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SciScore Report

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Table 1: Rigor Adherence Table

| <u>Ethics</u> |
|--|
| IRB: The CORSIP study began enrolling participants in January 2021, after receiving research ethics board approvals from the University of British Columbia (H20-03620) and the University of Toronto (40435). |
| Consent: Participants provided electronic consent upon enrolment and completed questionnaires regarding health and sociodemographic information, COVID-19 vaccination history and status, and history of SARS-CoV-2 infections confirmed by positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and/or rapid antigen test (RAT) results. |
| <u>Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria</u> |
| Participant and Sample Selection Among CORSIP participants enrolled between January 2021 and November 2022, we included participants who had received two or three doses of any Health Canada approved mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273). |
| <u>Attrition</u> |
| not detected. |
| <u>Sex as a biological variable</u> |
| not detected. |
| <u>Subject Demographics</u> |
| Age: not detected. |
| Weight: not detected. |
| <u>Randomization</u> |
| not detected. |
| <u>Blinding</u> |
| not detected. |
| <u>Power Analysis</u> |
| not detected. |

Replication

not required.

Table 2: Key Resources Table

| Your Sentences | REAGENT or RESOURCE | SOURCE | IDENTIFIER |
|---|---------------------|--------|---|
| <u>Software and Algorithms</u> | | | |
| Statistical Analyses Analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism Version 9.5.0 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA). | GraphPad | | Suggestion: (GraphPad Prism, RRID:SCR_002798)(link) |

Other Entities Detected

| Your Sentences | Recognized Entity |
|---|---------------------|
| Statistical Tests | |
| The median percent inhibition between two groups was compared using a non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test. | Mann-Whitney U test |

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The MDAR framework establishes a minimum set of requirements in transparent reporting applicable to studies in the life sciences (see Statement of Task: doi:10.31222/osf.io/9sm4x.). The MDAR checklist is a tool for authors, editors and others seeking to adopt the MDAR framework for transparent reporting in manuscripts and other outputs. Please refer to the MDAR Elaboration Document for additional context for the MDAR framework.

Materials

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
| Antibodies | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| For commercial reagents, provide supplier name, catalogue number and RRID, if available | No antibodies detected. Please add identifiers for all resources where possible | |
| Cell Materials | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| Cell lines: Provide species information, strain. Provide accession number in repository OR supplier name, catalog number, clone number, OR RRID | No cell lines detected Please add identifiers for all resources where possible | |
| Primary cultures: Provide species, strain, sex of origin, genetic modification status. | Not currently checked by SciScore | |
| Experimental Animals | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| Laboratory animals: Provide species, strain, sex, age, genetic modification status. Provide accession number in repository OR supplier name, catalog number, clone number, OR RRID | No organisms detected Please add identifiers for all resources where possible | |
| Animal observed in or captured from the field: Provide species, sex and age where possible | Not currently checked by SciScore | |
| Model organisms: Provide Accession number in repository (where relevant) OR RRID | See laboratory animals section for information. | |
| Plants and microbes | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| Plants: provide species and strain, unique accession number if available, and source (including location for collected wild specimens) | Not currently checked by SciScore | |
| Microbes: provide species and strain, unique accession number if available, and source | Not currently checked by SciScore | |
| Human research participants | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| Identify authority granting ethics approval (IRB or equivalent committee(s), provide reference number for approval. | The CORSIP study began enrolling participants in January 2021, after receiving research ethics board approvals from the University of British Columbia (H20-03620) and the University of Toronto (40435). | |
| Provide statement confirming informed consent obtained from study participants. | Participants provided electronic consent upon enrolment and completed questionnaires regarding health and sociodemographic information, COVID-19 vaccination history and status, and history of SARS-CoV-2 infections confirmed by positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and/or rapid antigen test (RAT) results. | |
| Report on age and sex for all study participants. | Age: not detected. Sex: not detected. | |

Design

| Study protocol | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
|---|--|------------|
| For clinical trials, provide the trial registration number OR cite DOI in manuscript. | Not detected. | |
| Laboratory protocol | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| Provide DOI or other citation details if detailed step-by-step protocols are available. | Not detected. | |
| Experimental study design (statistics details) | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| State whether and how the following have been done, or if they were not carried out | | |
| Sample size determination | not detected. | |
| Randomization | not detected. | |
| Blinding | not detected. | |
| inclusion/exclusion criteria | Participant and Sample Selection Among CORSIP participants enrolled between January 2021 and November 2022, we included participants who had received two or three doses of any Health Canada approved mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273). | |
| Sample definition and in-laboratory replication | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| State number of times the experiment was replicated in laboratory | Not detected. | |
| Define whether data describe technical or biological replicates | Not detected. | |
| Ethics | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| Studies involving human participants: State details of authority granting ethics approval (IRB or equivalent committee(s), provide reference number for approval. | The CORSIP study began enrolling participants in January 2021, after receiving research ethics board approvals from the University of British Columbia (H20-03620) and the University of Toronto (40435). | |
| Studies involving experimental animals: State details of authority granting ethics approval (IRB or equivalent committee(s), provide reference number for approval. | Not detected. | |
| Studies involving specimen and field samples: State if relevant permits obtained, provide details of authority approving study; if none were required, explain why. | Not detected. | |
| Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
| If study is subject to dual use research of concern, state the authority granting approval and reference number for the regulatory approval | Not currently checked by SciScore | |

Analysis

| Attrition | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
|---|--|------------|
| State if sample or data point from the analysis is excluded, and whether the criteria for exclusion were determined and specified in advance. | not detected. | |

| Statistics | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
|--|---|------------|
| Describe statistical tests used and justify choice of tests. | The median percent inhibition between two groups was compared using a non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test. | |

| Data availability | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
|--|--|------------|
| State whether newly created datasets are available, including protocols for access or restriction on access. | Not detected. | |
| If data are publicly available, provide accession number in repository or DOI or URL. | Not detected. | |
| If publicly available data are reused, provide accession number in repository or DOI or URL, where possible. | Not detected. | |

| Code availability | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
|---|--|------------|
| For all newly generated code and software essential for replicating the main findings of the study: | | |
| State whether the code or software is available. | Not detected. | |
| If code is publicly available, provide accession number in repository, or DOI or URL. | Not detected. | |

Analysis

| Adherence to community standards | Yes (indicate where provided: page no/section/legend) | n/a |
|--|---|-----|
| MDAR framework recommends adoption of discipline-specific guidelines, established and endorsed through community initiatives. Journals have their own policy about requiring specific guidelines and recommendations to complement MDAR. | | |
| State if relevant guidelines (eg., ICMJE, MIBBI, ARRIVE) have been followed, and whether a checklist (eg., CONSORT, PRISMA, ARRIVE) is provided with the manuscript. | Not currently checked by SciScore | |

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24 Access Microbiology

The relationship between the number of COVID-19 vaccines and infection with Omicron ACE2 inhibition at 18-months post initial vaccination in an adult cohort of Canadian paramedics

--Manuscript Draft--

CONFIDENTIAL

24

1 **The relationship between the number of COVID-19 vaccines and infection with**
2 **Omicron ACE2 inhibition at 18-months post initial vaccination in an adult cohort**
3 **of Canadian paramedics**

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5 **Sheldon Cheskes⁹, Paul Demers⁷⁻⁸, David M. Goldfarb¹⁰, Brian E. Grunau^{4,5,6}**

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32 ⁴⁸ **words:** SARS-CoV-2; Omicron; spike; COVID-19; vaccination

33

34 **Data Summary:**

35 All supporting data can be found at: [https://www.covid19immunitytaskforce.ca/citf-](https://www.covid19immunitytaskforce.ca/citf-databank/#accessing)
36 [databank/#accessing](https://www.covid19immunitytaskforce.ca/citf-databank/#accessing)

37

38 **Abstract**

39 The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has rapidly
40 evolved since late 2019, due to highly transmissible Omicron variants. While most Canadian paramedics
41 have received COVID-19 vaccination, the optimal ongoing vaccination strategy is unclear. We
42 investigated neutralizing antibody (NtAb) response against wild-type (WT) Wuhan Hu-1 and Omicron
43 BA.4/5 lineages based on the number of doses and past SARS-CoV-2 infection, at 18 months post initial
44 vaccination (with a Wuhan Hu-1 platform mRNA vaccine [BNT162b2 or mRNA-1273]). Demographic
45 information, previous COVID-19 vaccination, infection history, and blood samples were collected from
46 paramedics 18 months post initial mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose. Outcome measures were ACE2 percent
47 inhibition against Omicron BA.4/5 and WT antigens. We compared outcomes based on number of
48 vaccine doses (two vs. three) and previous SARS-CoV-2 infection status, using the Mann-Whitney U test.
49 Of 657 participants, the median age was 40 years (IQR 33-50) and 251 (42%) were females. Overall,
50 median percent inhibition to BA.4/5 and WT was 71.61% (IQR 39.44-92.82) and 98.60% (IQR 83.07-
51 99.73), respectively. Those with a past SARS-CoV-2 infection had a higher median percent inhibition to
52 BA.4/5 and WT, when compared to uninfected individuals overall and when stratified by two or three
53 vaccine dose. When comparing two vs. three WT vaccine doses among SARS-CoV-2 negative
54 participants, we did not detect a difference in BA.4/5 percent inhibition, but there was a difference in
55 WT percent inhibition. Among those with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection(s), when comparing two vs.
56 three WT vaccine doses, there was no observed difference between groups. These findings demonstrate
57 that additional Wuhan Hu-1 platform mRNA vaccines did not improve NtAb response to BA.4/5, but
58 prior SARS-CoV-2 infection enhances NtAb response.

