
If Covid-19 vaccines don't prevent transmission, can they facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?

Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>
To: a.read@psu.edu

Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 11:32 PM

Dear Professor Read, I recently submitted a rapid response on an article on The BMJ referring to your paper [Imperfect vaccination can enhance the transmission of highly virulent pathogens](#), published in 2015.

My rapid response is in relation to the current coronavirus situation and asks the question "If Covid-19 vaccines don't prevent transmission, can they facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?"

Please see below my submitted rapid response, which has not been published, I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter:

Questions are being raised about the new coronavirus variants[1,2,3,4], and their emergence in the UK, South Africa and Brazil, where AstraZeneca vaccine trials are under way.

Could this be related to the possibility that the vaccines may not prevent transmission, and facilitate the evolution of new variants?

For example, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam says "...we do not yet know the impact of the vaccine on transmission of the virus. So even after you have had both doses of the vaccine you may still give Covid-19 to someone else and the chains of transmission will then continue".[5]

With the possibility the experimental coronavirus vaccines might not prevent transmission of the virus, is it possible these could be 'leaky vaccines', i.e. "anti-disease vaccines that do not prevent transmission" which "can create conditions that promote the emergence of pathogen strains that cause more severe disease in unvaccinated hosts"? This is described in Andrew F. Read et al's study re Marek's disease in poultry, i.e. [Imperfect vaccination can enhance the transmission of highly virulent pathogens](#), published in 2015.[6]

While Read et al note most human vaccines are sterilizing (transmission-blocking) - (e.g. the measles vaccine), Read is "concerned about the next generation of vaccines that are being developed against diseases like HIV and malaria. People don't naturally develop life-long immunity to these conditions after being infected, as they would against, say, mumps or measles. This makes vaccine development a tricky business, and it means that the resulting vaccines will probably leak to some extent." Read says "This isn't an argument against developing those vaccines, but it is an argument for ensuring that we carefully check for transmission."[7]

What does this mean for the experimental coronavirus vaccines that are now being rolled out into the community? Is anyone thinking about the potential problems that might arise if these vaccines do indeed fail to prevent transmission, and what this might mean for the unvaccinated, i.e. if these could be "anti-disease vaccines that do not prevent transmission" which "can create conditions that promote the emergence of pathogen strains that cause more severe disease in unvaccinated hosts"?

References:

1. Covid-19: What new variants are emerging and how are they being investigated? BMJ 2021;372:n158.
2. Andrew D Stevens BMJ Rapid Response: Re: Covid-19: What new variants are emerging and how are they being investigated? 22 January 2021.
3. How the Oxford-AstraZeneca covid-19 vaccine was made. BMJ 2021;372:n86.
4. Rajalakshmi Lakshman BMJ Rapid Response: Re: How the Oxford-AstraZeneca covid-19 vaccine was made. 23 January 2021.
5. The vaccine has given us hope, but we still need to follow the rules. The Telegraph, 23 January 2021.
6. Andrew F. Read et al. [Imperfect vaccination can enhance the transmission of highly virulent pathogens](#). PLoS Biol. 2015 Jul; 13(7): e1002198.
7. [Leaky vaccines enhance spread of deadlier chicken viruses](#). National Geographic. 27 July 2015.

Professor Read, I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter.

In my opinion, there should not have been a vaccination response to this virus. It seems the elderly with comorbidities, and other vulnerable groups, are at risk of this virus, but the majority of the population are not. I think

the lockdowns and restrictions and masks are the wrong approach, with devastating consequences for society and the economy. There should have been a targeted approach to the at-risk groups, seeking effective treatments, and promising preventatives such as vitamin D. To embark on a mission to vaccinate the entire world population, potentially every year or even more frequently, seems like madness to me

We are now facing the unprecedented situation of planning to vaccinate the entire global population, with who knows what consequences, is anyone thinking this through?

They plan to vaccinate everyone, including children. How can this possibly be ethical as children are generally not at risk with this disease, and to impose annual coronavirus vaccination upon them is to in effect steal their own natural response to the virus. And to impose a lifetime of coronavirus vaccination upon them, with who knows what consequences.

It seems to me this whole matter has been very ill considered, not considered at all in fact. And the 'case' and death statistics are highly suspicious. Also the way in which 'case' and death counts are recited endlessly, but seldom considered in the context of a country's population and annual mortality.

I wonder how this matter can be addressed, now that it is a juggernaut out of control? And people who raise concerns are tagged as 'anti-vaxxers'. This must be rejected, this is an extremely serious situation which may have huge consequences for the human species, this audacious goal to vaccinate the entire global population with these fast-tracked experimental coronavirus vaccine products.

I hope you will respond.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Hart

Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy