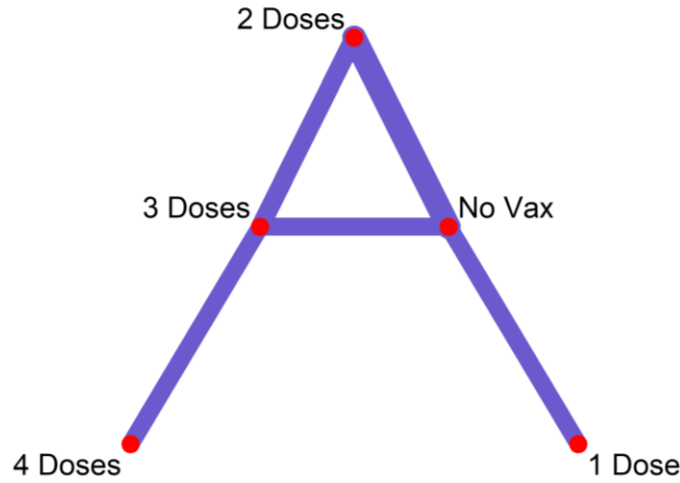
| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| 1.98 (0.30 to 13.15) | Three doses | | | |
| 0.66 (0.11 to 3.78) | 0.33 (0.12 to 0.92) | Two doses | | |
| 0.28 (0.02 to 3.47) | 0.14 (0.02 to 1.16) | 0.43 (0.06 to 3.09) | One dose | |
| 0.26 (0.05 to 1.36) | 0.13 (0.05 to 0.33) | 0.40 (0.22 to 0.71) | 0.92 (0.14 to 5.98) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.



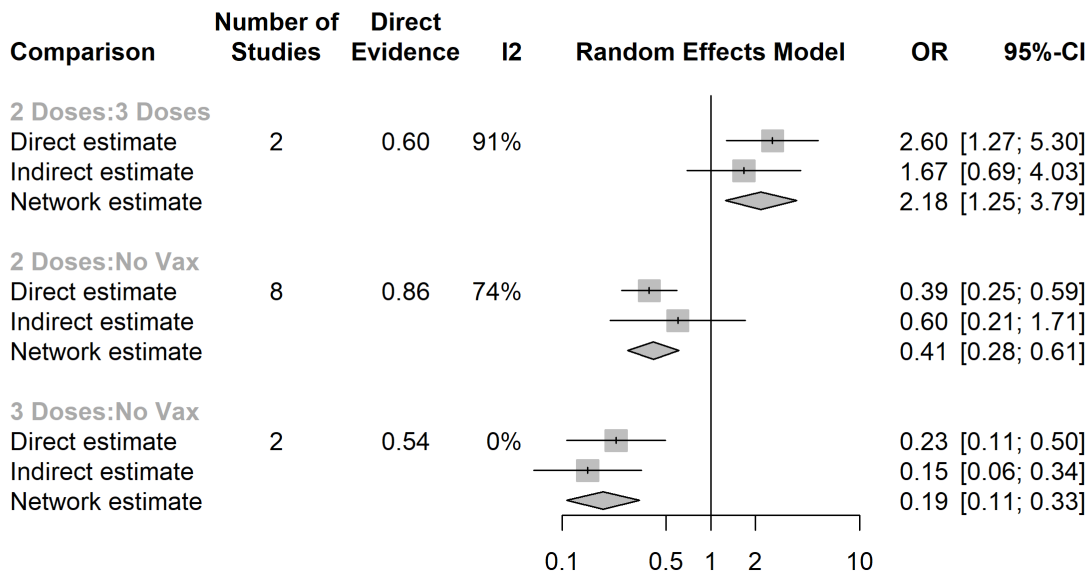
Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023)