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74 Introduction

75 The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), causing the coronavirus disease
76 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, has resulted in millions of deaths worldwide¹. The development and
77 widespread distribution of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, such as BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273, have
78 minimized severe COVID-19 illness and death². Previous studies have found robust immunological
79 responses to wild-type and Delta lineages of SARS-CoV-2³ 6-months post initial vaccination,
80 particularly with two doses of mRNA-1273³. However, continued evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has
81 introduced several novel variants since the initial doses of mRNA vaccine were administered. Thus, long-
82 term follow-up of immunogenicity is warranted. The highly contagious BA.1 (Omicron) variant of
83 concern was first detected in Canada in November 2021. Due to its increased transmissibility, Omicron
84 led to a surge of new SARS-CoV-2 infections and became the predominant circulating lineage by 2022⁴.
85 Various subvariants of Omicron, including BA.4/5, subsequently emerged and continue to impact public
86 health globally⁵. In response, several booster vaccination campaigns have been launched and offered
87 additional doses of the original, wild-type (WT) Wuhan Hu-1 platform mRNA vaccines. However, it is
88 unclear if additional wild-type mRNA vaccines have incremental benefit during the Omicron era.

89 As new SARS-CoV-2 lineages arise, there is less clarity regarding the long-term effectiveness and
90 immunogenicity of the original mRNA vaccines against novel Omicron lineages. In addition, with a large
91 magnitude of the population having been previously infected with SARS-CoV-2, particularly Omicron, it
92 would also be beneficial to understand immunogenicity elicited by previous infection and whether
93 booster wild-type vaccine doses confer additional protection. Such knowledge will also have
94 implications for future waves of infection, during which the available vaccines do not match the
95 circulating strains. For the above reasons, we sought to investigate the humoral immunogenicity against
96 the WT and Omicron BA.4/5 strains at 18 months post-initial mRNA vaccine, comparing groups based on
97 past SARS-CoV-2 infection and the number of WT-directed mRNA vaccine doses.

98

99 Materials and Methods

100 Study Design and Setting

101 Samples for this analysis were selected from participants in the “COVID-19 Occupational Risks,
102 Seroprevalence, and Immunity among Paramedics in Canada (CORSIP)” study, who were working
103 paramedics in the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, or Ontario.
104 The CORSIP study began enrolling participants in January 2021, after receiving research ethics board
105 approvals from the University of British Columbia (H20-03620) and the University of Toronto (40435).
106 Participants provided electronic consent upon enrolment and completed questionnaires regarding
107 health and sociodemographic information, COVID-19 vaccination history and status, and history of SARS-
108 CoV-2 infections confirmed by positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and/or rapid antigen test

109 (RAT) results. Participants were asked to provide blood samples and survey data at 6-month intervals,
110 including at an 18-month timepoint, following their first dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (if
111 vaccinated).

112

113

114 Participant and Sample Selection

115 Among CORSIP participants enrolled between January 2021 and November 2022, included
116 participants who had received two or three doses of any Health Canada approved mRNA COVID-19
117 vaccine (BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273). We focused on these vaccines, given that the vast majority of
118 CORSIP participants were recipients. Participants were included if they had provided a blood sample at
119 18 months +/- 2 weeks from the date of their first vaccine dose. We excluded participants: 1) who
120 received a bivalent vaccine (bivalent vaccines had just been released at the 18-month timepoint and
121 very few of our participants had received them); 2) who only received one vaccine dose; 3) who received
122 four vaccine doses; 4) who received non-mRNA vaccines 5) who had incomplete vaccine and/or infection
123 history (e.g vaccine or infection date or type of vaccine missing); 6) who had a self-reported previous
124 SARS-CoV-2 infection or COVID-19 vaccination within 60 days prior to this blood collection timepoint
125 (given the expected immunological response in this initial phase post-antigen exposure).

126 Laboratory Testing

127 All samples were tested with the V-PLEX SARS-CoV-2 Panel 28 ACE2 Kit (Meso Scale Discovery, MD, USA)
128 to measure the percent inhibition of ACE2 for both the wild-type Wuhan Hu-1 and BA.4/5 spike antigen.
129 This assay platform has previously been shown to perform as a reliable surrogate for live virus
130 neutralization^{6,7}. All blood serum samples were tested according to the manufacturer's instructions. All
131 samples were also tested with the Roche Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Nucleocapsid (N) protein assay (Roche
132 Diagnostics Corp., Indianapolis, IN, USA) assay to immunologically identify samples from participants
133 with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection.

134 Variable Definitions

135 A past SARS-CoV-2 infection was defined as 1) self-reported positive result on a rapid antigen test (RAT)
136 or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test; or, 2) a reactive Roche Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 N assay. We
137 classified previous SARS-CoV-2 infections as Omicron vs. pre-Omicron, which was determined based on
138 the date of the participant's last self-reported positive PCR or RAT test result: a positive test result on
139 January 1, 2022 or later were defined as having an Omicron infection, whereas those with positive
140 results on November 26, 2021 or earlier were considered infected with a pre-Omicron lineage. The
141 majority of COVID-19 cases in Canada beyond this date were Omicron⁴. We considered those with
142 positive results between November 27, 2021 to December 31, 2021 to have an unspecified infection
143 (and thus excluded from Omicron vs pre-Omicron comparisons) to account for a combination of pre-
144 Omicron and Omicron lineages circulating during this period. For cases that were classified as having a
145 previous SARS-CoV-2 infection based on a reactive Elecsys test, to control for the possibility of a pre-
146 Omicron antibody being detected during the Omicron time period, SARS-CoV-2 infections identified by
147 Roche Nucleocapsid assay had to have a reactive test during the Omicron period and a previous non-

148 reactive test(s) to be considered an Omicron infection (otherwise these were excluded from Omicron vs
149 pre-Omicron comparisons).

