Results of COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Studies: An Ongoing Systematic Review

Forest Plots

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METHODS FOR INCLUSION IN FOREST PLOTS

Vaccine Effectiveness (VE) estimates included in these plots are from an ongoing systematic review of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness studies. Complete details on the method of the systematic review as well as a summary table of results can be found on the VIEW-hub Resources Page (https://view-hub.org/resources):

- “COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness and Impact Studies Review Methods”
- “COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Results Summary Table”

The VE estimates included in the plots are a large subset of the estimates abstracted from the systematic literature review. A single study can include many VE estimates. In an effort to not overrepresent the amount of evidence that exists for each vaccine, the following criteria are used to determine which VE estimates are displayed in the forest plots located on the VIEW-hub resources page (https://view-hub.org/resources). There are some instances when more than one estimate from a study will be displayed in the same plot (e.g. a study includes VE estimates from two distinct populations or estimates for different variants). Reference numbers are included for each VE estimate displayed so users can identify when a study is represented more than once within a plot. More information on each reference can be found in the weekly literature review summary table located on VIEW-HUB (https://view-hub.org/resources).

- Complete vaccination is defined as ≥7 days post final dose; partial vaccination is defined as ≥14 days post first dose of a 2-dose vaccine.
- If a study reports results for the same outcome for both combined and individual vaccines, only individual vaccine VE estimates are displayed. This criterion only applies to studies evaluating VE of BNT162b2 (Pfizer) and mRNA-1273 (Moderna) vaccines.
- If a study reports results from 2 different evaluation designs (e.g. test-negative design and cohort design) on the same population, VE estimates from the primary analysis only are displayed.
- If a study reports overall VE as well as variant-specific VE estimates for the same disease outcome, overall VE estimates are included in the ‘By Vaccine’ and ‘By Disease Outcome’ plots. However, if a study reports only variant-specific VE estimates, then all variant VE estimates are displayed and labeled. For the ‘By Variant’ plots, variant-specific estimates are included from all studies in which they are available. Note that studies may be conducted in the context of circulating variants, however, if variant-specific estimates (i.e. VE is stratified by variant) are not provided, estimates are labeled as ‘overall’ VE estimates, unless otherwise noted.
- If a study reports VE estimates for the same disease outcome for different populations, the general population VE estimate is displayed when available. If a general population estimate is not available, the VE from each population is displayed (exception is when there are estimates for similar age groups in which case the more stable VE estimate will be displayed).
- If a study reports VE estimates on more than one ‘severe’ disease outcome (e.g. ‘severe disease’, ‘hospitalization’, and ‘ICU admission’), the more inclusive disease outcome including a larger population is displayed. These different types of severe outcomes are labeled as ‘severe disease’ in the plots, however it is important to keep in mind that the definition of severe disease varies and may explain some differences in VE estimates for severe disease outcomes.
ABBREVIATIONS

asymp = asymptomatic
HCW = healthcare workers
HHC = household contacts
LTCF = long-term care facility
pop = population
SNF = skilled nursing facility
VOC = variant of concern
* Indicates estimates evaluating vaccine effectiveness at ≥ 4 months from final dose.
* Indicates estimates evaluating vaccine effectiveness at ≥ 4 months from final dose.
BY DISEASE OUTCOME

Vaccine Effectiveness against Death due to COVID-19, Complete Vaccination

* Indicates estimates evaluating vaccine effectiveness at ≥4 months from final dose
* Indicates estimates evaluating vaccine effectiveness at ≥ 4 months from final dose.
BY VARIANT OF CONCERN

* Indicates estimates evaluating vaccine effectiveness at ≥ 4 months from final dose
* Indicates estimates evaluating vaccine effectiveness at ≥ 4 months from final dose