

"The Power of Collaboration" – Vaccination Cohort Study

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Background

Most existing knowledge on vaccination responses in immunocompromised patients (ICPs) is based on small cohort studies or expert opinion. Real world immunogenicity data in both healthy people and ICPs are needed. The Vaccination Cohort (COVA) study was established in 2017 to address this gap

By including participants attending Travel Clinics, COVA allows better understanding of vaccine responses. With the introduction of new vaccines, COVA will generate robust immunogenicity data improving evidence-based vaccination-strategies.

Material&Methods

The COVA study was set-up as a longitudinal observational study in 2017. It expanded in 2025 with collaborating Travel Clinics. Healthy and ICP travelers >18 yrs may be included . Blood samples are collected prior to vaccination, 4 weeks post-vaccination, and after three and nine months to assess short-term and longer-term immune response. All samples are stored in a biobank and can be used for appropriate research questions.

Results

435 individuals have been included. All of them were recruited through Travel Clinics.

The database has provided up-to-date information during several outbreaks in Europe. We generated essential insights into longitudinal alterations of SARS-CoV-2 specific immune responses¹ and immunogenicity of newly developed vaccines, and vaccination responses following vaccination of ICPs.^{2,3,4}

Conclusions

These recent contributions underscore the importance of longitudinal, immunological diverse cohorts in addressing critical evidence gaps and guiding future vaccination strategies. The ongoing collaboration with Travel Clinics, and the inclusion of both healthy individuals and ICPs, strengthens the ability of the COVA study to evaluate immunogenicity of newly introduced vaccines across a broad spectrum of immune competence.