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Class switch toward IgG2 and IgG4 is more pronounced in BNT162b2 compared to mRNA-1273 COVID-19 vaccinees

Inhalt

Objectives:

Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 induces antibodies that reduce the risk of severe disease. Because IgG subclasses differ in their ability to activate complement, to bind Fc receptors and neutralize viruses, it is crucial to understand how IgG subclass responses differ between vaccine platforms.

Designa

IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, and IgG4 binding antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 trimeric spike protein, receptor-binding domain, and S1/S2 subunits responses were quantified using a multiplex immunoassay, after a booster dose of either BNT162b2 (Pfizer/BioNTech) or mRNA-1273 (Moderna) in a healthy cohort (n = 165) who had received two previous vaccine doses.

Results:

Boosting increased all subclass IgG levels, except for S1-specific IgG1 and S2-specific IgG2. However, IgG2 and IgG4 levels were significantly higher in BNT162b2 than in mRNA-1273 vaccinees (P = 0.0313 [IgG2 S] and P = 0.0106 [IgG4 RBD], P = 0.0070 [IgG4 S1]). Individuals who had previously received a non-mRNA vaccination showed no significant increase in IgG2 (P = 0.4909 [S]) and IgG4 (P = 0.0607 [S]) post-boost.

Conclusions:

Vaccine-specific differences post-booster vaccination were identified and may drive the class switch between IgG2 and IgG4 responses. Given their different roles, these subtle differences may ultimately also affect long-term immunity and protection.

Keywords

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Junior Scientist Status

Yes, I am a Junior Scientist.

Autoren: SIEBNER, Alex S. (Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany; German Center for Infection Research, Partner Site Tübingen, Germany); GRIESBAUM, Johanna (NMI Natural and Medical Sciences Institute at the University of Tübingen, Reutlingen, Germany); HUUS, Kelsey E. (Max Planck Institute for Biology, Tübingen, Germany); FLÜGGE, Judith (Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany); HOPFENSPERGER, Kristina (Institute for Medical Virology and Epidemiology of Viral

Diseases, University Hospital Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany); MICHEL, Tanja (NMI Natural and Medical Sciences Institute at the University of Tübingen, Reutlingen, Germany); SCHNEIDERHAN-MARRA, Nicole (NMI Natural and Medical Sciences Institute at the University of Tübingen, Reutlingen, Germany); SAUTER, Daniel (Institute for Medical Virology and Epidemiology of Viral Diseases, University Hospital Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany); KREM-SNER, Peter G. (Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany; German Center for Infection Research, Partner Site Tübingen, Germany; Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL), Lambaréné, Gabon); LEY, Ruth E. (Max Planck Institute for Biology, Tübingen, Germany; Cluster of Excellence: EXC 2124: Controlling Microbes to Fight Infection, Tübingen, Germany); DULOVIC, Alex (NMI Natural and Medical Sciences Institute at the University of Tübingen, Reutlingen, Germany); ESEN, Meral (Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany; German Center for Infection Research, Partner Site Tübingen, Germany; Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL), Lambaréné, Gabon; Cluster of Excellence: EXC 2124: Controlling Microbes to Fight Infection, Tübingen, Germany)

Vortragende(r): SIEBNER, Alex S. (Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany; German Center for Infection Research, Partner Site Tübingen, Germany)

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