Network evaluating the number of vaccines on COVID-19 infection

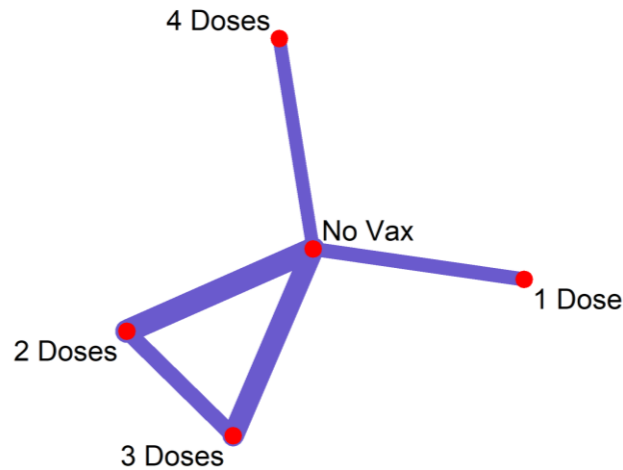


| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| 0.53 (0.24 to 1.17) | Three doses | | | |
| 0.24 (0.09 to 0.64) | 0.46 (0.26 to 0.80) | Two doses | | |
| 0.13 (0.04 to 0.46) | 0.25 (0.09 to 0.66) | 0.54 (0.22 to 1.32) | One dose | |
| 0.10 (0.04 to 0.26) | 0.19 (0.11 to 0.33) | 0.41 (0.28 to 0.61) | 0.75 (0.34 to 1.67) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

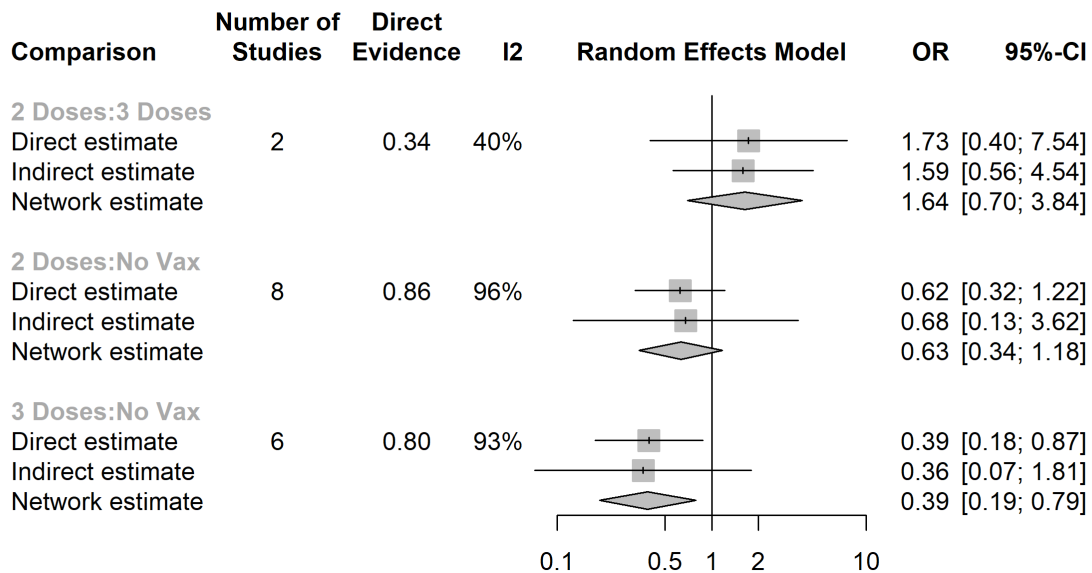


Network evaluating the number of vaccines on hospitalization from COVID-19

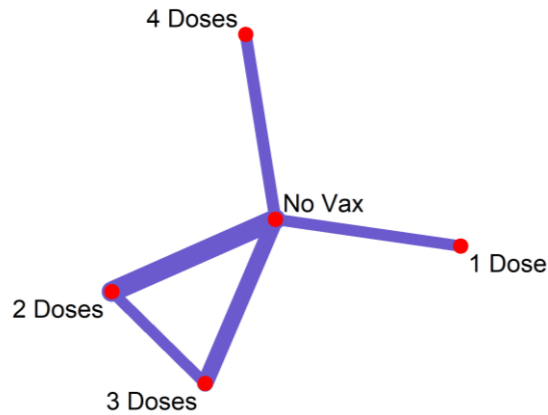


| Four doses | Three doses | Two doses | One dose | No vaccination |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 2.83 (0.34 to 23.42) | 0.61 (0.26 to 1.43) | 0.77 (0.12 to 5.12) | 0.82 (0.14 to 4.86) | |
| 1.73 (0.22 to 13.85) | 0.61 (0.26 to 1.43) | | | |
| 1.34 (0.09 to 19.30) | 0.47 (0.07 to 3.23) | 0.77 (0.12 to 5.12) | | |
| 1.09 (0.15 to 7.95) | 0.39 (0.19 to 0.79) | 0.63 (0.34 to 1.18) | 0.82 (0.14 to 4.86) | |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

