

# Overview of the day - COVID-19 appraisals

Section	Data relevant to both appraisals	
1.1	SARS-CoV-2: variant tracking	Public
1.2	<i>In vitro</i> data	Public
1.3	Position of various organisations	Public
ID 4038	MTA of COVID-19 treatments	ACM 2
2.1	Community setting (mild COVID-19) – Part 1	Public
3.1	Hospital setting (severe COVID-19) – Part 1	Public
2.2	Community setting – Part 2	Private
3.2	Hospital setting – Part 2	Private
ID 6136	STA of tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld)	ACM 1
4.1	Prophylaxis in highly vulnerable people – Part 1	Public
4.2	Prophylaxis – Part 2	Private

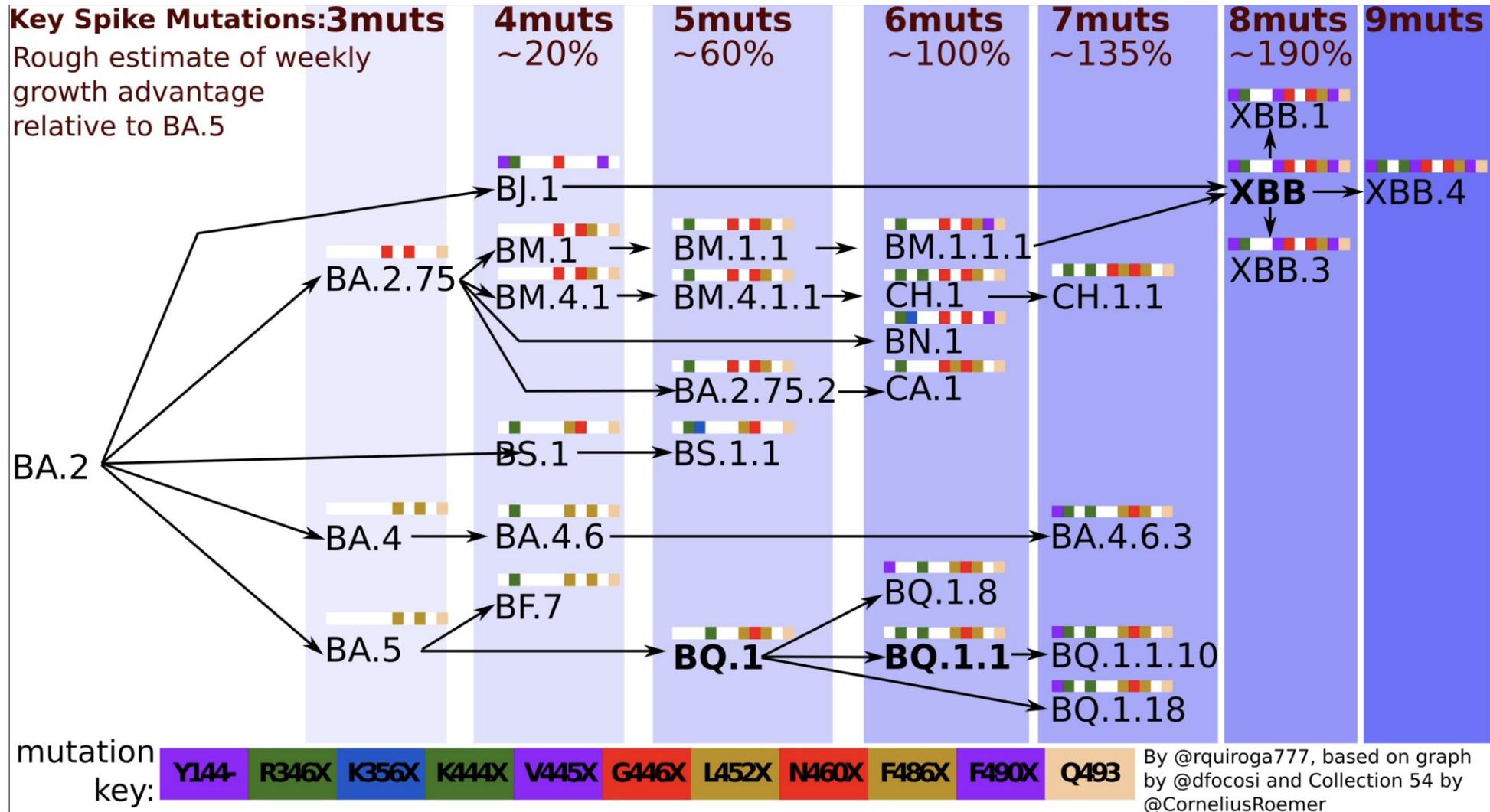
# Section 1      Data relevant to both appraisals

- SARS-CoV-2 variant tracking
  - Evolution of variants
  - UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) technical briefings
- *In vitro* data
  - The *In Vitro* data **Assessment Group** (IVAG)
  - BQ.1, BQ.1.1, XBB
- Position of various organisations

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# Evolution of SARS-Cov-2 Omicron variants\*



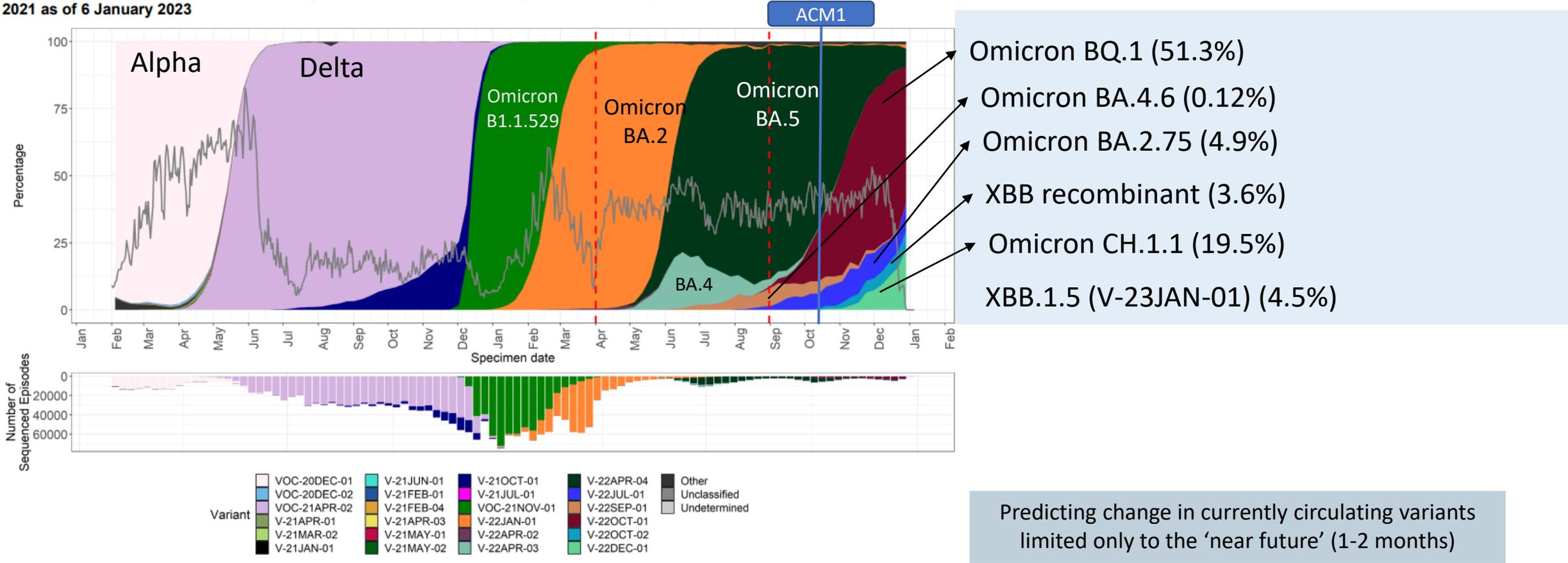
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# Circulating variants change and difficult to predict

