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

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Background. BNT162b2 by Pfizer-BioNTech and mRNA-1273 by Moderna are the most commonly used vaccines to prevent severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infections. Head-to-head comparison of the efficacy of these vaccines in immunocompromised patients is lacking.

Methods. Parallel, 2-arm (allocation 1:1), open-label, noninferiority randomized clinical trial nested into the Swiss HIV Cohort Study and the Swiss Transplant Cohort Study. People living with human immunodeficiency virus (PLWH) or solid organ transplant recipients (SOTR; ie, lung and kidney) from these cohorts were randomized to mRNA-1273 or BNT162b2. The primary endpoint was antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 spike (S1) protein receptor binding domain (Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 immunoassay, Roche; cutoff ≥0.8 units/ml) 12 weeks after first vaccination (ie, 8 weeks after second vaccination). In addition, antibody response was measured with the Antibody Coronavirus Assay 2 (ABCORA 2).

Results. A total of 430 patients were randomized and 412 were included in the intention-to-treat analysis (341 PLWH and 71 SOTR). The percentage of patients showing an immune response was 92.1% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 88.4–95.8; 186/202) for mRNA-1273 and 94.3% (95% CI: 91.2–97.4; 198/210) for BNT162b2 (difference: -2.2%; 95% CI: -7.1 to 2.7), fulfilling noninferiority of mRNA-1273. With the ABCORA 2 test, 89.1% had an immune response to mRNA-1273 (95% CI: 84.8–93.4; 180/202) and 89.5% to BNT162b2 (95% CI: 85.4–93.7; 188/210). Based on the Elecsys test, all PLWH had an antibody response (100.0%; 341/341), whereas for SOTR, only 60.6% (95% CI: 49.2–71.9; 43/71) had titers above the cutoff level.

Conclusions. In immunocompromised patients, the antibody response of mRNA-1273 was noninferior to BNT162b2. PLWH had in general an antibody response, whereas a high proportion of SOTR had no antibody response.

Clinical Trials Registration. NCT04805125.

Keywords. SARS-CoV-2; randomized controlled trial; HIV; organ transplant; platform trial; vaccine.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in late 2019 in Wuhan, China, and was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 [1–3]. Since January 2021, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) vaccines by Pfizer-BioNTech (BNT162b2; Comirnaty) and Moderna (mRNA-1273; Spikevax) have been approved in Switzerland and are used to vaccinate the Swiss population [4]. Both vaccines were tested in largescale placebo-controlled approval studies including tens of thousands of individuals [5, 6]. Vaccines were found to be safe with excellent efficacy of 95% and 94%, respectively, in terms of preventing COVID-19 illness 14 days after the second vaccination. However, data for immunocompromised patients who have a high risk of COVID-19 infection with adverse outcome are still limited. The approval studies included only a few patients living with human immunodeficiency (PLWH), with no information...
METHODS

Participants, Randomization, and Blinding

Individuals who were enrolled in the SHCS or the STCS (ie, lung transplant and kidney transplant recipients; heart and liver transplant centers could not join the trial for organizational reasons) were eligible for trial participation if they were aged 18 years or older, and if the COVID-19 vaccination was recommended by the treating physician. We excluded pregnant women, patients with any acute respiratory tract infection, SARS-CoV-2-positive patients with an infection occurring in the past 3 months, and persons with any emergency condition requiring immediate hospitalization. In addition, we excluded organ transplant recipients who received the new organ within the past month, had received T-cell-depleting agents within the past 3 months, pulse corticosteroids (within the past few months), rituximab (within the past 6 months), or if they were in need of chemotherapy treatment. The 3 cohort centers—University Hospital Basel (SHCS + STCS), University Hospital Zürich (SHCS + STCS), and University Hospital Bern (SHCS)—recruited all participants.

Randomization was performed in the Research Electronic Data Entry system [10] separately for the 2 cohorts stratified by study center, age group, sex, and presence of comorbidities. We used minimization with a random element across stratification factors to control for imbalances in treatment arms.

