COVID-19

Vaccination considerations across the transplant continuum

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DISCLOSURES:

• DSMB:

- Janssen RSV Vaccines
- Biogen Covid, SLE therapeutics
- Atea Covid therapeutics
- Adamis Covid therapeutics
- Advisory Boards:
 - Gilead Covid therapeutics
 - Adagio Covid therapeutics
 - Regeneron Covid therapeutics
 - Synairgen Covid therapeutics







Duke Transplant/ Immunocompromised Host Infectious Diseases

last accessed March 6th, 2022

NO DATA

Epidemiology:

Ourworldindata.org www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html last accessed March 6th, 2022

Nov.

Average daily deaths Average daily cases 2 deaths per 100,000 400 cases per 100,000 1.5 deaths JAN. 16 - 22 Unvaccinated 3x as high 1 deaths

0.5 deaths - Fully vaccinated

Jan. 2022

Nov.

May 2021

Jul.

Sept.

May 2021

Jul.

Sept.

200 cases

Epidemiology:

DEC. 26 - JAN. 1

Unvaccinated

Fully vaccinated

Jan. 2022

10x as high

Where to start?

- Majority of SOT vaccine guidelines are extrapolation of recommendations in healthy persons
- Vaccine efficacy studies are difficult to do in transplantation
 - Most studies rely on immune response
 - Correlates of protection (antibody levels, T-cell responses) are often unknown or may differ in an immunosuppressed population
- Patients are heterogeneous (type of transplant, immunosuppression)
- Adverse event concerns are different than the general population
 - Live vaccines may cause disease
 - Rejection of graft

• Binding antibodies

- Very easy to measure (ELISA, Luminex, MSD)
- A reasonable measure of an intact immune response (eg, HIP)
- Do not necessarily reflect functional activity

- Binding antibodies
- Neutralizing antibodies

- Measure of the ability to block infection
- Can be done with "real" virus or pseudovirus assays
- Neutralizing "real" virus in "real" cells can be challenging, require high BSL
- Pseudovirus neutralizing assays are artificial—may not be the same *in vivo*
- Inhibition of only one part of the virus life cycle

- Binding antibodies
- Neutralizing antibodies
- Antibody-dependent phagocytosis (ADP)
 - Measure the ability of antibodies to promote virus ingestion
 - Virus clearance mechanism
 - Somewhat more complex assay
 - Can be done with model systems (eg, coated beads)

- Binding antibodies
- Neutralizing antibodies
- Antibody-dependent phagocytosis (ADP)
- Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC)
 - Measure the ability of antibodies to promote infected cell killing
 - Infected cell clearance mechanism
 - More complex assay to perform
 - Can be done with model systems (eg, coated cells)

- Binding antibodies
- Neutralizing antibodies
- Antibody-dependent phagocytosis (ADP)
- Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC)
- T cell responses
 - Measure T cell killing (or help)
 - Infected cell clearance mechanism
 - Complex assay to perform

Modern Vaccinology Techniques – Subunit:

Are there other styles of vaccines widely used?

(a) Viral Vector Vaccines -eg: J&J, Astra-Zeneca Covid

(b) mRNA Vaccines - Moderna , Pfizer Covid

Lesson #1: Seroconversion is Lower

DOI: 10.1111/ajt.16766

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Humoral and cellular immune response and safety of two-dose SARS-CoV-2 mRNA-1273 vaccine in solid organ transplant recipients

Victoria G. Hall¹[©] | Victor H. Ferreira¹ | Matthew Ierullo¹ | Terrance Ku¹[©] | Tina Marinelli¹ | Beata Majchrzak-Kita¹ | Anila Yousuf¹ | Vathany Kulasingam² | Atul Humar¹ | Deepali Kumar¹[©]

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Key findings

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Immunocompromised Host Infectious Diseases

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Grade 3

Grade 4

100 -80 % participants 60 40 20 0 Any adverse event Fever adache orvoniting Medical Visit chills Arthraloja alique Avalgia Systemic events, Dose 2 100 -Grade 1 Grade 2 80 Grade 3 % participants 60 Grade 4 20 wyaloja Arthralgia catique licalvis Chi ant

Systemic Events, Dose 1

Comparable with Influenza:

Seroconversion rates (%) in influenza vaccine studies of organ transplant recipients are low

Natori, CID 2018; Kumar, Transplantation 2017; Baluch, AJT 2013; Manuel JHLT 2011, Scharpe, AJT 2008

Effect of Immunosuppression (Mycophenolate and Influenza Vaccine)

 Several studies have shown that MMF in high doses reduces the immunogenicity of influenza vaccine

Baluch et al, AJT 2013

Egli et al., JID, 2015

Lesson #2: Not all immunosuppression is the same Belatacept: Lower Responses

- N=24
- Post-dose 1: 0% with detectable anti-spike antibody vs. 14% in matched population (p=0.06)
- Post-dose 2: 5% with detectable anti-spike antibody vs. 50% in matched population (p<0.001)
- Post-dose 3: only 1/9 boosted (unpublished)

COVID-19 VACCINE ANTIBODY Response Among Cll Patients by Treatment type

Source: The LLS National Patient Registry. Data collected from 845 patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) who had antibody tests at least 2 weeks after their second dose of Moderna or Pfizer mRNA vaccine. Data collected March 12 to June 12, 2021.

Treatment Within Past Two Years	Percent of Patients with No Detectable COVID-19 Antibodies				
None	17				
Obinutuzumab	90				
Rituximab, Acalabrutinib	85				
Rituximab, Ibrutinib	77				
Multidrug therapy with or without cytotoxic chemotherapy	71				
Obinutuzumab, Ibrutinib	70				
Obinutuzumab, Acalabrutinib	66				
Rituximab	63				
Acalabrutinib	55				
Ibrutinib	48				
Ibrutinib, IVIG	40				
IVIG	25				

Thoracic Transplantation

- Heart (N=90)
 - Neg/Neg, non-responders: 44%
 - Neg/Pos, weak responders: 47%
 - Pos/Pos, boosted: 9%
- Lung (N=62)
 - Neg/Neg, non-responders: 58%
 - Neg/Pos, weak responders: 32%
 - Pos/Pos, boosted: 10%

Hallet, JHLT, Aug 2021 Strauss, Liver Transplantation, Aug 2021

Liver Transplantation

- N=161
 - Neg/Neg, non-responders: 19%
 - Neg/Pos, weak responders: 47%
 - Pos/Pos, boosted: 34%

Hallet, JHLT, Aug 2021 Strauss, Liver Transplantation, Aug 2021

Lesson #3: Timing is Critical

Seroconversion to at least one antigen: 19.2% in those <6 mos from transplant vs. 53.2% in those >6 months, p=0.001

Baluch et al., AJT, 2013

Lesson #3: Timing is Critical

Lesson #4: Dosing variability can help Two doses of influenza vaccine

Variable	Single-Dose Vaccination Group (n = 213)	Booster Dose Vaccination Group (n = 211)	OR (95% Cl)/ β Coefficient (95% Cl)	NNT (ARR, %) With Booster Dose		
Short-term seroconver	sion rate					
A(H1N1)pdm	33 (32.7)	43 (46.7)	1.81 (1.009-3.24)*	12 (14.1)		
A(H3N2)	38 (30.2)	45 (39.1)	1.49 (.87–2.54)	8 (9)		
Influenza B	53 (63.9)	63 (75.9) 1.78 (.91–3.50)		9 (12)		
Long-term seroconvers	sion rate					
A(H1N1)pdm	20 (19.8)	19 (20.7)	1.05 (.52-2.13)			
A(H3N2)	57 (45.2)	47 (40.9) 0.84 (.50–1.40)				
Influenza B	42 (50.6)	53 (63.9) 1.73 (.93–3.21)				
Short-term seroprotect	ion rate					
A(H1N1)pdm	92 (43.2)	114 (54)	1.54 (1.05-2.27)*	10 (10.8)		
A(H3N2)	97 (45.5)	120 (56.9)	20 (56.9) 1.58 (1.08–2.31)*			
Influenza B	153 (71.8)	176 (83.4) 1.97 (1.23–3.16)**				

N=499 adult SOT patients randomized 1:1 to receive single dose or two doses of influenza vaccine 5 wks apart

Cordero et al., CID, 2017

CORRESPONDENCE

Three Doses of an mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine in Solid-Organ Transplant Recipients

Nassim Kamar, M.D., Ph.D.

Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse, France

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

- 101 SOTx French cohort, 3x Pfizer mRNA doses
- 78 kidney, 12 livers, 8 thoracic; median age 58, ~5yrs out

- Of the 59 negative prior to dose 3:
 - Almost half responded
- Of the 40 positive prior to dose 3:
 - Titres went up $36 \rightarrow 2676$

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The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Worse response if you're:

Older

- T/B cell cytopaenic
- Take More immunosuppression
- Worse renal function

	Anti-SARS-CoV2	Anti-SARS-CoV2	p-value
	positive patients	negative patients	
	(N=67)	(N=32)	
Sex ratio (M/F)	2.2 (46/21)	2.6 (23/9)	0.745
Age (years, mean ±SEM)	54 ±2	65 ±3	<0.00
Type of organ transplant, n (%)			0.491
- Kidney	51 (76)	25 (78)	
- Liver	9 (13)	3 (9)	
 Thoracic organs 	4 (6)	4 (13)	
- Pancreas	3 (4)	-	
History of rejection in the year preceding vaccination, n (%)	2 (3)	1 (3)	1
Time between vaccine and transplantation (months, mean	99 ±10	94 ±16	0.793
±SEM)			
No induction therapy, n (%)	26 (39)	14 (44)	0.667
Induction therapy, n (%)	41 (61)	18 (56)	
 Anti-IL2 receptor blockers 	26 (63)	9 (50)	
 Polyclonal antibodies 	14 (34)	8 (44)	
- Others	1 (2)	1 (6)	
Type of immunosuppressive regimen, n (%)			
- Calcineurin-inhibitors	55 (82)	23 (72)	0.24
 Tacrolimus 	51 (93)	22 (97)	
 Ciclosporin A 	4 (7)	1 (3)	
- Anti-metabolite	41 (61)	24 (75)	0.17
 Mycophenolic acid 	40 (98)	24	
 Azathioprine 	1 (2)	-	
 mTOR inhibitors 	22 (33)	7 (22)	0.26
- Steroids	58 (87)	28 (88)	1
- Belatacept	5 (7)	7 (22)	0.05
Neutrophils count before vaccination (/mm ³ , mean ±SEM)	5459 ±252	5600 ±664	0.81
Lymphocytes count before vaccination (/mm ³ , mean ±SEM)	1561 ±123	1173 ±114	0.04
	n=59	n=30	0.00
CD4+ 1-cells count before vaccination (/mm ⁻ , mean ±SEW)	529 ±37	339 ±38	0.00
	n=59	n=30	0.00
CD8+ 1-cells count before vaccination (/mm ² , mean ±SEIVI)	440 ±38	358 ±48	0.20
	n=59	n=30	0.00
CD19+ 1-cells count before vaccination (/mm², mean ±5EM)	182 ±83	89 ±33	0.00
	n=59	n=30	0.50
NK cells count before vaccination (/mm², mean ±SEM)	235 ±18	216 ±33	0.58
eGFR before vaccination (mL/min/1.73m ²)	60 ±3	45 ±4	0.00

Methods – study design

Blood work collected before and 4 weeks after intervention

Primary outcome: anti-RBD antibody level of ≥ 100 U/ml at month 4

- Defined prior to start of trial
- Based on protective anti-RBD titer in challenge study in non-human primates²⁰ and corroborated as upper limit of 95% CI for 50% neutralization in a large clinical cohort²¹