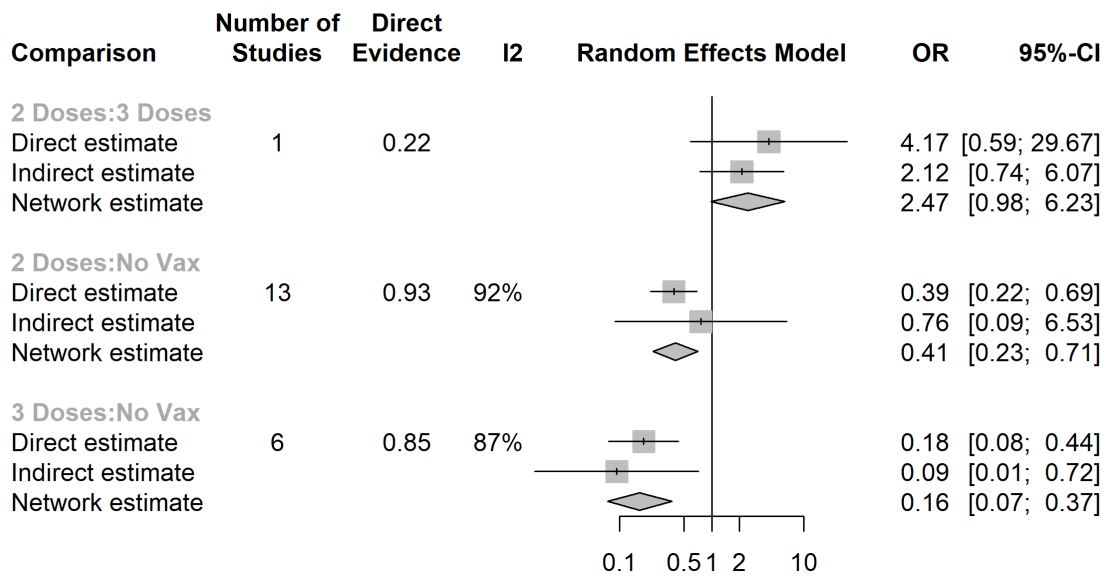


Network evaluating the number of vaccines on mortality from COVID-19



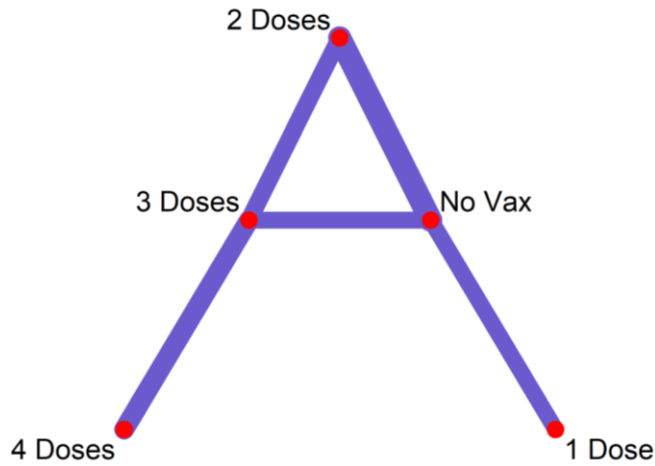
| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| 1.57 (0.26 to 9.40) | Three doses | | | |
| 0.64 (0.12 to 3.47) | 0.41 (0.16 to 1.02) | Two doses | | |
| 0.28 (0.03 to 3.13) | 0.18 (0.03 to 1.29) | 0.44 (0.07 to 2.92) | One dose | |
| 0.26 (0.05 to 1.28) | 0.16 (0.07 to 0.37) | 0.41 (0.23 to 0.71) | 0.92 (0.15 to 5.54) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.