*Possible only to predict prevalence of variants from trajectories of **currently circulating** variants in the near future*

Figure 4. Variant prevalence (UKHSA designated variant definitions only) of available sequenced cases for England from 1 February 2021 as of 6 January 2023



Predicting change in currently circulating variants limited only to the 'near future' (1-2 months)

# UKHSA Technical Briefing 49. 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023

## Multinomial modelling, estimated prevalence

**Table 3. Growth rate (GR) of variants and signals under monitoring as of 25 December 2022<sup>^</sup>**

Lineage	English sequences used in the multinomial model (MM)	MM England estimated prevalence	MM estimate for the weekly growth rate relative to BQ.1.1 lineages	English sequences counts used in the logistic regression and generalised additive model	Logistic regression GR (1/week)	Generalised additive model most recent GR (1/week)
BQ.1.1	1,4711	51.67% (95% CrI: 38.09 to 64.31)	-	1,161	14%	-9%
CH.1.1	2,262	15.78% (95% CrI: 10.41 to 24.56)	21.56% (95% CrI: 19.25 to 23.97)	291	37%	12%
BQ.1*	5,963	10.46% (95% CrI: 6.71 to 16.06)	-8.85% (95% CrI: -10.09 to -7.42)	2,053	16%	-18%
BN.1	2,410	6.01% (95% CrI: 3.35 to 10.21)	-6.12% (95% CrI: -7.69 to -4.39)	71	3.6%	-55%
BA.2.75 <sup>†</sup>	2,016	1.16% (95% CrI: 0.67 to 1.97)	-21.52% (95% CrI: -22.93 to -19.95)	1,153	13%	4%
XBB**	1,304	7.02% (95% CrI: 4.04 to 10.58)	4.52% (95% CrI: 2.57 to 6.57)	267	18%	0%
XBB.1.5	124	1.66% (95% CrI: 0.89 to 2.74)	38.87% (95% CrI: 32.2 to 45.63)	-	-	-

\* BQ.1 excludes BQ.1.1 which was modelled separately.

<sup>†</sup> BA.2.75 excludes BN.1 and CH.1.1 which were modelled separately.

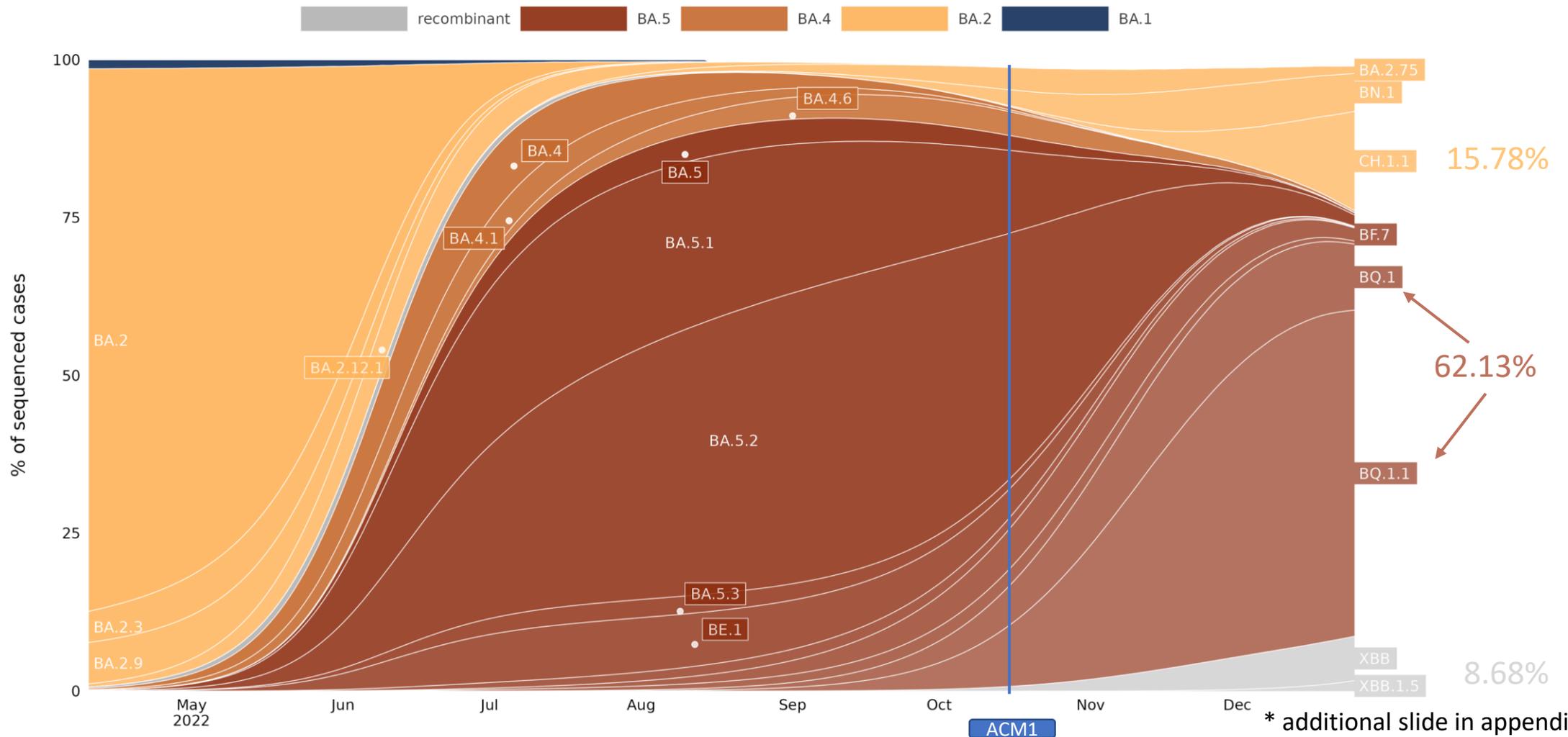
\*\* XBB excludes XBB.1.5 which was modelled separately.

<sup>^</sup> Sampling range for both logistic regression and generalised additive models is from 12 October 2022 to 3 January 2023.

# UKHSA Technical Briefing 49. 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023\*

Multinomial modelling, estimated prevalence

**Figure 7. Area plot showing the predicted representation of each lineage of the multinomial model of all sequenced cases in England**



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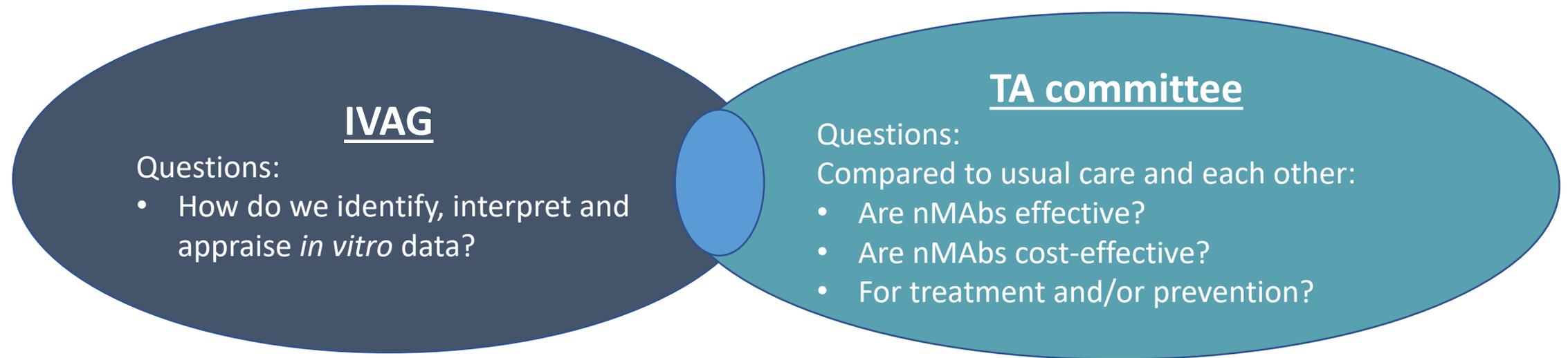
# About the IVAG

Amanda Adler (Chair)	Director, Diabetes Trials Unit, University of Oxford
David Bauer	Group Leader & Head, RNA Virus Replication Laboratory. The Francis Crick Institute
Rupert Beale	Clinician Scientist Group Leader, Consultant Nephrologist, The Francis Crick Institute, UCL Division of Medicine
Sanjay Bhangani	Consultant Physician and Honorary Associate Professor, Royal Free Hospital and University College London
Neil Ferguson	Director, MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis, Imperial College London
Neil Hawkins	Professor of Health Technology Assessment, University of Glasgow
Mark Jit	Professor of Vaccine Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Saye Khoo	Professor in Pharmacology, Hon Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases, University of Liverpool
David Lalloo	Director, Liverpool Tropical School of Medicine
Siraj Misbah	Consultant Clinical Immunologist, Oxford University NHS Foundation Trust
Andrew Owen	Professor of Pharmacology, University of Liverpool
Derek Smith	Professor of Infectious Disease Informatics, Zoology Department at Cambridge University
David Stuart	MRC Professor of Structural Biology, University of Oxford
Mark Sutton	Scientific Leader - Healthcare Biotechnology, and Professor for Antimicrobial Therapy, UKHSA and King's College London
Laurie Tomlinson	NIHR Research Professor, Honorary Consultant Nephrologist, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Key author on OpenSAFELY data papers)
Erik Volz	Reader in Population Biology of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, School of Public Health, Imperial College London

- Four meetings in December chaired by Amanda Adler (previous TAC Chair)
- Expertise in using and understanding COVID-19 clinical, health economic and *in vitro* data
- Various schools of thought including Crick Institute, advisors to the WHO guideline and authors of the OpenSAFELY publications
- Output: interim framework and decision rules for assessing COVID-19 *in vitro* data

# Aim of *In Vitro* Advisory Group, IVAG

To help technology appraisal committee make reimbursement decision when clinical trial evidence for a 'technology' - monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID – is based on variants no longer circulating



## **Output**

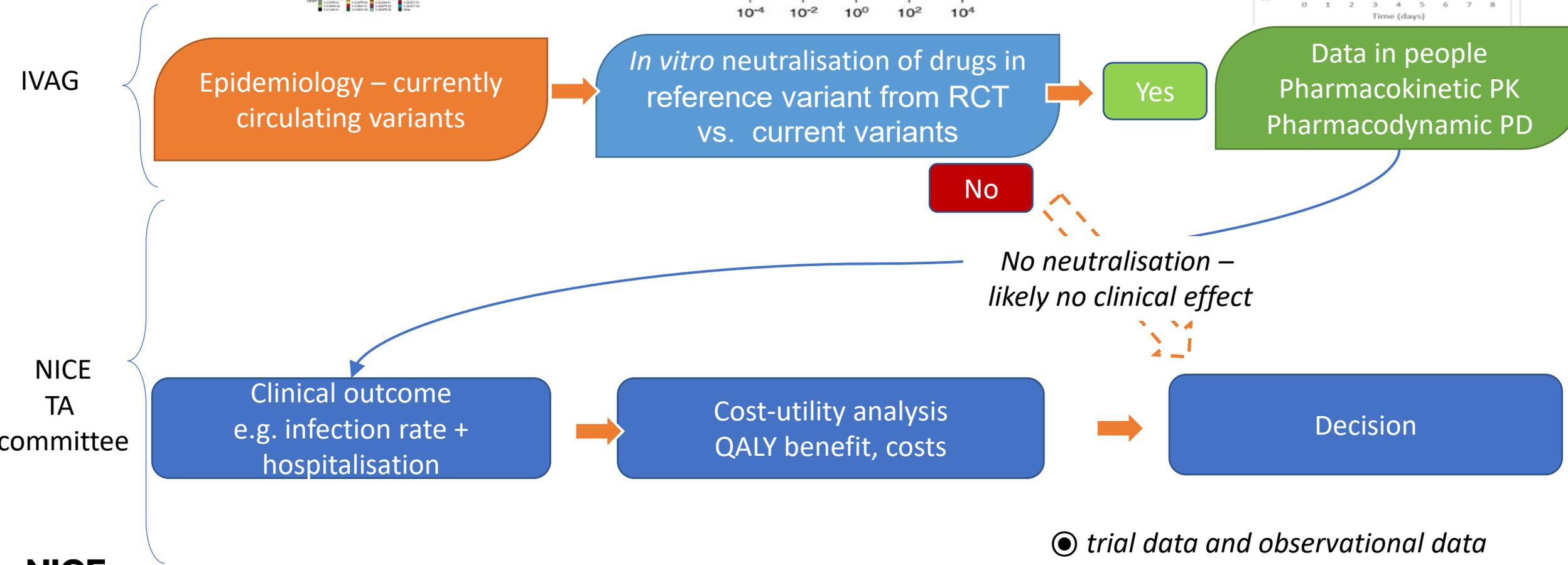
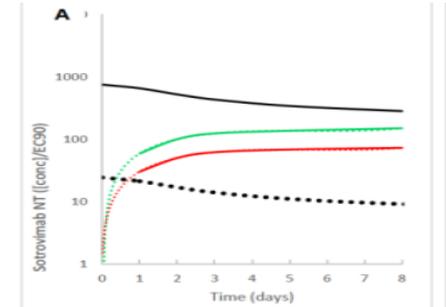
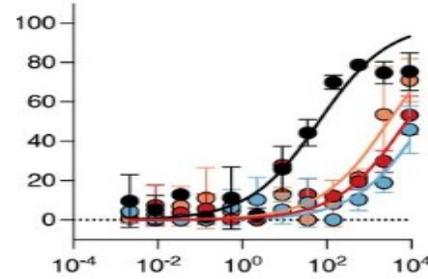
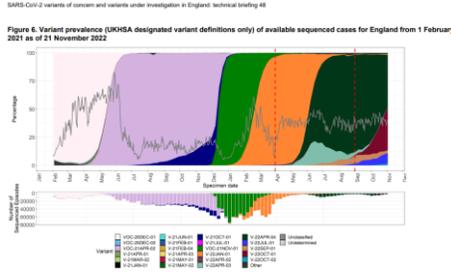
- Framework for linking data from *in vitro* studies of drug neutralisation of different coronavirus variants to clinical outcomes

## **Output**

- Recommendations whether or not to recommend that the NHS reimburse nMAbs when clinical trials evidence is generated in a different variant era

nMAbs, neutralising monoclonal antibodies

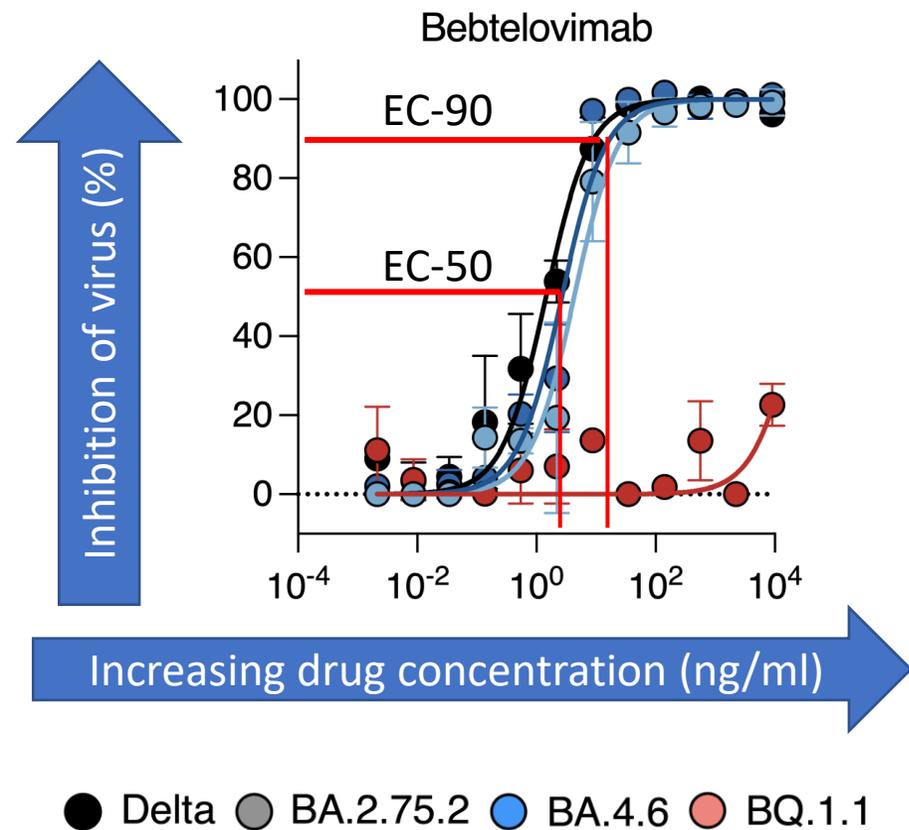
# Conceptual framework for decision-making



**NICE**

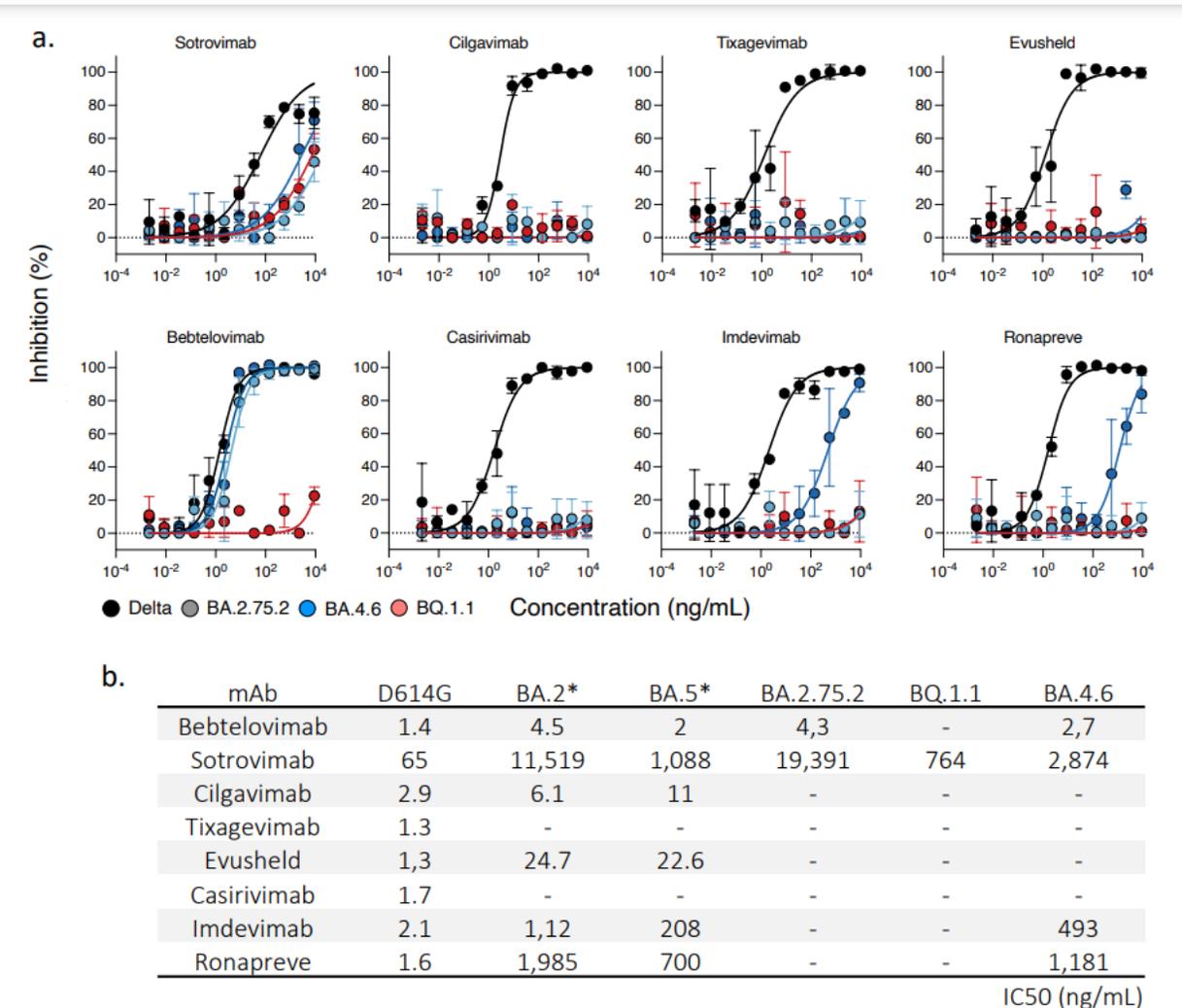
© trial data and observational data  
 RCT, Randomised controlled trial

# How to interpret neutralisation curves\*



- 1 graph per drug – monoclonal antibody or combinations
- X-axis: (exponential) increasing concentration of the antibody (in ng/ml) as would be expected in serum in people
- Y-axis: neutralising activity as a percentage of virus neutralised in the assay
- Colours reflect different viral variants. Black is reference - one on which clinical trial was conducted
  - For example bebtelovimab does not inhibit BQ.1.1 even at high concentrations
- EC-50 value is concentration needed to neutralise 50% of virus
  - EC-50 used to calculate the 'n-fold differences' between treatments as the most stable point in the dose-response curve
- EC-90 value is concentration needed to neutralise 90% of virus
  - EC-90 used to calculate threshold for efficacy because it represents most of the viral population being neutralised

# *In vitro* neutralisation can indicate likely clinical effect

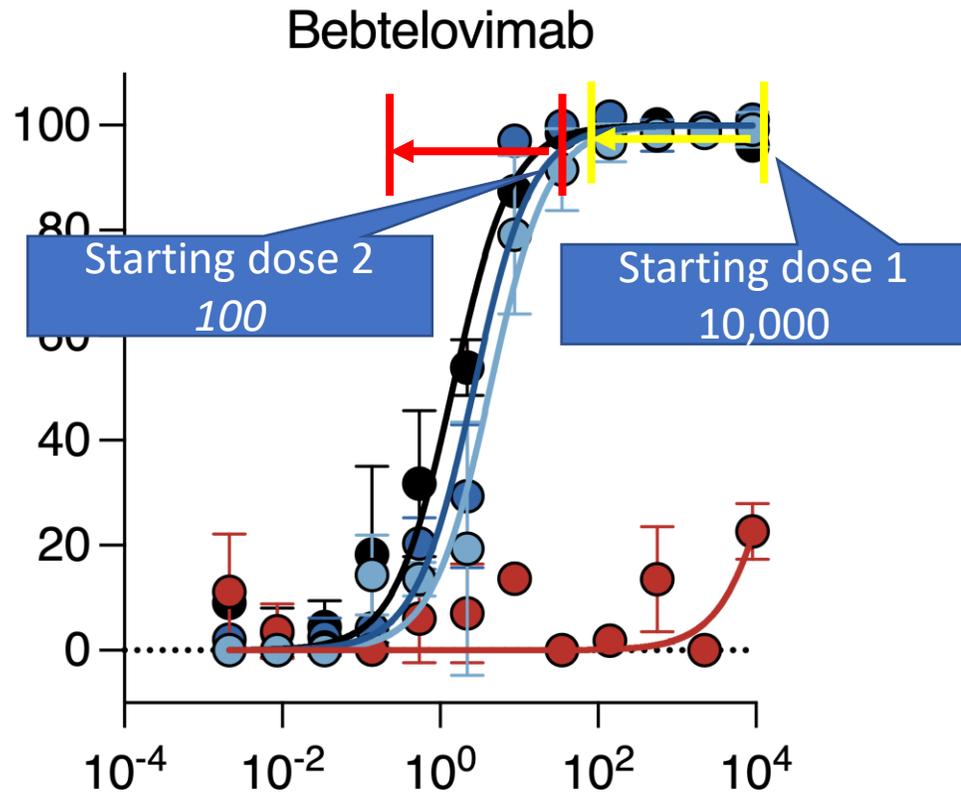


- Neutralisation used to identify promising treatments
- For each new variant, neutralisation assays of existing drugs can inform clinical effect
- A complete loss of neutralisation activity against a variant (no inhibition, even at supraphysiological doses) likely means no clinical effect
- NMABs are dose-linear; if dose doubled then serum concentration doubled
- Reduced neutralisation: increased dose may maintain neutralisation
  - Requires PK/PD data in humans to understand the relationship to clinical efficacy
- Effector functions of nMABs – effects beyond neutralisation- are hypothesised to have an additional effect, but little known about mechanism of action.