Participants, treating physicians, and outcome assessors for clinical outcomes were not blinded. Laboratory staff who assessed immunological parameters was blinded to treatment allocation. Serious adverse events were adjudicated by the data safety monitoring board that was blinded to intervention allocation.

Interventions

BNT162b2 licensed by Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) and mRNA-1273 licensed by Moderna (Spikevax) were stored and applied according to the recommendation of the manufacturers [9, 11–13]. Both vaccines were administered on days 0 and 28 into the deltoid muscle (30 μg of BNT162b2 in 0.3 mL or 100 μg of mRNA-1273 in 0.5 mL).

Outcomes

All outcomes were assessed 12 weeks (±7 days) after the first vaccination. In cases in which patients were not available within this time window (eg, because of vacations), outcome data were collected on the closest possible date.

The primary outcome was a positive antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 spike (S1) protein receptor-binding domain in human serum or plasma assessed by the commercial immunoassay Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S (Elecsys S) from Roche Diagnostics [14]. The outcome is binary using a threshold of ≥0.8 units/mL as defined by the manufacturer. Further immunological outcomes were positive antibody response using the Antibody CORonavirus Assay (ABCORA) 2 that assesses seropositivity by measuring specific immunoglobulin G (IgG), IgA, and IgM responses to SARS-CoV-2 receptor binding domains, S1, S2, and N [15]. The following clinical outcomes were chosen: (1) newly polymerase chain reaction–confirmed asymptomatic COVID-19 infections; (2) newly confirmed symptomatic COVID-19 infections; (3) severe COVID-19 infections (see study protocol for more details [9]); (4) COVID-19 burden of diseases (0 for no COVID-19; 1 for nonsevere COVID-19; 2 for severe COVID-19); and (5) COVID-19 infection of a household member. Safety outcomes were assessed during the 12-week study visit and were reduced for feasibility and relevance reasons to the following (asked separately after the first and second vaccine): (1) any local symptom (redness or swelling or prolonged pain at injection site) limiting continuation of normal daily activities during the first 7 days after vaccination; (2) any systemic symptom (fever, generalized muscle or joint pain) limiting continuation of normal daily activities during the first 7 days after vaccination; and (3) any vaccine-related symptom leading to contacting a physician during the first 7 days after vaccination. Serious adverse events (SAEs; see study protocol for more details [9]) were documented throughout the trial and routinely assessed during the 12-week study visit.
**Sample Size**

This study is powered to assess the noninferiority in terms of immune response (antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 spike (S1) protein receptor binding domain) between the 2 SARS-CoV-2 vaccines BNT162b2 or mRNA-1273. Data in the general population showed that titers were high in nearly 100% after the second vaccination; however, no data were available for immunocompromised patients when this study was planned [16, 17]. We assumed an immune response in 90% of patients in both groups and powered our noninferiority trial so that a 95% 2-sided confidence interval (CI) excludes a difference in favor of the reference group of more than 10%. In total, 380 patients (190 in each treatment arm) were required for a statistical power of 90% and a type I error of 0.025. The sample size was increased to 430 patients to account for losses to follow-up. Sample size was calculated using the "ssc_propcomp" function of the R statistical software package SampleSize4ClinicalTrials [18].

**Analysis**

Trial participants’ baseline characteristics, secondary outcomes regarding antibody response, clinical outcomes, SAEs, and safety outcomes are described as frequencies and percentages with 95% CIs or medians and interquartile range (IQR). Noninferiority of the primary outcome is established if the lower limit of a 95% 2-sided Wald CI for the difference in antibody response proportion between participants receiving mRNA-1273 and BNT162bs vaccines is above –10%, where 10% is the predefined noninferiority margin. Trial participants were primarily analyzed according to their allocated randomization group (intention to treat) but also according to a per-protocol principle that was defined as restricting the analysis to participants who received both vaccine doses they were allocated to. An additional “strict” per-protocol analysis was conducted restricted to individuals who received both dosages of their allocated vaccine (within the interval of 4 weeks ± 1 week) and had available outcome data at week 12 (within the prespecified interval of ± 1 week; results presented in the appendix only). We performed sensitivity analyses by excluding participants with positive antibody response to the nucleocapsid protein at baseline as indicated by the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 test Elecsys N test (sign of previous infection).

Quantitative SARS-CoV-2 S protein receptor binding domain with values ≥0.80 U/mL were considered “positive” for anti-SARS-CoV-2 S antibodies. In a first post hoc analysis setting the threshold for predicting a protective immune response was changed to 100 U/mL as indicated by Hall et al [19] and Khoury and colleagues [20].

In a second post hoc analyses, we chose for the ABCORA 2 sum S1 (sum of S1 signal over cutoff values of IgG, IgA, IgM) a threshold of 17 to predict neutralization activity against the vaccine strain Wuhan-Hu-1 in sera. The prediction is based on a head-to-head measurement of pseudovirus neutralization and ABCORA 2 binding. It was shown that 100% of the sera with a threshold above 17 had measurable neutralization activity (above a titer of 1:100) in our pseudovirus neutralization tests [15]. Subgroup analyses were conducted by cohort, as well as for specific subpopulations such as PLWH with less and more than 200 CD4 cells/μL, with a suppressed and unsuppressed HIV viral load (ie, >50 copies/mL), for transplanted patients under intense (triple or quadruple immunosuppressive regimen) or less intense immunosuppressive therapy (dual immunosuppressive regimen) and for study participants according to sex (male/female), age group (<60, 60 to 69, ≥70 years) and history of cardiovascular diseases or metabolic syndrome (see appendix for definition). No interim analysis was conducted. All analysis were done in R Project for Statistical Computing (version 4.0.3) software [21].

**RESULTS**

A total of 430 patients were randomized; of those, 419 received a first vaccination dose in the frame of this study between April 19 and June 9, 2021; 412 patients received a second dose. We included 412 patients in the intention-to-treat dataset for immunological outcomes, 415 in the intention-to-treat dataset for clinical outcomes, and 404 in the per-protocol dataset (Figure 1).

Trial participants had a median age of 53 years (IQR: 43–61), the majority was male (75.8%; 326/430) and from the SHCS (81.9%; 352/430; Table 1). Of the 352 included PLWH, 2.0% (7/352) had CD4 cell counts below 200 μL and 5.7% (20/352) had an unsuppressed viral load (>50 copies/mL). Of the 78 organ transplant recipients, 79.5% (62/78) were on an intensive immunosuppressive therapy; 41 (52.6%) had received a lung and 37 (47.4%) a kidney transplantation. A total of 39 (9.1%) patients had a reactive antibody test to the nucleocapsid protein at baseline as determined by the Elecsys N test (mRNA-1273: 4.2%; 9/215; BNT162b2: 14.0%; 30/215) indicating a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection. Baseline data stratified by cohort are presented in the supplementary appendix (Table S1 and Table S2). The duration between the first and the second vaccine was a median of 28 days (IQR: 28–28) and the 12-week follow-up was conducted after a median of 84 days after the first vaccination (IQR: 84–86; Table S3).

Overall, 92.1% of participants randomized to mRNA-1273 (95% CI: 88.4–95.8; 186/202) had an antibody response (Elecsys S test) compared with 94.3% (95% CI: 91.2–97.4; 198/210) randomized to BNT162b2. With a difference of -2.2% (95% CI: -7.1 to 2.7), the vaccine mRNA-1273 from Moderna was noninferior to BNT162b2 from Pfizer-BioNTech (Table 2). This result was confirmed by the ABCORA 2 test for which a total of 89.3% (95% CI: 86.3–92.3; 368/412) had an antibody response (mRNA-1273: 89.1%; 95% CI: 84.8–93.4; 180/202 vs BNT162b2: 89.5%; 95% CI: 85.4–93.7; 188/210). When assessing the ABCORA 2
sum S1 threshold of 17, 83.5% (95% CI: 79.9–87.1; 344/412) had neutralizing antibodies (mRNA-1273: 84.7%; 95% CI: 79.7–89.6; 171/202 vs BNT162b2: 82.4%; 95% CI: 77.2–87.5; 173/210; Table S4). The analyses conducted on the per-protocol dataset were in line with the findings from the intention-to-treat dataset (Table 2 and Table S4). Although all PLWH (341/341) showed an immune response, only 60.6% (95% CI: 49.2–71.9; 43/71) of solid organ transplant recipients had an immune response (Elecsys S test). This number decreased to 39.4% (95% CI: 28.1–50.8; 28/71) among organ transplant recipients when using the more stringent ABCORA 2 test and to 21.1% (95% CI: 11.6–30.6; 15/71) when using the ABCORA 2 sum S1 threshold. Results from prespecified subgroup analyses (Tables S4–6) suggest that fewer patients with a lung transplant had an immune response (48.7%; 95% CI: 33.0–64.1; 19/39) compared with kidney transplant recipients (75.0%; 95% CI: 60.0–90.0; 24/32). Furthermore, 85.7% (95% CI: 67.4–100.0; 12/14) of transplant recipients with less intensive immunosuppressive therapy had an immune response, whereas this was only the case for 54.4% (95% CI: 41.5–67.3; 31/57) of transplant patients with an intensive immunosuppressive therapy. When using a cutoff of 100 U/mL for Elecsys S, the proportion of patients with an immune response decreased to 86.4% (95% CI: 83.1–89.7; 356/412) for all patients, 99.4% (95% CI: 98.6–100.0; 339/341) for PLWH.
and 23.9% (95% CI: 14.0–33.9; 17/71) for transplant recipients (Tables S4–6). Sensitivity analyses excluding patients with a reactive antibody test to the protein at baseline were in line with the previously mentioned results (Tables S7–9).

Based on per-protocol data, mean ABCORA 2 sum S1 levels were 107.2 (95% CI: 96.7–117.9) for mRNA-1273 and 90.6 (95% CI: 80.0–101.3) for BNT162b2 (Figure 2, Table S10; per-protocol strict in Table S11). Results for Elecsys S titer levels are presented in the appendix (Figure S1; Table S12). For PLWH, the ABCORA 2 sum S1 titers were 123.5 (95% CI: 113.5–133.4) and 102.3 (95% CI: 91.2–113.4) for mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2, respectively, and the proportion of patients with a neutralization activity defined by the ABCORA 2 sum S1 threshold was higher with mRNA-1273 (98.8%; 95% CI: 97.2–100.0; 176/169) compared with BNT162b2 (94.2%; 95% CI: 90.7–97.7; 176/169; Table S5). Organ transplant recipients mean ABCORA 2 sum S1 levels were 22.1 (95% CI: 0.0–48.4) after receiving mRNA-1273 and 32.1 (95% CI: 7.5–56.7) following vaccination with BNT162b2 (Figure 2, Table S10), and the proportion of patients with a neutralization activity (ABCORA 2 sum S1) was 12.1% (95% CI: 1.0–23.4; 4/33) for mRNA-1273 and 29.0% (95% CI: 14.0–43.4; 11/38) for BNT162b2; Table S5).

At 12-week follow-up, a total of 5 patients reported that they tested SARS-CoV-2 positive (all before receiving the second dose of vaccine). No severe COVID-19 infections occurred, and no household members were reported as SARS-CoV-2 positive (Table 3). Symptoms limiting the normal daily activities occurred frequently after the second vaccination and systemic symptoms appeared more frequently after the second dose of mRNA-1273 (21.8%; 95% CI: 16.3–28.1; 44/202) compared with vaccination with BNT162b2 (10.7%; 6.8–15.8; 22/205). A total of 18 patients had at least 1 SAE requiring hospitalization and 2 of these patients died. None of the SAEs were classified as clearly related to study medication (see judgment from treating

Table 1. Demographics and Clinical Characteristics of the Study Population at Baseline

| Characteristic | mRNA-1273 (Moderna) N = 215 | BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) N = 215 | Total N = 430 |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Median age (IQR) | 53 (43, 60) | 53 (43, 61) | 53 (43, 61) |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 161 (74.9%) | 165 (76.7%) | 326 (75.8%) |
| Female | 54 (25.1%) | 50 (23.3%) | 104 (24.2%) |
| Cohort | | | |
| SHCS | 177 (82.3%) | 175 (81.4%) | 352 (81.9%) |
| STCS | 38 (17.7%) | 40 (18.6%) | 78 (18.1%) |
| Centers | | | |
| University Hospital Basel | 77 (35.8%) | 81 (37.7%) | 158 (36.7%) |
| University Hospital Bern | 53 (24.7%) | 49 (22.8%) | 102 (23.7%) |
| University Hospital Zurich | 85 (39.5%) | 85 (39.5%) | 170 (39.5%) |
| History of cardiovascular disease or metabolic syndrome | | | |
| Yes | 75/215 (34.9%) | 77/215 (35.8%) | 152/430 (35.3%) |
| No | 140/215 (65.1%) | 138/215 (64.2%) | 278/430 (64.7%) |
| CD4 cell count (cells/µL)a | | | |
| <200 | 3/177 (1.7%) | 4/175 (2.3%) | 7/352 (2.0%) |
| 200–350 | 13/177 (7.3%) | 10/175 (5.7%) | 23/352 (6.5%) |
| 350–500 | 18/177 (10.2%) | 26/175 (14.9%) | 44/352 (12.5%) |
| >500 | 143/177 (80.8%) | 135/175 (77.1%) | 278/352 (79.0%) |
| Unsuppressed viral load (≥200 copies/mL)a | | | |
| Yes | 7/177 (4.0%) | 13/175 (7.4%) | 20/352 (5.7%) |
| No | 170/177 (96.0%) | 162/175 (92.6%) | 332/352 (94.3%) |
| Transplanted organb | | | |
| Lung transplant | 20/38 (52.6%) | 21/40 (52.5%) | 41/78 (52.6%) |
| Kidney transplant | 18/38 (47.4%) | 19/40 (47.5%) | 37/78 (47.4%) |
| Immunosuppressive therapyb | | | |
| Less intense (<2 regimen) | 5/38 (13.2%) | 11/40 (27.5%) | 16/78 (20.5%) |
| Intense (3 or 4 regimen) | 3/38 (8.6%) | 29/40 (72.5%) | 62/78 (79.5%) |
| Antibody test to the nucleocapsid proteinc | | | |
| Nonreactive | 197 (91.6%) | 181 (84.2%) | 378 (87.9%) |
| Reactive | 9 (4.2%) | 30 (14.0%) | 39 (9.1%) |
| Missing | 9 (4.2%) | 4 (1.9%) | 13 (3.0%) |

Abbreviations: IQR, interquartile range; SHCS, Swiss HIV Cohort Study; STCS, Swiss Transplant Cohort Study.

aOnly considering patients from the Swiss HIV Cohort Study.

bOnly considering patients from the Swiss Transplant Cohort Study.

cElecsys N test [14] reactive to nucleocapsid protein indicates previous contact to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.
Table 2. Proportion of Patients With an Immune Response 12 Weeks After the First SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination

| Immune response | mRNA-1273 (Moderna) | BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) | Total | Difference |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------|------------|
| SHCS            | 89.9%               | 89.5%                    | 89.7% | -0.4%      |
| STCS            | 98.1%               | 98.5%                    | 98.3% | -0.6%      |

Sensitivity analysis for the per-protocol estimate, including only patients who received the intervention they were allocated to, with an interval of 4 weeks (± 1 week) between first and second vaccination dose and provided outcome data at 12 weeks (± 1 week) is available in the Supplementary Appendix.