Characteristic	mRNA-1273 (n=60)	Placebo (n=60)
Age (years), median (IOR)	66.9 (64.0 - 71.8)	65.9 (62.9 - 70.3)
Male sex. n (%)	37 (61.7%)	42 (70.0%)
Time from transplantation to intervention (years), median (IQR)	3.57 (1.99 - 6.75)	2.20 (1.44 – 5.55)
Rejection within the preceding 3 months n (%)	1 (1.7%)	1 (1.7%)
Anti-thymocyte globulin in the preceding 6 months	0	0
Type of transplant (%)		
Thoracic	21 (35.0%)	26 (43.3%)
Lung Heart	11 10	18
Abdominal	39 (65.0%)	34 (56.7%)
Kidney Pancreas and Kidney-Pancreas Liver	20 15 4	9 9 16
Immunosuppression		
Prednisone (%)	50 (83.3%)	42 (70.0%)
Prednisone daily dose, mg; median (IOR)	5 (5-5)	5 (5-7.5)
Calcineurin inhibitor (%)	59 (98.3%)	59 (98.3%)
Tacrolimus Tacrolimus trough level, ng/mL (IQR) Cyclosporine	47 (78.3%) 7.6 (5.9 – 9.8) 12 (20.0%)	46 (76.7%) 6.7 (5.3 – 8.6) 13 (21.7%)
Mycophenolate mofetil/ mycophenolate sodium (%)	44 (73.3%)	46 (76.7%)
Mycophenolate daily dose; mg, median (IQR)	1080 (720-1440)	720 (585 – 1440)
Azathioprine (%)	8 (13.3%)	4 (6.7%)
Sirolimus (%)	6 (10.0%)	5 (8.3%)

Results

Results

Third dose and neutralization of VOC

Figure 3: Pseudotyped lentivirus neutralization post-3rd dose of placebo or mRNA-1273

ANTIBODY RESPONSE' TO Third Covid-19 Vaccine By Blood Cancer Diagnosis

- Elevation of existing antibodies
- Seroconverted from no detectable antibodies to detectable antibodies
- Continued to have no detectable antibodies

Source: The LLS National Patient Registry. Data collected from 699 patients who had a third dose of Moderna or Pfizer mRNA vaccine between June and September 2021.

"Response measures anti-spike antibody levels. Most patients received the same vaccine brand for all three doses. There were not enough "mix and match" third doses to draw conclusions about whether mixing doses has an effect on immune response.

Vaccinations for Omicron:

UK

USA

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (*MMWR*)

During the Omicron period:

During the 2 months after a third dose: VE against COVID-19–associated ED/UC visits = 87% VE against hospitalizations = 91%

By 4 months post third dose: VE against COVID-19–associated ED/UC visits = 66% VE against hospitalizations = 78%

> Andrews et al. 2022 Ferdinands et al. 2022

Lesson #5: Not all vaccines equal

Ad26.Cov2.S (Janssen) Vaccine – Lower Responses

- Antibodies: 20% (J&J) vs. 56% (mRNA) p=0.03
 - aOR 0.16 (95% CI 0.03-0.78, p=0.02)
- Median titers 2.39 u/mL (J&J) vs. 106.7 u/mL (mRNA) (p=0.05)

Lesson #6: Vaccination can attenuate disease despite incomplete seroconversion

Benefits of being vaccinated

Unadjusted Analysis of Allograft Loss (death-censored)

Figure 1. | Time to allograft loss (death-censored) among adult Medicare primary renal transplant recipients who did or did not have Medicare claims for influenza vaccine in the first year posttransplantation.

N=616 transplant patients with influenza

Lesson #6: Vaccination can attenuate disease despite incomplete seroconversion

Ourworldindata.org www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html last accessed March 6th, 2022

Knowledge Gaps: Pediatric Vaccinations:

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, 3mcg dose

(5-16 get 10mcg; adults get 30mcg)

6-24months met non-inferiority compared to adults2-5year old population did NOT attain the sameimmunogenicity as adults

FDA asked Pfizer to add a 3rd dose. Studies ongoing

((additional 5-11yr old 3rd dose studies underway)

Knowledge Gaps: Second boosters?

nature

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NEWS 23 February 2022

Fourth dose of COVID vaccine offers only slight boost against Omicron infection

Israeli trial shows a fourth vaccination raises antibody levels but provides little extra protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Rate of confirmed infection:

Lower in people 12+ days after their fourth dose than among those who received only three doses by factors of 2.0 (95% confidence interval [CI], 2.0 to 2.1).

The rate of severe illness was lower by factors of 4.3 (95% CI, 2.4 to 7.6).

Vaccine efficacy (VE) against infection was" Pfizer= 30% (95%CI:-9% to 55%) Moderna = 11% (95%CI:-43% to +43%)

Ie: Breakthroughs remained common, yet mild.

https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.02.15.22270948v1 https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.02.01.22270232v1

COVID Vaccinations:

COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule for People Who Are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

Vaccine	0 month	1 month	2 month	3 month	4 month	5 month
Pfizer- BioNTech (ages 5–11 years)	1 st dose	2 nd dose (3 weeks after 1 st dose)	3 rd dose (at least 4 weeks after 2 rd dose)			
Pfizer- BioNTech (ages 12 years and older)	1 st dose	2 nd dose (3 weeks after 1 st dose)	3 rd dose (at least 4 weeks after 2 rd dose)		Booste (at leas month 3 rd dos	er dose* t 3 s after e)
Moderna (ages 18 years and older)	1 st dose	2 nd dose (4 weeks after 1 st dose)	3 rd dose (at least 4 weeks after 2 rd dose)			Booster dose* (at least 3 months after 3 rd dose)
Janssen (ages 18 years and older)	1 st dose	2 nd (additional) dose' using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (at least 4 weeks after 1 st dose)		Booster dose* (at least 2 months after additional dose)		

• Required 3rd dose to complete original series, a month after original

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- Required 3rd dose to complete original series, a month after original
- Booster, after original series, now just 3m after completion

Knowledge Gaps:

Future Uncertainties?:

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions

Knowledge Gaps: Countering growing Vaccine Hesitancy

dections Disease

Perceived severity	COVID is not a serious condition in someone like me. COVID is not a serious condition for those around me
Perceived susceptibility	I am not at risk from getting COVID, I stayed safe so far I am not at risk for getting sick with the COVID during this pregnancy.
Perceived benefits	The COVID vaccine is ineffective Vaccination during pregnancy will not protect my baby from COVID complications
Perceived barriers	Cost / access I will experience harmful side effects from the vaccine; it might give me COVID. The vaccine hurt my chances of becoming pregnant I don't have enough information Mixed information from experts

Freedom of Choice

- Right to choose whether to immunize
- I know what's best for myself
- Belief risks outweigh the benefits of vaccines
- Do not trust organized medicine, public health
- Do not trust government health authorities
- Do not trust pharmaceutical companies
- Ethical, moral or religious reasons

https://www.sciencemag.org/news/202 0/06/just-50-americans-plan-get-covid-19-vaccine-here-s-how-win-over-rest

Tixagevimab / Cilgavimab:

* Subjects who do not experience a primary endpoint event (and had not discontinued) are censored at Day 183. Subjects who were unblinded/vaccinated prior to an event are also censored at the earlier time of unblinding/vaccination.

- >18yrs, 2:1 randomization
- 5197 patients (3460 active arm)
- At 'high-risk' for COVID19
- Endpoints: Symptomatic COVID+ Infection ; Hospitalizations / Mortality
- Demographics:
 - Mean age 57yrs, 36% HTn, 14% DM, 8% CVD

Relative Risk Reduction = 77% for symptomatic illness

Tixagevimab / Cilgavimab:

	RBD mAbs											NTD AL							
Fold change in IC ₅₀ relative to		Class 1			Class 2			Class 3						Class 4				NID mAbs	
D614G	CB6	Brii-196	1-20	REGN 10933	COV2- 2196	LY-CoV 555	2-15	REGN 10987	COV2- 2130	S309	2-7	Brii-198	LY-CoV 1404	ADG-2	DH1047	10-40	S2X259	4-18	5-7
BA.1	<-428	-298	<-429	<-2201	-306	<-1496	<-2716	<-1716	-83.5	-6.9	-195	2.3	1.4	-11.0	-14.2	-21.1	-13.7	<-26.7	-4.1
BA.1 + R346K	<-428	-135	<-429	-415	-187	<-1496	<-2716	<-1716	<-687	-4.5	-82.1	<-22	1.5	-15.7	-7.9	-20.5	-7.5	<-26.7	-5.5
BA.2	<-428	-322	<-429	<-2201	-680	<-1496	<-2716	-253	-1.9	-27.0	-7.3	-10.5	1.1	<-555	<-58.0	<-114	<-96	<-26.7	<-171
T19I	-3.1	-4.9	-5.3	-3.7	12	-2.2	-2.0	-2.1	15	-1.8	-5.1	-1.6	-1.7	-1.7	-1.5	-2.7	-2.9	-6.1	-3.3
L24S	-2.9	-4.0	-4.6	-3.2	- 4	-2.4	-2.8	-4.2	- 1	-1.5	-2.6	-2.2	-1.6	-1.3	-1.1	-2.4	-2.0	-3.1	-1.1
Del25-27	-1.2	-2.6	-2.0	-1.3	-)	-1.4	-1.2	-1.3		-1.3	-2.8	2.0	-1.2	1.1	1.6	-1.8	1.1	-23.1	-16.8
V213G	-2.5	-3.1	-3.0	-3.1	- 5	-1.1	-1.6	-2.2	- D	-1.2	-3.2	-1.1	-1.5	1.1	1.0	-2.0	-1.7	1.9	-2.8
S371F	-143	-126	-95.1	-27.9	-1	-5.1	-6.3	-86.6	- 3	-20.5	-30.6	<-22	-2.4	-43.0	-60.9	<-114	-77.5	7.8	2.3
T376A	-1.9	-3.1	-2.5	-2.1	- 3	-1.7	-1.3	-1.9	- B	1.0	-2.7	2.0	-1.7	1.1	1.1	-1.5	-2.3	1.3	-1.3
D405N	-25.6	-2.3	-2.9	-2.8	- 1	-1.9	-1.7	-1.6		1.5	-3.1	-1.6	1.3	3.3	-1.2	-3.9	-2.2	5.6	1.5
R408S	1.4	-1.1	-1.3	-1.1	1	-1.6	-1.3	1.2		1.0	1.2	1.4	-1.4	-1.6	-2.1	-1.2	-3.6	1.1	-1.3

>3	<-3	<-10	<-100
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Dispensing:

Proposed Prioritization Tiers:

1) Received B-cell depleting therapies (e.g. rituximab, obinutuzumab, ocrelizumab, alemtuzumab) within last 6 months & age > 65

2) Received B-cell depleting therapies , within the last 6 months, and age < 65yrs. Any ongoing use of BTK inhibitors (ibrutinib, acalabrutinib)

3) Received allogeneic HCT or CAR-T therapy within the past 6-12 months

4) Lung transplants, other SOT recipients on continual belatacept therapy, or multiple myeloma (actively receiving treatment);

5) Autologous HCT, or other solid organ transplants age > 65 yrs and within 6 months of transplant

6) Other actively treated hematologic malignancies or severe congenital immunodeficiency syndromes; patients receiving high-dose cyclophosphamide or similarly immunosuppressive regimens

7) Solid tumor malignancies or inflammatory syndromes on immunomodulatory chemotherapy (eg: high-dose cyclophosphamide); advanced AIDS

8) Other groups not previously mentioned.

So where are vaccines headed?

1. Combination mRNA vaccines

Infectious Diseases

FluA + RSV + Covid combined

2. Universal influenza vaccines

Computer-generated image of nanoparticle influenza vaccine. *NIAID*

Review:

- 1. Seroconversion is lower in SOT and Heme malignancy patients
- 2. Not all immunosuppression is the same
- 3. Timing is critical
- 4. Dosing variability can help
- 5. No all vaccines created equal
- 6. Vaccination attenuates disease even with incomplete seroconversion
- 7. ... Much still to learn... !!

Questions?