PK, Pharmacokinetic; PD, Pharmacodynamic

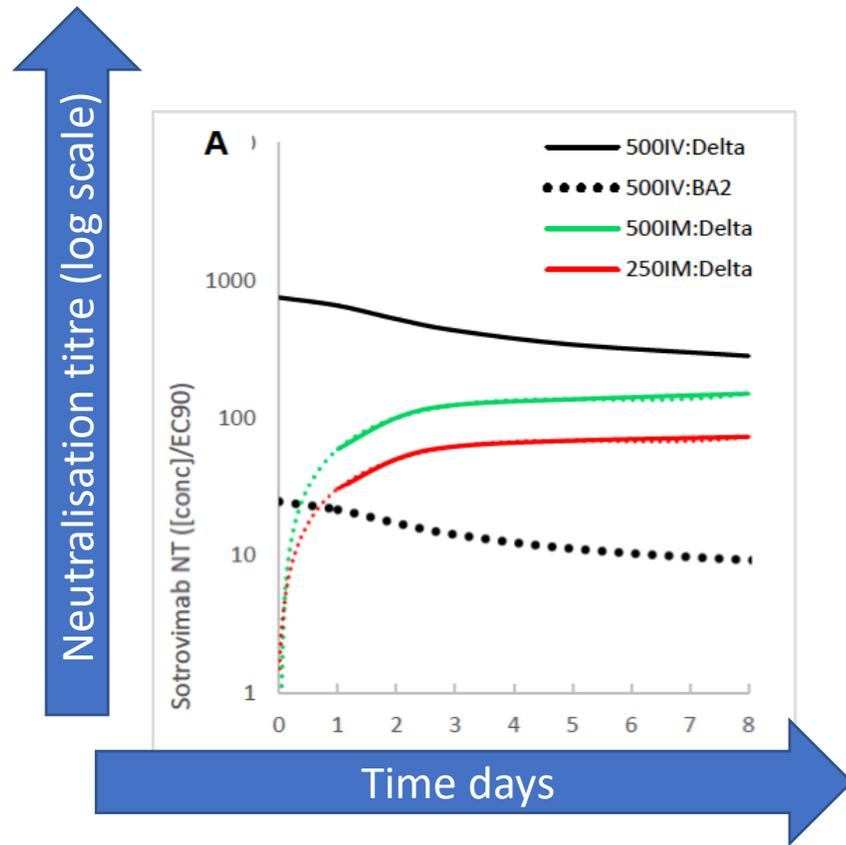
# PK/PD data needed to understand drug concentration in people

- *Dose available in the appropriate tissue (for example lung) unknown but is necessary to understand if there will be a change in efficacy*



- It is not possible to estimate neutralisation in people from *in vitro* neutralisation curves – this requires pharmacokinetic studies of licensed doses
- N-fold change alone cannot determine effectiveness. Consider a 100-fold change in neutralisation:
  - If licensed dose from RCT were dose 1, this would likely have minimal impact on clinical outcomes as there is still neutralisation activity
  - If licensed dose from RCT were dose 2, this would likely mean no clinical benefit
- There are 2 methods for this:
  - Dose-failure benchmarks - IVAG prefers
  - Adjusting serum drug concentrations to tissue

# How to interpret neutralising titres in people\*



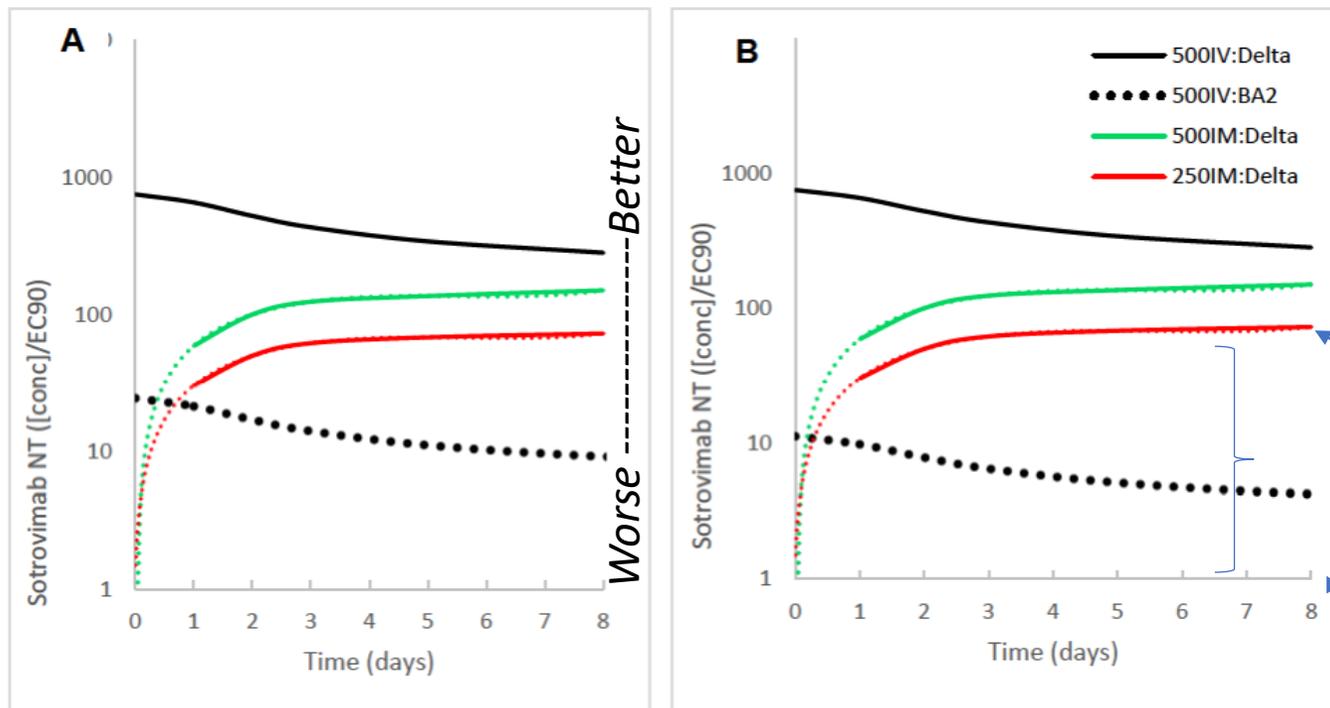
- Antibody titres - a test that determines the presence and level (titre) of antibodies in blood
- Example: sotrovimab
- Curves are 3 different dosages of drug for delta variant (solid) and 1 dose for omicron BA.2 (dotted)
- X-axis is time
- Y-axis is neutralisation titre
  - defined as concentration of sotrovimab  $\div$  by concentration needed to neutralise 90% of virus
- Interpretation i.e. 500 mg IV treatment (black) shows higher number of antibodies in serum from administration, whereas 500 mg IM (green) takes longer to reach a steady level
- May need different neutralisation titres for treating or preventing COVID
- An n-fold reduction in neutralisation activity would result in the same reduction in neutralisation titre

Source: <https://www.fda.gov/media/157556/download>

# Identifying when a reduced dose worsens clinical outcomes\*

*FDA has used trial to identify 'benchmarks'*

**Figure 3. Sotrovimab Neutralization Titers (NT) Based on Various Sotrovimab IV and IM Doses Normalized to EC<sub>90</sub> Values for Delta Variant and BA.2 Subvariant**



Note: Sotrovimab NT = sotrovimab concentration/(sub)variant EC<sub>90</sub>. Sotrovimab median PK exposures were generated from the values provided from various studies provided by the Sponsor (500 mg IV: BLAZE-4, COMET-PEAK, Japan-PK; 250 mg and 500 mg IM: COMET-TAIL); 250 mg IM (red) and 500 mg IM (green) dotted lines on Days 0-1 are projected median exposures. **Figure A** includes the BA.2 EC<sub>90</sub> value of ~6,800 ng/mL, and **Figure B** includes the BA.2 EC<sub>90</sub> value of 14,800 ng/mL. Delta EC<sub>90</sub> value is ~220 ng/mL (provided by the Sponsor).

Source: <https://www.fda.gov/media/157556/download>

- COMET-TAIL trial compared sotrovimab 500 mg IM vs 500 mg IV during Delta wave; the 250 mg IM cohort was terminated because of a higher rate of hospitalisation and death

Therefore, FDA assumed that 250 mg IM against Delta variant as a benchmark of suboptimal clinical efficacy

FDA assumed suboptimal clinical efficacy against BA.2 because n-fold adjusted neutralisation titre values of 500 mg IV for BA.2 (black dotted line) even lower than the 250 mg IM values against delta (lower than benchmarked dose failure)

# Summary of IVAG discussions

- Difficult to predict viral evolution and likely prevalence of future new variants that cause COVID
- Circulating variants in near future likely related to currently circulating variants with the same mutations that may reduce effectiveness
- In general, reduced effectiveness over time as new variants evolve
- It is possible to determine an association between *in vitro* neutralisation data and clinical outcomes
  - Clear when no neutralisation, no clinical benefit
  - If there is reduced neutralisation of a new variant compared to variant prevalent during a randomised trial for which evidence is available, neutralisation data alone is not enough to conclude that effect estimates seen in the trial is generalisable to new variant– this requires PK/PD data
  - Most appropriate method of estimating clinical effect is identifying when a dose fails to provide benefit and matching this to an expected reduction in neutralisation

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- Position of various organisations

## Efficacy of Antibodies and Antiviral Drugs against Omicron BA.2.12.1, BA.4, and BA.5 Subvariants

**Table 1.** Efficacy of Monoclonal Antibodies and Antiviral Drugs against Omicron Subvariants in Vitro.\*

Subvariant	Mean Neutralization Activity of Monoclonal Antibody†								Susceptibility to Antiviral Drug‡		
	Imdevimab	Casirivimab	Tixagevimab	Cilgavimab	Sotrovimab Precursor	Bebtelovimab	Imdevimab+ Casirivimab	Tixagevimab+ Cilgavimab	Remdesivir	Molnupiravir	Nirmatrelvir
			<i>ng per milliliter</i>						<i>μmol</i>		
Reference§	7.4	6.1	6.1	7.0	95.1	2.5	3.4	6.3	1.7	2.8	2.7
BA.1	>50,000	>50,000	1552.7	2916.9	40727.1	5.8	>10,000	351.1	1.9	7.5	4.8
BA.1.1	>50,000	>50,000	603.5	>50,000	3769.2	3.9	>10,000	1296.8	2.0	6.0	3.9
BA.2	329.0	>50,000	2756.6	16.9	>50,000	3.3	835.1	34.6	5.9	8.7	6.9
BA.2.12.1	238.1	>50,000	335.2	21.0	>50,000	4.0	452.7	38.1	0.5	3.2	1.8
BA.4	132.6	>50,000	>50,000	53.6	>50,000	2.9	459.1	37.8	1.2	3.3	2.9
BA.5	583.4	>50,000	>50,000	56.8	>50,000	3.3	1093.1	192.5	2.0	4.1	4.4

\* The antibodies that were used in this analysis are listed by their commercial names for readability although they were produced in the authors' laboratories in their generic formulations. Omicron subvariants of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) are listed according to the World Health Organization labels for the Pango lineage.

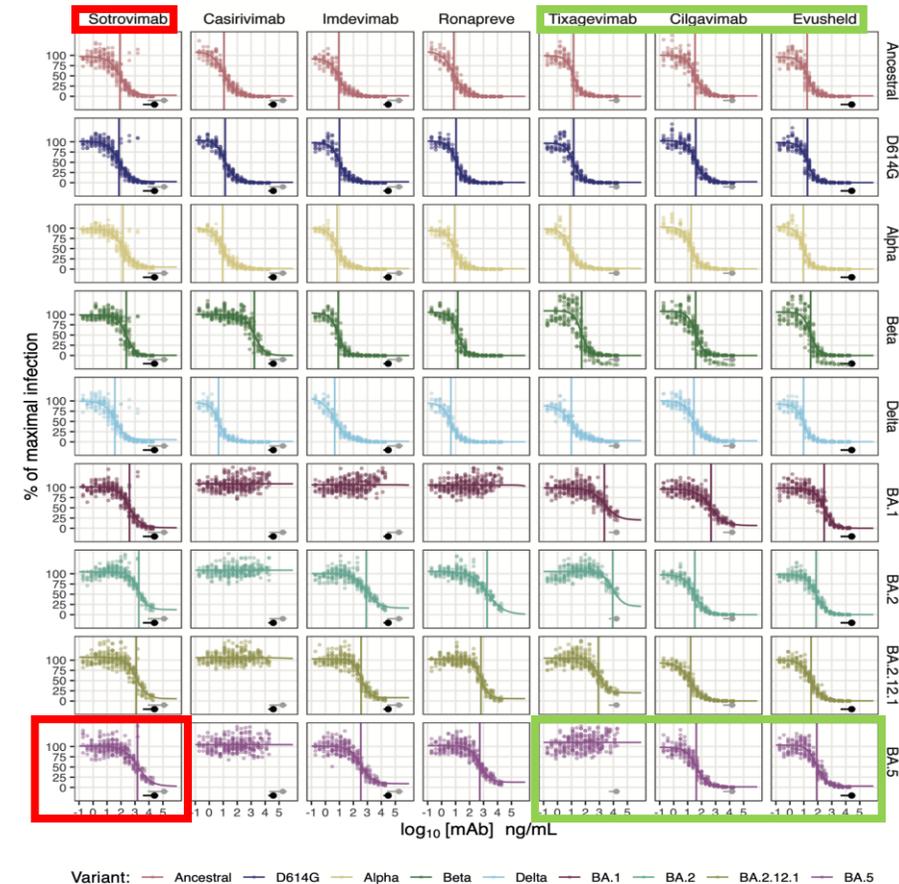
† Individual monoclonal antibodies were tested at a starting concentration of 50,000 ng per milliliter on 50% focus reduction neutralization testing. The monoclonal antibody combinations were tested at a starting concentration of 10,000 ng per milliliter for each antibody.