Abbreviations: ABCORA 2, Antibody Coronavirus Assay 2; SARS-CoV-2, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; SHCS, Swiss HIV Cohort Study; STCT, Swiss Transplant Cohort Study.

aUsing the threshold of at 0.8 U/mL.

bIncluding patients who received the intervention they were allocated to and have available outcome data.

discussion

This randomized head-to-head comparison showed noninferiority of the mRNA-1273 (Moderna) compared with the BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) vaccine in terms of antibody response at 12 weeks. An immune response using the Elecsys S test. An ABCORA 2 sum S1 value >17 allowed the predication of whether sera harbor neutralization activity. We found that nearly 80% of organ transplant recipients had an immune response after a third SARS-CoV-2 vaccination; hence, a third vaccine should be considered in this population. A retrospective study in more than 50,000 vaccinated individuals found fewer breakthrough infections when the mRNA-1273 vaccine was used [26]. Further high-quality evidence is needed to assess if the mRNA-1273 might be superior for specific clinical endpoints (eg, severe COVID-19 mortality). We cannot conclusively confirm a difference between the 2 vaccines. A retrospective study in more than 50,000 vaccinated individuals found fewer breakthrough infections when the mRNA-1273 vaccine was used [26]. Further high-quality evidence is needed to assess if the mRNA-1273 might be superior for specific clinical endpoints (eg, severe COVID-19 mortality). We cannot conclusively confirm a difference between the 2 vaccines. A retrospective study in more than 50,000 vaccinated individuals found fewer breakthrough infections when the mRNA-1273 vaccine was used [26]. Further high-quality evidence is needed to assess if the mRNA-1273 might be superior for specific clinical endpoints (eg, severe COVID-19 mortality).
Figure 2. Antibody response in immunocompromised patients after receiving 2 doses of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines (per-protocol data set) using ABCORA 2 [15]. Figure shows combined reactivity of IgM, IgA, and IgG to the subunit S1 in patients who received the allocation they were randomized to and provided a blood sample at follow-up (per-protocol). Depicted are sum S1 (sum of S1 signal over cutoff values IgG, IgA, IgM) off all patients, patients from Swiss HIV Cohort Study (SHCS), Swiss Transplant Cohort Study (STCS). Box plots indicate the interquartile ranges with vertical lines representing the minimum and maximum values. ABCORA 2, Antibody Coronavirus Assay 2; Ig, immunoglobulin; SARS-CoV-2, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

Table 3. Clinical Outcomes and Adverse Events

| Outcomes                                      | mRNA-1273 (Moderna) | BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BionTech) | Total       |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection                | 2/205 (1.0%; 0.0–2.3%) | 3/210 (1.4%; 0.0–3.0%)      | 5/415 (1.2%; 0.2–2.3%) |
| Symptomatic                                   | 2/205 (1.0%; 0.0–2.3%) | 1/210 (0.5%; 0.0–1.4%)      | 3/415 (0.7%; 0.0–1.5%) |
| Asymptomatic                                  | 0/205 (0.0%)        | 2/210 (1.0%; 0.1–3.4%)      | 2/415 (0.5%; 0.0–1.1%) |
| Severe COVID-19 infection                     | 0/205 (0.0%)        | 0/210 (0.0%)                | 0/415 (0.0%) |
| COVID-19 burden of diseasea (mean, SD)        | 0.010 (0.099 SD)    | 0.014 (0.118 SD)            | 0.012 (0.109 SD) |
| Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection of household members | 0/205 (0.0%)        | 0/210 (0.0%)                | 0/415 (0.0%) |

