



COVID-19 vaccination and lung transplant recipients

Rujittika Mungmunpantipantip¹ · Viroj Wiwanitkit²

Received: 24 May 2022 / Accepted: 9 June 2022 / Published online: 17 June 2022
© Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons 2022

Dear Editor,

We would like to correspond on the publication “COVID-19 vaccination in lung transplant recipients. [1]”. Corona virus disease-19 (COVID-19) vaccination in transplant recipients generates a lower protective response when compared to immunocompetent hosts, according to Altneu and Mishkin [1]. The appropriate number of COVID doses and timing, according to Altneu and Mishkin, is still unknown, with new findings pointing to the requirement for a fourth mRNA vaccine [1]. We agree that COVID-19 vaccination is beneficial to lung transplant recipients, and clinical evidence backs this up. However, the likely effect of asymptomatic COVID-19 is a significant confounding factor in several studies. Infection with COVID-19 is common, and the virus can re-infect people without generating symptoms [2]. COVID-19 may become asymptomatic, making the efficacy of the vaccination in past trials more difficult to establish due to immunological abnormalities. The potential of asymptomatic COVID-19 must be ruled out before a firm determination can be reached. Regardless of whether COVID-19 is asymptomatic, the immunisation can induce immunity. For transplant recipients, a booster immunisation is frequently required. The fourth dosage of COVID-19 vaccination is presently being administered to the general public in various countries, including Israel. The use of the fourth dosage of COVID-19 vaccination is also beneficial, according to a

prior study [3]. As a result, lung transplant recipients may consider receiving a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccination.

Funding None.

Declarations

Ethical approval Not applicable.

Informed consent Not applicable.

Conflict of interest None.

References

1. Altneu E, Mishkin A. COVID-19 Vaccination in Lung Transplant Recipients. *Indian J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12055-022-01364-9>.
2. Joob B, Wiwanitkit V. Letter to the Editor: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), infectivity, and the incubation period. *J Prev Med Public Health.* 2020;53:70.
3. Mungmunpantipantip R, Wiwanitkit V. Fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine: does it still contribute any additional immunoprotection? *J Taibah Univ Med Sci.* 2022;17:533–6. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtumed.2022.04.004>.

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This comment refers to the article available online at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12055-022-01364-9>.

✉ Rujittika Mungmunpantipantip
rujittika@gmail.com

¹ Bangkok, Thailand

² Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India