150 **Outcome Measures**

151 The primary and secondary outcomes were ACE2 percent inhibition to the BA.4/5 and WT antigens,
152 respectively. Due to being the predominant circulating lineages at the time of blood collection⁴, BA.4/5
153 lineages were specifically selected for analysis.

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22

155 **Statistical Analyses**

156 Analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism Version 9.5.0 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA).
157 Participant characteristics and outcomes were reported as counts (with percentages) for categorical
158 variables and median (with interquartile range [IQR]) for continuous variables. Outcome measures were
159 reported as median with interquartile range (IQR). The median percent inhibition between two groups
160 was compared using a non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test. A P value of less than 0.05 was considered
161 statistically significant.

162 We performed several comparisons. First, we compared groups based on whether the participant had
163 received two vs. three vaccines, to investigate the potential impact of repeated dosing with an ancestral
164 strain vaccine on humoral response to an antigenically divergent, more contemporary variant (BA.4/5).
165 Second, we divided participants into four groups, based on the number of vaccines and past SARS-CoV-2
166 infection history (2 doses and no previous SARS-CoV-2 infections ["2 doses uninfected"], 3 doses and no
167 previous SARS-CoV-2 infections, 2 doses and previous SARS-CoV-2 infection(s) ["2 doses infected"], and
168 3 doses and previous SARS-CoV-2 infection(s)) and compared each group to all others. In the third
169 comparison, we further divided the subgroups with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection(s) into those who had
170 a pre-Omicron vs. Omicron vs. unspecified infection, to investigate whether a prior Omicron infection
171 elicited greater NtAb response.

172

173 **Results**

174 This study included a total of 657 participants out of 3956 enrolled as of November 2022, 251 (42%) of
175 whom were female (Figure 1). The median participant age was 40 years (IQR 33-50 years); 18-month
176 blood samples were collected between June 2022 and November 2022. Participants had a median of
177 248 days (IQR 224-276 days) between their last vaccination date and their blood collection, and half of
178 the participants were vaccinated exclusively with BNT162b2. Additional participant characteristics are
179 summarized in Table 1.

180 In the first comparison of two vs. three vaccines (Figure 2), we observed no significant difference in
181 percent inhibition to BA.4/5 with two vaccine doses (n = 136; 74.67%, IQR 40.24-93.82) vs. three vaccine
182 doses (n = 521; 69.30%, IQR 39.34-92.60). Similar findings are observed in Figure 2B when comparing
183 two doses (n = 136; 98.75%, IQR 83.48-99.75) with three doses (n = 521; 98.54%, IQR 83.06-99.73) ACE2
184 percent inhibition to WT.

185 Figure 3 shows the results of the second comparison where participants are divided into four subgroups
186 based on the number of vaccines and SARS-CoV-2 infection history. For percent inhibition against
187 BA.4/5, the median percent inhibition was: (1) 35.4% (IQR 25-44) for two doses uninfected (n=42); (2)
188 86.0% (IQR 67-97) for two doses infected (n=94); (3) 40.7% (IQR 29-56) for three doses uninfected
189 (n=244); and, (4) 89.5% (IQR 77-97) for three doses infected (n=277). Within all four subgroups, those
190 with a previous, unspecified SARS-CoV-2 infection(s) had a greater percent inhibition against both
191 BA.4/5 and WT, when compared to uninfected participants. When examining BA.4/5, we did not detect
192 a difference between those with two vs. three vaccines, when comparing amongst the infected or
193 uninfected cases. When examining WT ACE2 inhibition, we observed a difference between those with
194 two vs. three vaccine doses in uninfected participants, but not when examining previously infected
195 participants.

196 Figure 4 shows results of the third comparison based on the type of preceding SARS-CoV-2 infection
197 strain. We observed significantly greater ($P < 0.001$) percent inhibition to BA.4/5 when comparing
198 individuals with three doses and Omicron infection (n = 210; median 92.65, IQR [80-97]) with three
199 doses and pre-Omicron infection (n = 23; 75.83, IQR [45-91]) (Figure 4A). We also observed a
200 significantly greater percent inhibition ($P < 0.05$) in individuals with three doses and prior Omicron
201 infection compared to those with two doses and prior Omicron infection. In contrast, percent inhibition
202 to WT was consistently high across all groups and showed no significant differences with varying
203 infection type or increasing number of vaccine doses (Figure 4B).

204

205 Discussion

206 We examined NtAb response against the Omicron and wild-type strains from a prospective cohort of
207 657 Canadian paramedics. We observed that those with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection(s), compared to
208 uninfected individuals, demonstrated greater ACE2 percent inhibition against WT and BA.4/5 lineages.
209 Interestingly, our data indicate that additional WT-directed vaccines did not lead to either enhanced nor
210 reduced humoral immunogenicity against more recent Omicron variants, regardless of whether they
211 had been previously infected or not. These data suggest that providing additional WT-directed vaccine
212 doses after two doses did not provide additional benefit in the current time period, which may have
213 implications for future decisions regarding additional dosing strategies when available vaccines do not
214 match the current circulating strains.

215 Overall, an increased number of WT mRNA vaccine doses was not associated with an increased percent
216 inhibition against BA.4/5, except in those individuals with two doses and a prior Omicron era infection.
217 These findings differ from prior studies that examined antibody neutralization against wild type⁸ and
218 original Omicron (B.1.1.529) variants⁹ with two doses showing reduced NtAb response. However, these
219 studies only assessed responses after relatively short periods post second doses (up to 7 months).
220 Several studies have shown greater NtAb responses among vaccinated individuals with a prior infection
221 compared to those without^{10,11}. However, two studies have found no difference due to prior BA.1
222 infection between two vaccination and three vaccination groups^{12,13}. Carazo et al found no significant
223 difference in reducing the risk of infection to BA.2 from a prior BA.1 infection across two vaccine doses
224 vs three vaccine doses¹², and Zheng et al found no difference in 50% neutralization titer (NT50) in prior
225 BA.1 infected individuals with either two or three vaccine doses¹³. When compared to our findings, the
226 observed differences could be attributed to methodological differences such as the intervals between

19
227 sample testing and prior infection(s), different SARS-CoV-2 variants, COVID-19 vaccine types and
228 outcome measures selected, and study design used. Further, the statistically significant improvement in
229 percent inhibition in those with prior Omicron infection and a third dose observed in our data could also
230 be due to differences in subgroup sample sizes and characteristics such as vaccine type (e.g BNT162b2
231 and mRNA-1273), vaccination intervals, and the possibility of multiple prior infections, which were not
232 able to be estimated based on our study's cohort. Although statistically significant, the median percent
233 inhibition was relatively high across both groups and may not be clinically significant in the context of
234 hospitalization rate, infection burden, and/or disease severity. The finding that additional Wuhan Hu-1
235 platform mRNA vaccines did not improve immunogenicity may have policy implications, given that use
236 of these vaccines may have little further utility, when given alone or in combination with vaccines
237 directed at other strains.

238 A potential concern with repeated vaccine doses using antigen from an ancestral strain is the
239 phenomenon of "original antigenic sin", where repeated exposure to one antigen may result in the
240 immune response being preferentially directed towards the primary antigen even when infected with a
241 new variant/strain. This has been described with influenza and other RNA viruses^{14,15}. Interestingly, our
242 data shows that additional vaccine doses against the wild-type SARS-CoV-2 strain did not appear to
243 diminish the median percent inhibition against BA.4/5. This could be due to the mRNA vaccines eliciting
244 some cross-neutralization against variants of concern (VoC), such as Omicron and its sublineages¹⁶.
245 However, these vaccinated individuals may still potentially be susceptible to VoCs, given the observed
246 differences in median percent inhibition to BA.4/5 and WT, regardless of the number of vaccine doses or
247 prior SARS-CoV-2 infection. Thus, our findings contribute to the current literature in supporting vaccine
248 guidelines that emphasize the importance of bivalent vaccines designed to target Omicron variants,
249 rather than providing boosters against the original strain^{17,18}. As new SARS-CoV-2 lineages emerge and
250 new vaccines are designed, our findings also provide some insight into biological patterns of immune
251 response related to prior infection and vaccination dose.

252 This study has limitations. Firstly, we used percent ACE2 inhibition for the outcome measure, which is a
253 surrogate marker for immunity. Although not as clinically relevant as clinical outcomes, ACE2 inhibition
254 has been shown to correlate with live virus neutralization (the gold standard for antibody efficacy and
255 predictive of clinical immune response¹⁹⁻²¹), and has been used extensively as a marker for immunity in
256 other studies^{3,6,7,22,23}. We utilized self-reported data regarding participant characteristics, which are
257 prone to recall bias, inaccuracy, and incompleteness. The Roche Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 N assay used
258 to classify some self-reported SARS-CoV-2 negative participants as SARS-CoV-2 positive is reported to
259 have a 90% sensitivity²⁴. Further, these positive participants were missing the date of their prior
260 infection. Additionally, we were unable to determine if participants had multiple prior infections or
261 completely estimate the time interval from infection to blood draw due to the study design and
262 reliability of self-reported data. No post hoc correction was applied in our statistical analysis. Finally,
263 due to the observational nature of this study, comparisons were made between potentially uneven
264 groups that may differ in measured and/or unmeasured characteristics. For example, one such
265 confounder would be the lack of participant data on potential therapies or medications taken that could
266 alter the immune response such as corticosteroids or chemotherapy.

267 **Conclusion**

268 Those with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection demonstrated higher ACE2 percent inhibition against WT and
269 BA.4/5 antigens, compared to those without a prior infection. Three vs. two Wuhan Hu-1 platform
270 vaccines doses improved percent inhibition to WT, but not BA.4/5 antigens.