Safety outcomes after first vaccine

| Any local symptoms limiting continuation of normal daily activities during the first 7 days | 13/205 (6.3%; 3.0–9.7%) | 14/210 (6.7%; 3.3–10.0%) | 27/415 (6.5%; 4.1–8.9%) |
| Any systemic symptoms limiting continuation of normal daily activities during the first 7 days | 14/205 (6.8%; 3.4–10.3%) | 12/210 (5.7%; 2.6–8.9%) | 26/415 (6.3%; 3.9–8.6%) |
| Any vaccine related symptom leading to contacting a physician during the first 7 days | 2/205 (1.0%; 0.0–2.3%) | 1/210 (0.5%; 0.0–1.4%) | 3/415 (0.7%; 0.0–1.5%) |

Safety outcomes after second vaccine

| Any local symptoms limiting continuation of normal daily activities during the first 7 days | 18/202 (8.9%; 5.0–12.8%) | 13/205 (6.3%; 3.0–9.7%) | 31/407 (7.6%; 5.0–10.2%) |
| Any systemic symptoms limiting continuation of normal daily activities during the first 7 days | 44/202 (21.8%; 16.1–27.5%) | 22/205 (10.7%; 6.5–15.0%) | 66/407 (16.2%; 12.6–19.8%) |
| Any vaccine related symptom leading to contacting a physician during the first 7 days | 3/202 (1.5%; 0.0–3.2%) | 2/205 (1.0%; 0.0–2.3%) | 5/407 (1.2%; 0.2–2.3%) |

Serious adverse eventsb

| 9/205 (4.4%; 1.6–7.2%) | 9/210 (4.3%; 1.5–7.0%) | 18/415 (4.3%; 2.4–6.3%) |

Patient died

| 1/205 (0.5%; 0.0–1.4%) | 1/210 (0.5%; 0.0–1.4%) | 2/415 (0.5%; 0.0–1.1%) |

SARS-CoV-2, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; SD, standard deviation.

aThe burden of disease was judged as 0 for no SARS-CoV-2 infection, 1 for nonsevere SARS-CoV-2 infections and 2 for severe SARS-CoV-2 infections.

bAll infections occurred after the first vaccination, but before the second vaccine was administered.
transplant patients) are of exploratory nature and have to be interpreted carefully. Second, the prespecified neutralization cutoff for the primary outcome (ie, of ≥0.8 U/mL) was chosen when little information was available. Now, it is unclear how useful this cutoff from the Elecsys S test is in terms of predictive resistance to infection. Although other studies took the same cutoff (ie, of ≥0.8 U/mL) [23, 27], Hall et al chose a cutoff of 100 U/mL. We believe that by including a second high-quality test (ABCORA 2 antibody response and sum S1) as well as assessing the results with a cutoff of 100 U/mL allows us to make a sensible interpretation of study results. However, these cutoffs will have to be further adjusted in the future (ie, to account for SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern).

In conclusion, the proportion of patients with an immune response was comparable between mRNA-1273 (Moderna) and BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech). In general, PLWH had a good immune response, whereas solid organ transplant patients had a low immune response. These patients should be prioritized when third ("booster") vaccines are administered.

**Supplementary Data**

Supplementary materials are available at Clinical Infectious Diseases online. Consisting of data provided by the authors to benefit the reader, the posted materials are not copyedited and are the sole responsibility of the authors, so questions or comments should be addressed to the corresponding author.

**Notes**

**Author contributions.** H. C. B., B. S., F. C., N. J. M., H. F. G., M. P. S., A. R., M. T., M. T. K., M. B., and K. K. designed the study. K. K. was responsible for preparing the data platform; F. C. conducted sample size calculation and all analyses; B. S., H. C. B., P. A., M. P. S., A. L. E., B. H., D. L. B., M. M. S., T. F. M., M. A. R., and H. F. G. coordinated participant recruitment and follow-up at local centers. I. A. A., A. T., and A. A. conducted all laboratory analyses; B. S. wrote the first draft of the manuscript, and all authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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