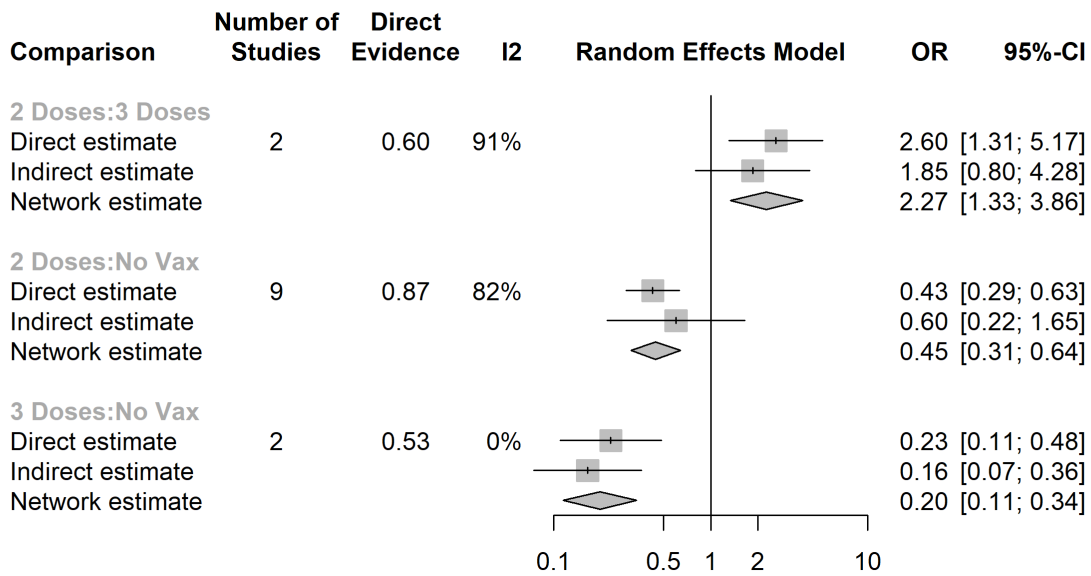
Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024)

Network evaluating the number of vaccines on COVID-19 infection

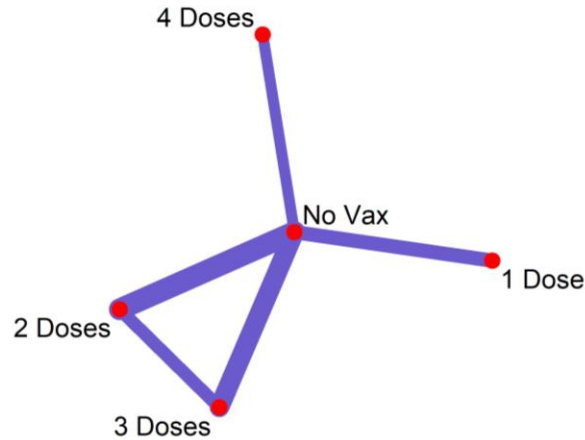


| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Four doses | | | | | |
| 0.59 (0.34 to 1.00) | Three doses | | | | |
| 0.26 (0.12 to 0.55) | 0.44 (0.26 to 0.75) | Two doses | | | |
| 0.15 (0.05 to 0.45) | 0.26 (0.10 to 0.67) | 0.59 (0.25 to 1.38) | One dose | | |
| 0.12 (0.05 to 0.25) | 0.20 (0.11 to 0.34) | 0.45 (0.31 to 0.64) | 0.75 (0.35 to 1.62) | No vaccination | |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