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283 **Author contributions**

284 Conceptualization: BG, DG. Data curation: JY, IK. Funding Acquisition: BG, DG. Investigation: JY, IK.
285 Methodology: BG, DG, JY, IK, MA-B. Project administration: BG, DG. Supervision: BG, DG. Writing –
286 original draft: JY, IK. Writing – review & editing: BG, DG, JY, IK, MA-B, SH, SC, TK, PD.

287 **Conflicts of Interest**

288 None

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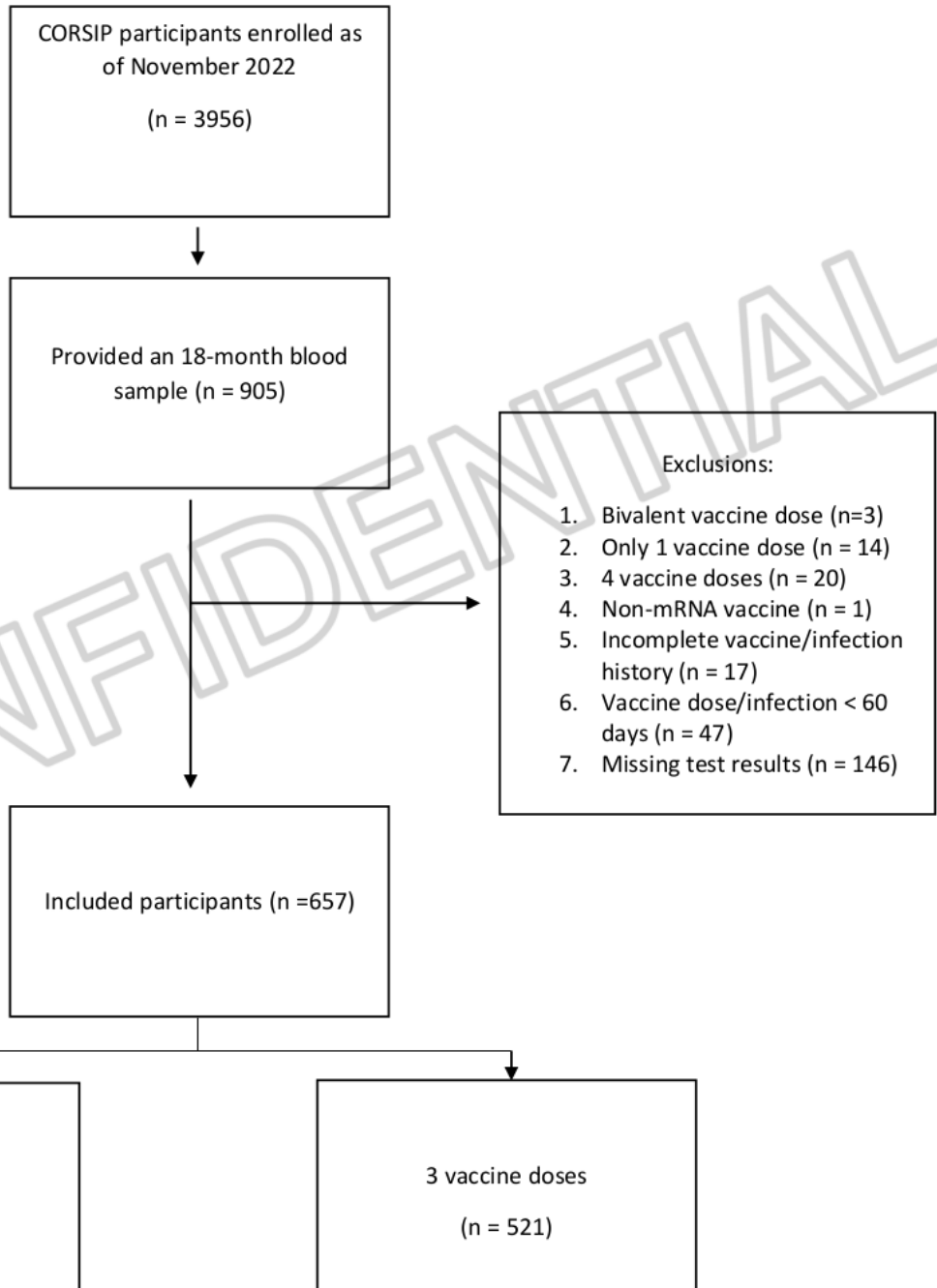


