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Editorial

COVID-19 Vaccine Efficacy on Omicron Variant

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B.1.1.529 or Omicron variant, a variant of concern, designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) on November 26, 2021, on the suggestion of the WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE) [1]. Whether Omicron variant is more transmissible or causes more severe COVID-19 is not yet clear compared to other SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) variants, including Delta variant [1]. Several epidemiological studies are ongoing in South Africa, first country of Omicron variant identification with rising of number of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)-positive persons [1]. Currently, no information on different Omicron-related symptoms is available, compared to other COVID-19 variants [1]. Increased risk of Omicron-variant reinfection could easily occur in individuals with previous COVID-19 infection [1]. Reverse-transcriptase-polymerase-chain reaction (RT-PCR) continuously is the method of Omicron variant detection [1]. A recent study in England demonstrated that the vaccine efficacy (VE) after 15 weeks of two doses of BNT162b2 (Pfizer) vaccine was around 88.0 %, whereas there was no effect against Omicron variant after two doses of ChAdOx1 (AstraZeneca) vaccine [2]. Effectiveness of current treatments currently underway [1].

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