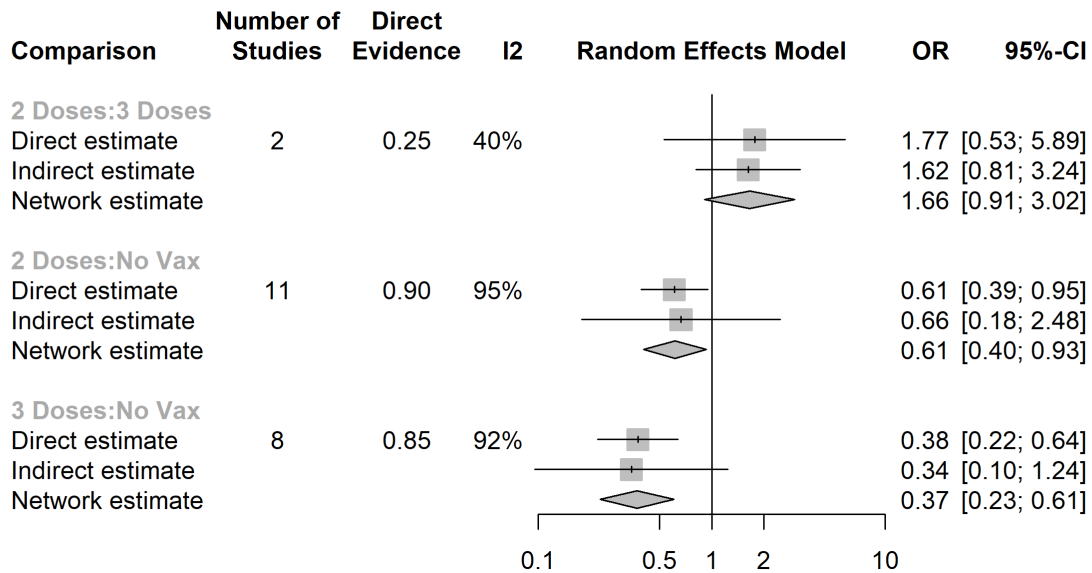


Network evaluating the number of vaccines on hospitalization from COVID-19

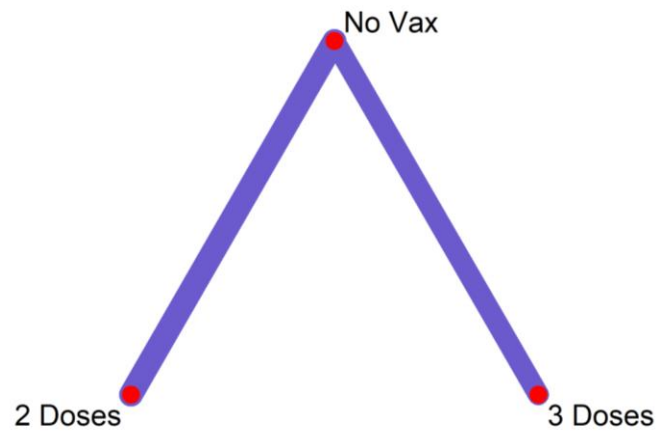


| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| 2.94 (0.56 to 15.51) | Three doses | | | |
| 1.78 (0.34 to 9.17) | 0.60 (0.33 to 1.10) | Two doses | | |
| 1.65 (0.26 to 10.67) | 0.56 (0.19 to 1.68) | 0.93 (0.32 to 2.70) | One dose | |
| 1.09 (0.22 to 5.34) | 0.37 (0.23 to 0.61) | 0.61 (0.40 to 0.93) | 0.66 (0.25 to 1.76) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.



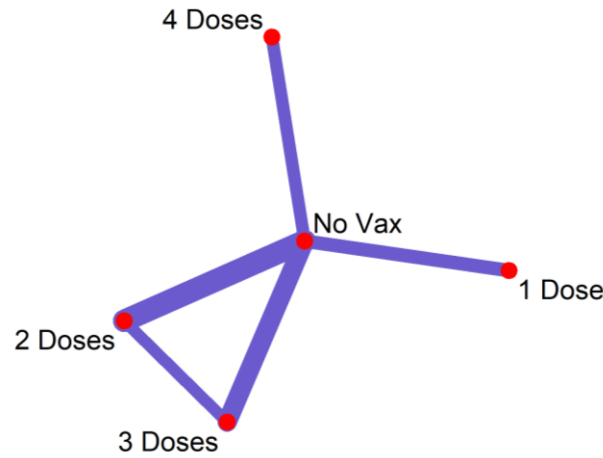
Network evaluating the number of vaccines on ICU admission from COVID-19



| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| - | Three doses | | | |
| - | 1.19 (0.49 to 2.88) | Two doses | | |
| - | - | - | One dose | |
| - | 0.71 (0.35 to 1.43) | 0.60 (0.35 to 1.04) | - | No vaccination |

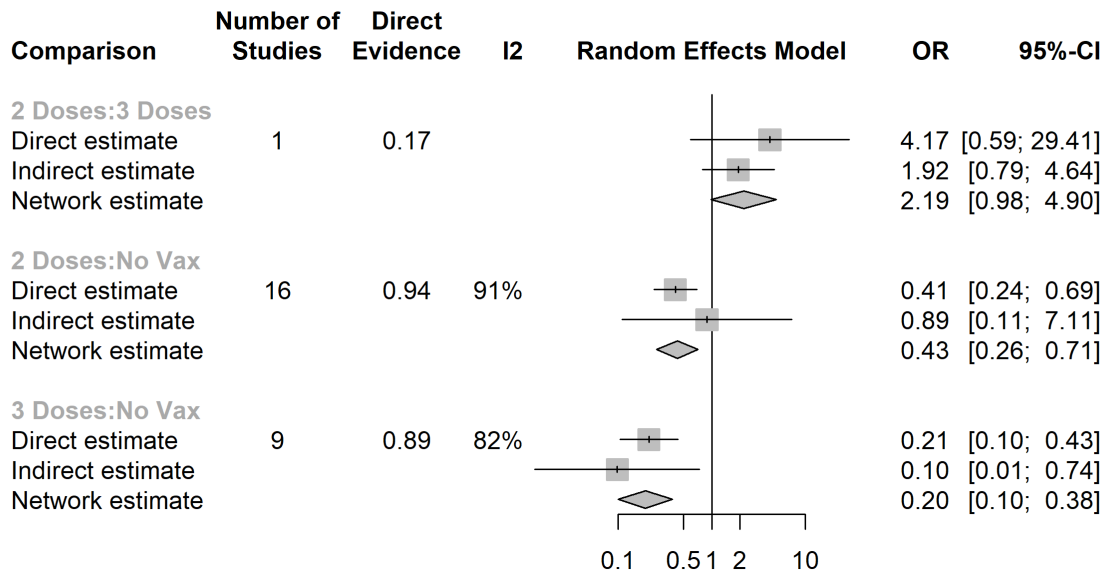
Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.

