

INPLASY

Comparative effectiveness of the mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines among Canadians: a systematic literature review and meta-analysis using the GRADE framework

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Corresponding author:

Michelle Blake

michelle.blake@modernatx.com

Author Affiliation:

ICON plc, a clinical research organisation
Organisation web address: <https://www.iconplc.com/>.

Wang, X; Pahwa, A; Sharma, P; Chitkara, A; Mishra, NK; Malmenäs, M; Vats, S; Jain, P; Gupta, R; Beck, E; Jayasundara, K; Blake, M.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Funded by Moderna, Inc.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Data analysis.

Conflicts of interest - Xuan Wang, Ankit Pahwa, Pawana Sharma, Anushri Chitkara, Nitendra Kumar Mishra, Mia Malmenäs, Sonam Vats, Paridhi Jain and Ritu Gupta are employees of ICON plc, a clinical research organization paid by Moderna, Inc., to conduct the study. Kavisha Jayasundara, Ekkehard Beck and Michelle Blake are employees of Moderna, Inc. and hold stock/stock options in the company.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202460071

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 18 June 2024 and was last updated on 18 June 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective What is the comparative effectiveness of the mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines among Canadians? A systematic literature review and meta-analysis using the GRADE.

Condition being studied COVID-19 vaccine efficacy/effectiveness in Canadian adults.

METHODS

Search strategy The search for published literature was conducted in Embase (OVID SP®), Medline and MEDLINE In-Process, e-pubs ahead of print (OVID SP®), and Cochrane databases including the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) and Cochrane Central Register of

Controlled Trial (CCRT) (OVID SP®) on 4 April 2024.

Searches were restricted to English language only.

Participant or population Canadians aged ≥ 16 years old.

Intervention Following mRNA vaccines with at least two dose series will be considered,
– Moderna vaccine Spikevax®, elasomeran, mRNA-1273
– PfizerBioNTech vaccine Comirnaty®, tozinameran, BNT162b2

Two dose series: Only homologous two dose series will be considered.

Three or more than three dose series: Both homologous and heterologous series with mRNA as a last dose will be considered.

Comparator Following comparators will be considered:

- mRNA vaccines mRNA-1273 (Spikevax, Elasmoran), or BNT162b2 (COMIRNATY, Tozinameran).

Study designs to be included Randomised controlled trial (RCT) and non-randomised controlled trials, observational studies, and any kind of real-world evidence will be eligible for inclusion in this systematic review.

Eligibility criteria Exclusion criteria:

- Children (less than 16 years old) and pregnant women
 - Two doses heterologous primary series will not be considered.
 - For three or more than three dose series, both homologous and heterologous series with mRNA as a last dose will be considered.
- Case reports and review articles will be excluded. Any setting will be considered.

Information sources The search for published literature was conducted in Embase (OVID SP®), Medline and MEDLINE In-Process, e-pubs ahead of print (OVID SP®), and Cochrane databases including CCRCT and CDSR (OVID SP®). To complement the database searches relevant and recent systematic reviews were cross-checked for additional references. Authors were contacted for clarification and for the additional information from the study.

Main outcome(s) The main outcomes of interest for the SLR are:

- Vaccine efficacy/effectiveness against Covid-19 infection
 - Vaccine efficacy/effectiveness against symptomatic Covid-19 infection
 - Vaccine efficacy/effectiveness against severe Covid-19 infection
 - Vaccine efficacy/effectiveness against hospitalization
 - Vaccine efficacy/effectiveness against death
- SARS-CoV2 positivity (symptomatic or asymptomatic)
- Symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection
- Severe COVID-19 infection (hospitalization or death)
- Breakthrough infection
- COVID-19 re-infection
- Hospitalization due to COVID-19 (ICU, ER, or ventilation etc.)
- Death due to COVID-19

* Measures of effect

Proportion of patients with infection/death/hospitalization/seropositivity, incidence risk ratio, risk ratio etc.

Additional outcome(s) None.

Data management Two independent reviewers independently screened all identified items at two levels. Level I screening was based on titles and/or abstracts, as available. The full text of all items passing Level I screening were retrieved for Level II screening: an ascertainment of final eligibility for the review. Discrepancies were resolved by consensus or by involving a third team member. As stated above, all data were extracted by two independent reviewers. Discrepancies were resolved by consensus or by involving a third team member. Data extractors was not blinded to any study information. Before data extraction begin, a standardized data extraction form/database and data extraction guidelines was used following its review by the study statistician and upon achieving consensus by the study team on all included data fields.

The following information were extracted from publications:

- Study design: study names, number of patients enrolled, study design, study duration (planned follow-up), mean/median follow-up duration, testing method, etc.
- Baseline patient and disease characteristics: age, sex, BMI, weight, race, region of origin, primary outcome, etc.
- Intervention characteristics: Description of dose, first dose (vaccine and dosage), time interval between 1st and 2nd doses, second dose (vaccine and dosage), third dose (vaccine and dosage), fourth dose (vaccine and dosage), proportion of individuals with one dose only, variant, etc.
- Efficacy endpoints: vaccine efficacy, COVID-19 infection (positive test and/or symptoms), severe COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, COVID-19 related death, etc.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis

Formal risk of bias assessment was performed by one reviewer and checked by second reviewer. Any disagreements were resolved by discussion. Any lack of consensus was resolved by third researcher. For randomized controlled trials (RCTs), the risk of bias for each included RCT was to be assessed using the methods proposed by the Cochrane Handbook.

For observational studies, the New-Castle Ottawa tool was used for each study included in the review.

Strategy of data synthesis Published evidence comparing mRNA vaccines with any other mRNA vaccine will be identified to find direct evidence and to generate evidence.

A feasibility analysis will consider the similarity of the studies and patient characteristics, as well as outcome definitions and the risk of bias, to assess the relevance of identified studies to the decision problem. Studies identified by the systematic review and excluded from the meta-analysis will be recorded, and a rationale for that exclusion will be provided.

Random-effects meta-analysis models will be used to pool risk ratios (RR) and calculate absolute effects as risk difference (RD) per 100,000 individuals across studies. Inverse variance weights will be calculated for individual studies with the DerSimonian-Laird method. Heterogeneity across studies will be evaluated using Chi-square testing. The I² statistic will be estimated (0–100%, 0% meaning no evidence of heterogeneity).

Presentation of findings

- The results of the pairwise meta-analysis will be presented in forest plots, including point estimates and 95% credible intervals of each intervention in comparison to the reference. These are VE, RR and corresponding 95% credible intervals.

Statistical packages

- The analyses will be conducted in R.

Subgroup analysis Heterogeneity will be assessed through subgroup analyses. If data allow, following subgroup analysis will be performed:

- 1) Type of study participants (general population, with medical conditions, or people who provide essential community services)
- 2) Study participants age group, for example, aged ≤ 65 years and > 65 years
- 3) Dose regimens (two doses regimen, three doses regimen, more than three doses regimen etc.),
- 4) Variants of concern (Delta and Omicron).

Sensitivity analysis Sensitivity analysis will be conducted for studies reporting severe infection by excluding studies with derived severe outcomes.

Language restriction English only.

Country(ies) involved Canada, UK, Sweden, Germany, India.

Keywords Systematic Review; meta-analysis; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, mRNA vaccine, mRNA-1273, BNT162b2, adults, effectiveness.

Dissemination plans The meta-analysis will be summarised in a manuscript which will provide an

overview of the results of the SLR, as well as the methods, results, conclusions, and limitations of the meta-analysis. Additional disclosures may occur as agreed upon by the study team.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Xuan Wang - Designing and performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: xuan.wang@iconplc.com

Author 2 - Ankit Pahwa - Designing and performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: ankit.pahwa@iconplc.com

Author 3 - Pawana Sharma - Designing and performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: pawana.sharma@iconplc.com

Author 4 - Anushri Chitkara - Designing and performing the meta-analysis.

Email: anushri.chitkara@iconplc.com

Author 5 - Nitendra Kumar Mishra - Performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: nitendra.kumar@iconplc.com

Author 6 - Mia Malmenäs - Designing and performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: mia.malmenas@iconplc.com

Author 7 - Sonam Vats - Performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: sonam.vats@iconplc.com

Author 8 - Paridhi Jain - Performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: paridhi.jain@iconplc.com

Author 9 - Ritu Gupta - Performing the systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Email: ritu.gupta@iconplc.com

Author 10 - Ekkehard Beck - Conceptualized the protocol and providing oversight.

Email: ekkehard.beck@modernatx.com

Author 11 - Kavisha Jayasundara - Conceptualized the protocol and providing oversight.

Email: kavisha.jayasundara@modernatx.com

Author 12 - Michelle Blake - Conceptualized the protocol and providing oversight.

Email: michelle.blake@modernatx.com