Figure 1. Participant selection flow diagram

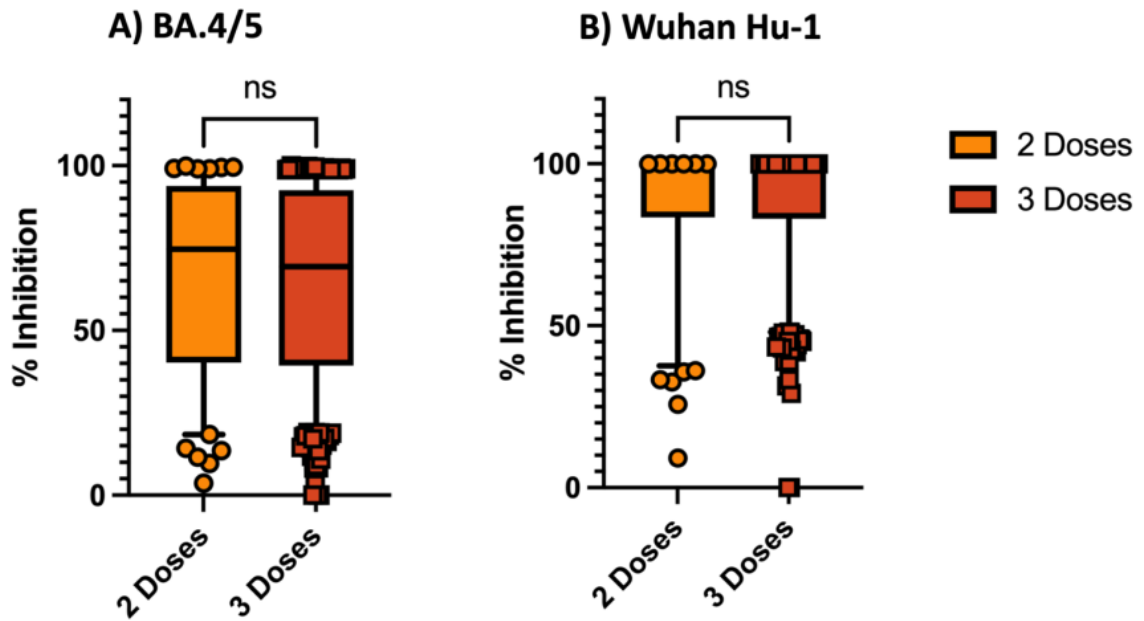
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449 **Figure 2. ACE2 percent inhibition to (A) BA.4/5 and (B) Wuhan Hu-1 by vaccine dose**

450 ns, not significant; box plot shows median and interquartile range (IQR); whiskers, 5-95th percentile; 2

451 doses, n = 136; 3 doses, n = 521.

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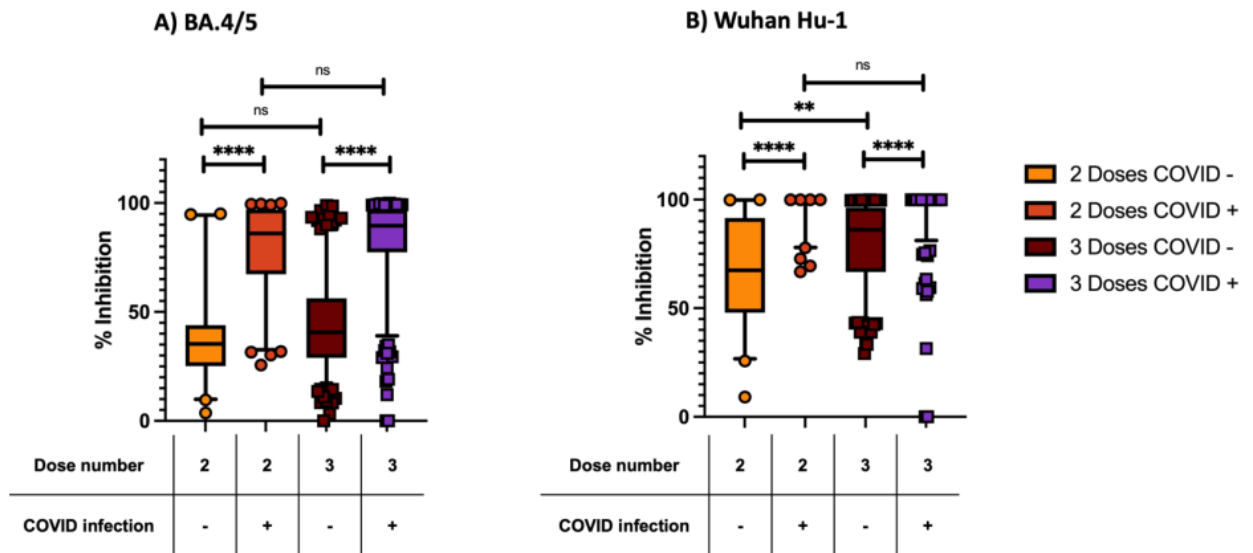
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467 **Figure 3. ACE2 percent inhibition to (A) BA.4/5 and (B) Wuhan Hu-1 by vaccine dose and prior SARS-**
468 **CoV-2 infection status**

469 P < 0.0001, ****; P < 0.0021, ** ; ns, not significant; box plot shows median and interquartile range
470 (IQR); whiskers, 5-95th percentile; 2 doses no prior infection, n = 42; 2 doses with prior infection, n = 94;
471 3 doses no prior infection, n = 244; 3 doses with prior infection, n = 277. Comparisons were performed
472 between two groups at a time.