Network evaluating the number of vaccines on mortality from COVID-19



| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Four doses | | | | |
| 1.32 (0.23 to 7.42) | Three doses | | | |
| 0.60 (0.11 to 3.21) | 0.46 (0.20 to 1.02) | Two doses | | |
| 0.63 (0.08 to 5.21) | 0.48 (0.10 to 2.24) | 1.04 (0.24 to 4.60) | One dose | |
| 0.26 (0.05 to 1.27) | 0.20 (0.10 to 0.38) | 0.43 (0.26 to 0.71) | 0.41 (0.10 to 1.65) | No vaccination |

Note: Values are reported in odds ratios.



Appendix 9. Intransitivity assessments.

Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022)

| Pairwise Comparison | N Studies | N Patients | Median of Cohort Mean Ages (Years) | Median of Cohort Proportion Female (%) | Median of Cohort Mean Time from Transplant (Years) | Recruitment Period |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| 3 Doses vs 2 Doses | 3 | 13667 | 52.0 | 45% | 8.5 | Dec 2020 - May 2022 |
| 3 Doses vs No Vax | 5 | 26284 | 52.8 | 40% | 6.2 | Dec 2020 - May 2022 |
| 2 Doses vs No Vax | 13 | 35109 | 55.1 | 38% | 7.2 | Jan 2020 - May 2022 |
| 1 Dose vs No Vax | 3 | 30195 | 59.0 | 37% | 8.1 | Mar 2020 - Nov 2021 |

Note: NR = Not reported.

Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023)

| Pairwise Comparison | N Studies | N Patients | Median of Cohort Mean Ages (Years) | Median of Cohort Proportion Female (%) | Median of Cohort Mean Time from Transplant (Years) | Recruitment Period |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| 4 Doses vs 3 Doses | 1 | 447 | 61.5 | 70% | 4.6 | Dec 2021 - Mar 2022 |
| 4 Doses vs No Vax | 2 | 13254 | 52.9 | 42% | NR | Dec 2020 - Jul 2022 |
| 3 Doses vs 2 Doses | 3 | 13667 | 52.0 | 45% | 8.5 | Dec 2020 - May 2022 |
| 3 Doses vs No Vax | 9 | 46647 | 51.8 | 42% | 6.2 | Dec 2020 - Jul 2022 |
| 2 Doses vs No Vax | 21 | 58590 | 53.9 | 41% | 6.2 | Jan 2020 - Jul 2022 |
| 1 Dose vs No Vax | 3 | 30195 | 59.0 | 37% | 8.1 | Mar 2020 - Nov 2021 |

Note: NR = Not reported.

Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023)

| Pairwise Comparison | N Studies | N Patients | Median of Cohort Mean Ages (Years) | Median of Cohort Proportion Female (%) | Median of Cohort Mean Time from Transplant (Years) | Recruitment Period |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| 4 Doses vs 3 Doses | 2 | 715 | 61.5 | 48% | 8.5 | Dec 2021 - Nov 2022 |
| 4 Doses vs No Vax | 2 | 13254 | 52.9 | 42% | NR | Dec 2020 - Jul 2022 |
| 3 Doses vs 2 Doses | 3 | 13667 | 52.0 | 45% | 8.5 | Dec 2020 - Aug 2022 |
| 3 Doses vs No Vax | 11 | 57735 | 51.8 | 41% | 6.2 | Jan 2015 - Sep 2022 |
| 2 Doses vs No Vax | 21 | 58590 | 53.9 | 41% | 6.2 | Jan 2020 - Jul 2022 |
| 1 Dose vs No Vax | 3 | 30195 | 59.0 | 37% | 8.1 | Mar 2020 - Nov 2021 |

Note: NR = Not reported.

Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024)

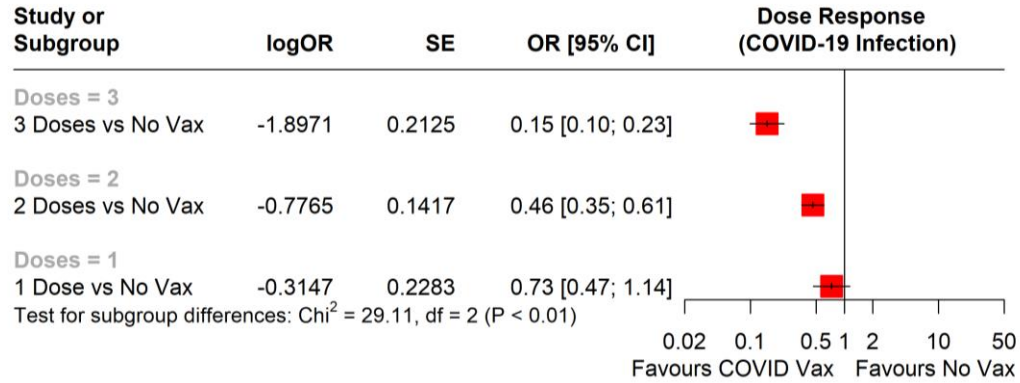
| Pairwise Comparison | N Studies | N Patients | Median of Cohort Mean Ages (Years) | Median of Cohort Proportion Female (%) | Median of Cohort Mean Time from Transplant (Years) | Recruitment Period |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| 4 Doses vs 3 Doses | 4 | 7278 | 61.5 | 38% | 7.4 | Dec 2021 - Nov 2022 |
| 4 Doses vs No Vax | 2 | 13254 | 52.9 | 42% | NR | Dec 2020 - Jul 2022 |
| 3 Doses vs 2 Doses | 4 | 14289 | 52.8 | 49% | 10.0 | Dec 2020 - Aug 2022 |
| 3 Doses vs No Vax | 14 | 58921 | 52.3 | 43% | 6.2 | Jan 2015 - Oct 2022 |
| 2 Doses vs No Vax | 27 | 61660 | 54.5 | 42% | 5.5 | Jan 2020 - May 2023 |
| 1 Dose vs No Vax | 5 | 31538 | 54.5 | 37% | 6.4 | Mar 2020 - May 2023 |

Note: NR = Not reported.

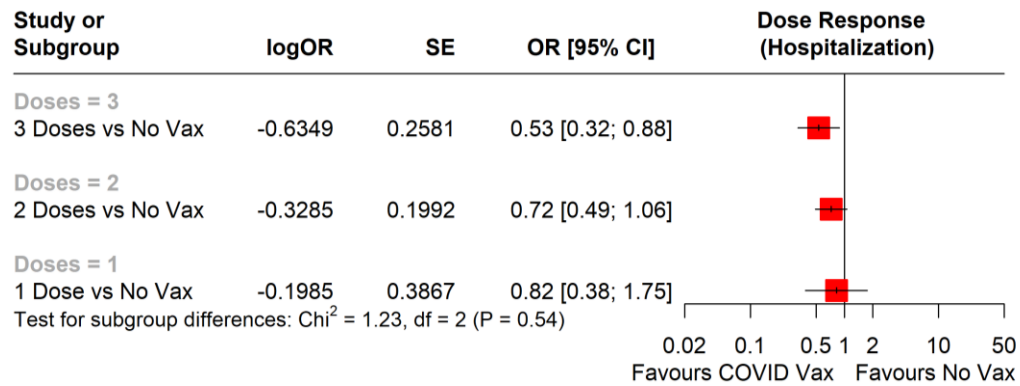
Appendix 10. Dose-response gradient assessments.

Timepoint 1 (October 1st, 2022)

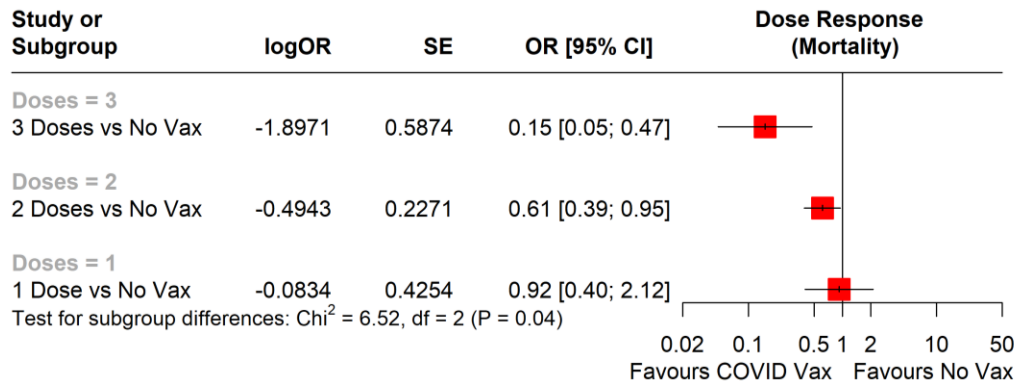
Potential dose-response gradient for number of vaccines and risk of COVID-19 infection (p < 0.0001)



Potential dose-response gradient for number of vaccines and risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 (p = 0.5418)

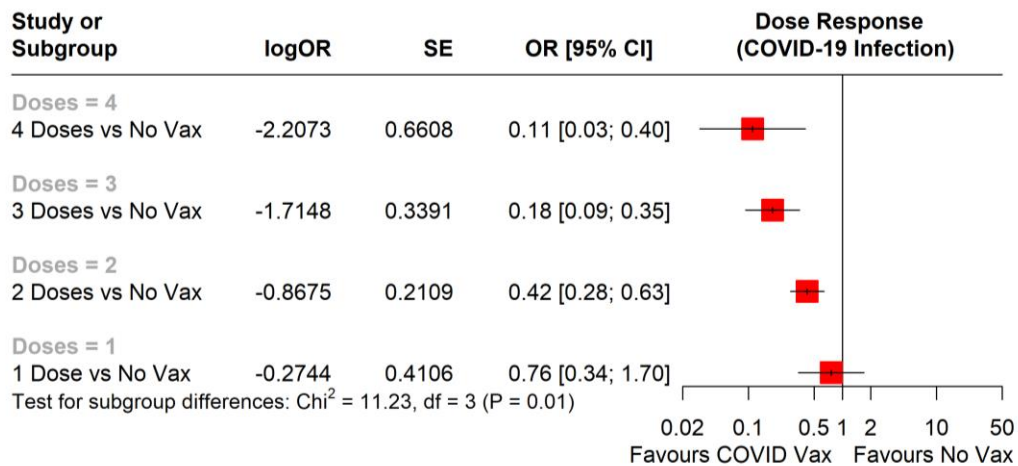


Potential dose-response gradient for number of vaccines and risk of mortality from COVID-19 (p = 0.0384)



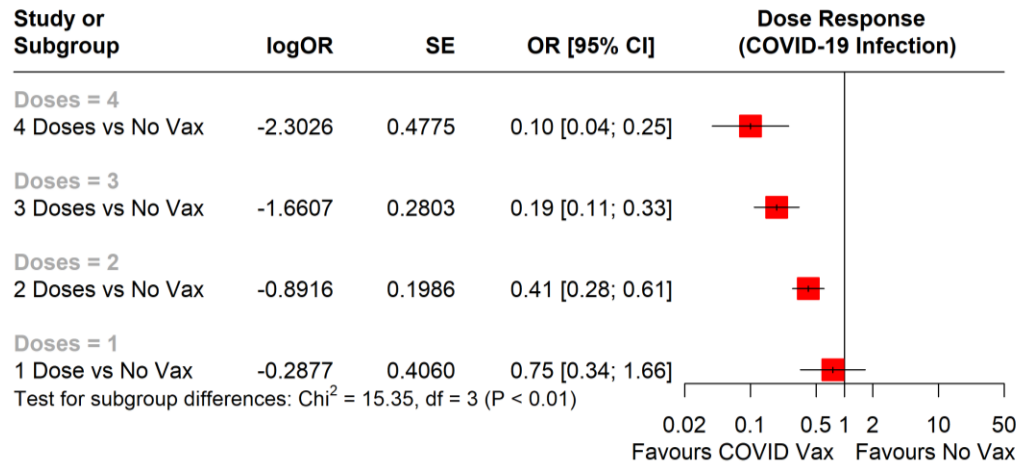
Timepoint 2 (March 1st, 2023)

Potential dose-response gradient for number of vaccines and risk of COVID-19 infection (p = 0.0106)



Timepoint 3 (July 1st, 2023)

Potential dose-response gradient for number of vaccines and risk of COVID-19 infection (p = 0.0015)



Timepoint 4 (March 1st, 2024)

Potential dose-response gradient for number of vaccines and risk of COVID-19 infection (p = 0.0010)

