



SARS-CoV-2.Vaccination.IBD

VIP STUDY NEWS

DEC 2021

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you for taking part in the study!

Thanks to your help and support, we are gathering vital information to help us understand the impact of IBD medications on immune responses to the COVID-19 virus and vaccination.

In this issue is an outline of the latest results, what do COVID-19 antibodies mean and the next steps for the VIP study –

WE NEED YOU!

FIRST RESULTS AVAILABLE

The good news is that we have submitted the first set of results from the study.

These ARE available AS A PREPRINT (CTRL + CLICK) version, a link will be available on www.VIPSTUDY.UK



Why we conducted the VIP study.

There are very few data on the effect of coronavirus vaccination in IBD patients on common IBD treatments including thiopurine monotherapy, ustekinumab, and tofacitinib. Little was known about how patients with IBD respond to vaccination in comparison with people without IBD.

What are the new VIP study findings?

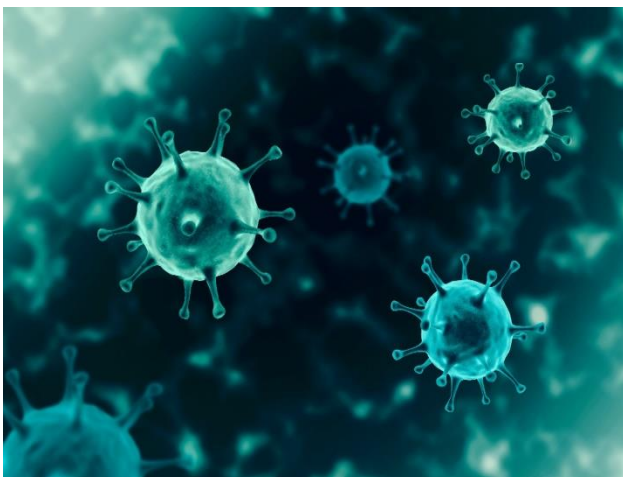
VIP study is the first study to investigate antibody responses to COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) vaccination, both with mRNA (e.g. Pfizer and Moderna) and Adenovirus vector (e.g. Oxford/Astra-Zeneca) vaccines, in patients receiving the full breadth of immunosuppressive therapy types used in IBD.

- COVID -19 antibody response is lower in patients treated with tofacitinib and infliximab compared to healthy controls (people who don't have IBD and aren't on immunosuppressive therapy).
- However, no reduction in antibodies was seen in vedolizumab, ustekinumab or thiopurine-treated patients compared to healthy controls.
- Protective antibody levels were seen after two doses of vaccine in all thiopurine monotherapy (i.e. without infliximab), vedolizumab, tofacitinib and healthy control participants.
- In people without prior COVID-19 infection, a small proportion of patients infliximab monotherapy (10%), thiopurine & infliximab combination therapy (12%) and ustekinumab (4%), failed to generate protective antibody levels.

What does this mean?

We don't yet know whether a weakened immune response in patients treated with infliximab and tofacitinib means that these patients have an increased risk of further infection. Protective immunity after infection involves more than just antibodies and it is likely that other parts of the immune system help people fight off the virus. At the current time, we strongly recommend that patients continue to take their anti-TNF and tofacitinib medicines and to have vaccine boosters as soon as these are offered.

VACCINATIONS AND COVID-19 ANTIBODIES



Your body makes antibodies when you get an infection or are vaccinated. They help fight the infection. The antibody test you have had done in the VIP study checks for antibodies in the blood

and can tell you if it's likely you've had coronavirus before and/or been vaccinated. An antibody test is different to a test that checks if you have coronavirus now.

What does a positive 'N' COVID-19 antibody test mean?

The antibody test currently reported to you in the VIP study is a 'N' or nucleocapsid test. A positive 'N' antibody test means that it is likely that you have had COVID-19 in the past. It is possible for you to have a positive 'N' antibody test without ever having had 'typical' symptoms of COVID-19, such as a cough or fever.

What does a negative 'N' COVID-19 antibody test mean?

A negative "N" antibody test means it is likely that you have not had coronavirus in the past. Depending on the timing of the antibody test, it is possible to have a negative antibody test despite having had a positive nasal swab test. Occasionally antibodies are detectable for only a few weeks and then disappear.

What will my COVID-19 antibody test show after vaccination?

To measure your antibody response to infection we are using a 'S' spike antibody test.

A positive 'S' result with a negative 'N' result means it is likely that you have been vaccinated and that your body's immune system has responded to the vaccine; it is less likely that you have had an infection with the virus.

It is important to understand that we don't yet know what a positive 'N' or 'S' antibody test means in terms of level of protection against COVID-19.

Currently the UK government hasn't recommended routine 'S' spike antibody testing in the NHS or offered guidance as to what to do for people with a negative 'S' antibody test after vaccination. Importantly, the British Society of Gastroenterology is recommending that all immunosuppressed IBD patients should now receive a third dose of SARS-CoV2 vaccination, and the result of your antibody test does not change this guidance.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THE VIP STUDY

THE NEXT SET RESULTS FROM THE VIP STUDY ARE LOOKING AT THE EFFECT OF 3RD COVID VACCINATION DOSES AND BOOSTERS, SO PLEASE DO CONTINUE TO LET YOUR LOCAL RESEARCH SITE KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR COVID -19 VACCINATION DOSES. YOUR LOCAL SITE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE WWW.VIPSTUDY.UK



USEFUL LINKS

BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY:

<https://www.bsg.org.uk/covid-19-advice/british-society-of-gastroenterology-inflammatory-bowel-disease-section-and-ibd-clinical-research-group-position-statement-on-sars-cov2-vaccination/>

Crohn's and Colitis UK: <https://www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk>



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