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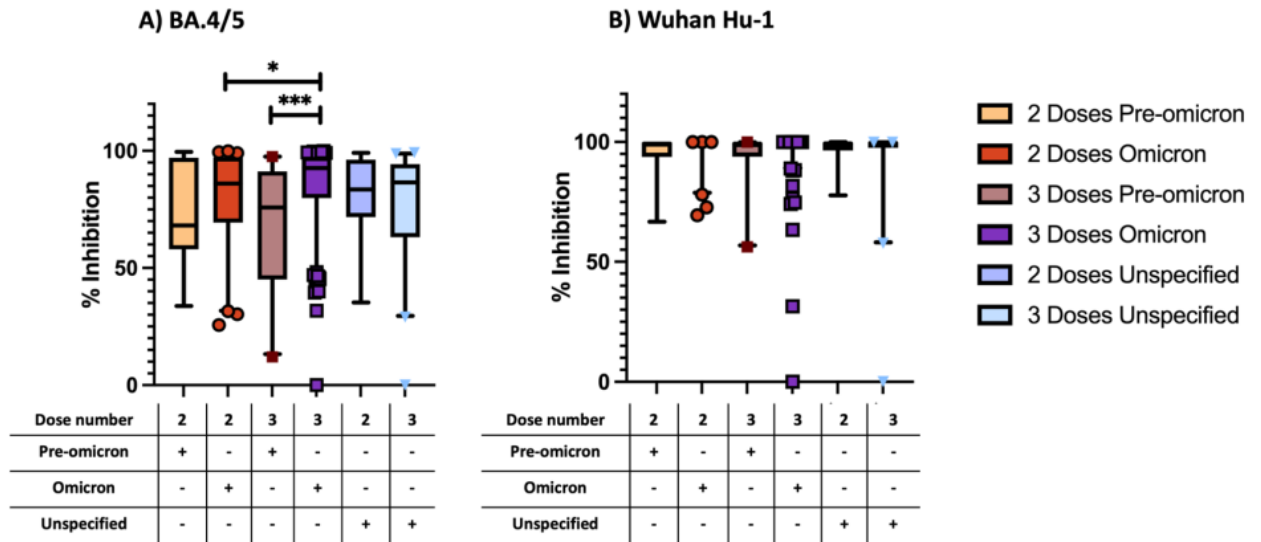
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487 **Figure 4. ACE2 percent inhibition to (A) BA.4/5 and (B) Wuhan Hu-1 by vaccine dose and pre-Omicron,**
488 **Omicron, or unspecified SARS-CoV-2 infection status**

489 $P < 0.001$, ***; $P < 0.05$, *; ns, not significant; box plot shows median and interquartile range (IQR);
490 whiskers, 5-95th percentile; 2 doses prior pre-omicron infection, $n = 7$; 2 doses prior omicron infection, n
491 $= 71$; 2 doses prior unspecified infection, $n = 16$; 3 doses prior pre-omicron infection, $n = 23$; 3 doses
492 prior omicron infection, $n = 210$; 3 doses prior unspecified infection, $n = 44$. Comparisons were
493 performed between two groups at a time.

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| Characteristics | 2 vaccines (n = 136) | 3 vaccines (n = 521) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Age (median, IQR) | 38 (31-50) | 40 (34-50) |
| Sex | | |
| Female | 43 (39) | 208 (40) |
| Male | 67 (61) | 285 (55) |
| Missing | 26 (19) | 28 (5.4) |
| Last vaccine-to-BC interval (days) | 485 (431-507) | 241 (217-255) |
| 2nd vaccine to BC (days) | 485 (431-507) | 501 (447-510) |
| COVID+ history | 94 (69) | 277 (53) |
| Omicron COVID | 71 (52) | 210 (40) |
| Pre-omicron COVID | 7 (5.1) | 23 (4.4) |
| Unspecified COVID | 16 (12) | 44 (8.4) |
| COVID-to-BC interval (days) | 160 (116-197) | 145 (95-202) |
| Missing | 29 (21)* | 96 (18)* |
| ACE2 % Inhibition | | |
| BA.4/BA.5 | 75 (40-94) | 69 (39-93) |
| Wuhan Hu-1 | 99 (83-100) | 99 (83-100) |
| Vaccine 1 | | |
| mRNA-1273 | 33 (24) | 157 (30) |
| BNT162b2 | 103 (76) | 364 (70) |
| Vaccine 2 | | |
| mRNA-1273 | 101 (74) | 154 (30) |
| BNT162b2 | 35 (26) | 367 (70) |
| Vaccine 3 | | |
| mRNA-1273 | - | 256 (49) |
| BNT162b2 | - | 265 (51) |

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508 **Table 1. Participant characteristics at 18-month blood collection from first original mRNA vaccine date**

509 SD, standard deviation; COVID+, prior SARS-CoV-2 infection; COVID-, uninfected individual; Omicron
510 COVID, SARS-CoV-2 infection reported on January 1, 2022 or later; Pre-omicron COVID, SARS-CoV-2
511 infection reported on November 26 or prior; unspecified infection reported between Nov 27, 2021 to
512 December 31, 2021 or prior SARS-CoV-2 infection determined by reactive N-Roche assay with no prior
513 unreactive N-Roche result; BC, blood collection; *, participants determined to be positive through N-
514 Roche assay where date of COVID-19 is unknown.

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