‡ The susceptibility to antiviral drugs was measured as the 50% inhibitory concentration of the mean micromole value of triplicate reactions. GS-441524 is the main metabolite of remdesivir and EIDD-1931 is the active form of molnupiravir, both of which are RNA-dependent RNA polymerase inhibitors. Nirmatrelvir (PF-07321332) is a protease inhibitor.

§ The reference strain was SARS-CoV-2/UT-NC002-1T/Human/2020/Tokyo.

# WHO's Therapeutics and COVID-19 Living Guideline on mAbs needs to be reassessed

- “At present there is an unrealistically high threshold to enter a therapeutic agent into clinical practice. The threshold to withhold or withdraw the same agent is much lower when based on *in vitro* evidence for loss of potency alone.
- Such a situation disproportionately affects vulnerable patients whose other essential medications or comorbidities exclude COVID-19 therapeutics other than a neutralising mAb.
- This situation also strongly disincentivises development of novel antivirals that are needed to continue to offer protection to highly vulnerable populations.”



**Figure 1. Neutralisation of SARS-CoV-2 variants by monoclonal antibodies (mAbs).** For each combination of mAb and SARS-CoV-2 variant, 288 independent data points are shown, which were generated from 3 independent repeats of 12 independent titrations, each consisting of 2 technical replicates of a 4-point dilution series against live SARS-CoV-2 virus.  $EC_{50}$  values (solid vertical lines) were calculated fitting a 4-parameter dose-response curve (solid curves) to this data. For each mAb, the mean serum concentration at maximum (grey point) and twice its standard deviation (grey error line), and at 28 days post-administration (black points) and twice its standard deviation (black error line) was obtained from its Summary of Product Characteristics (see Table 3) and plotted here for reference.

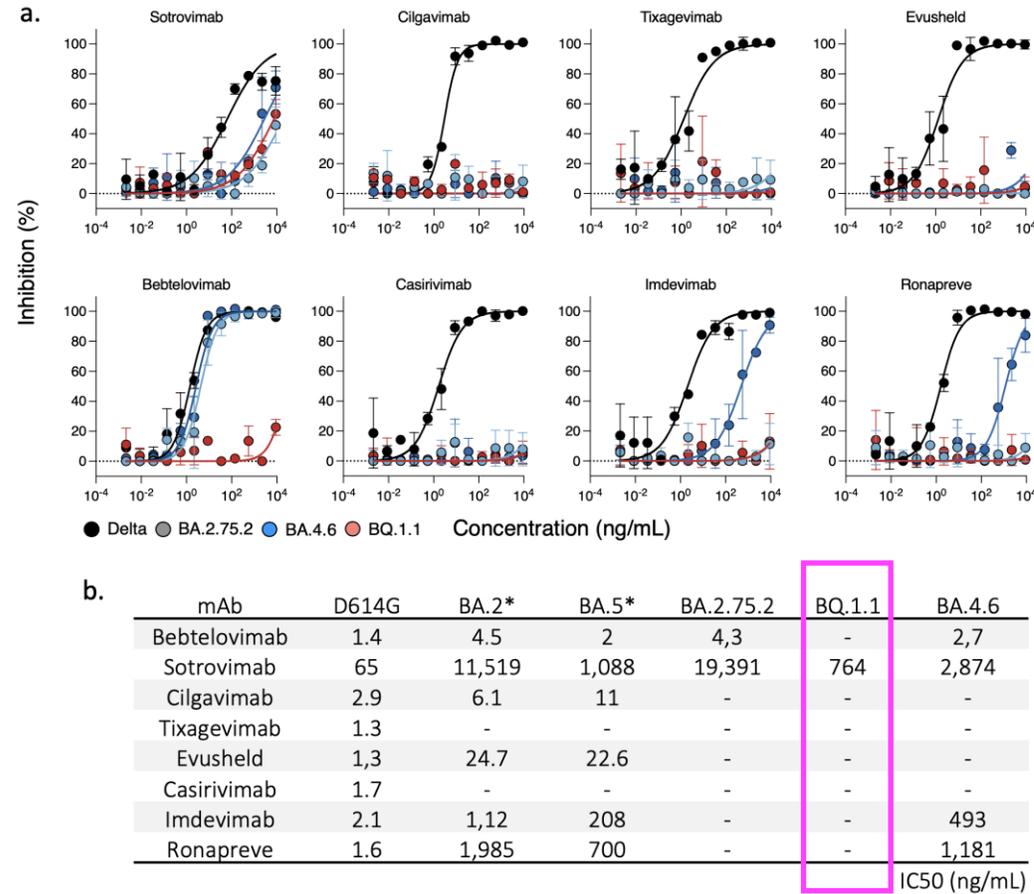
No BQs or XBBs in this paper



# Recent papers on BQ.1, BQ.1.1 or XBB\*

Lead	Title	Date	Journal	Origin	Link
Planas	Resistance of Omicron subvariants BA.2.75.2, BA.4.6 and BQ.1.1 to neutralizing antibodies	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	bioRxiv (preprint)	Paris	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36415455/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36415455/</a>
Arora	Omicron sublineage BQ.1.1 resistance to monoclonal antibodies	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Lancet Infect Dis	Göttingen	<a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00733-2/fulltext">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00733-2/fulltext</a>
Wang	Alarming antibody evasion properties of rising SARS- CoV-2 BQ and XBB subvariants	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Cell	New York	<a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867422015318">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867422015318</a>
Cao	Imprinted SARS-CoV-2 humoral immunity induces convergent Omicron RBD evolution	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Nature	Beijing	<a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05644-7">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05644-7</a>
Imai	Efficacy of Antiviral Agents against Omicron Subvariants BQ.1.1 and XBB	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	NEJM	Tokyo	<a href="https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2214302">https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2214302</a>

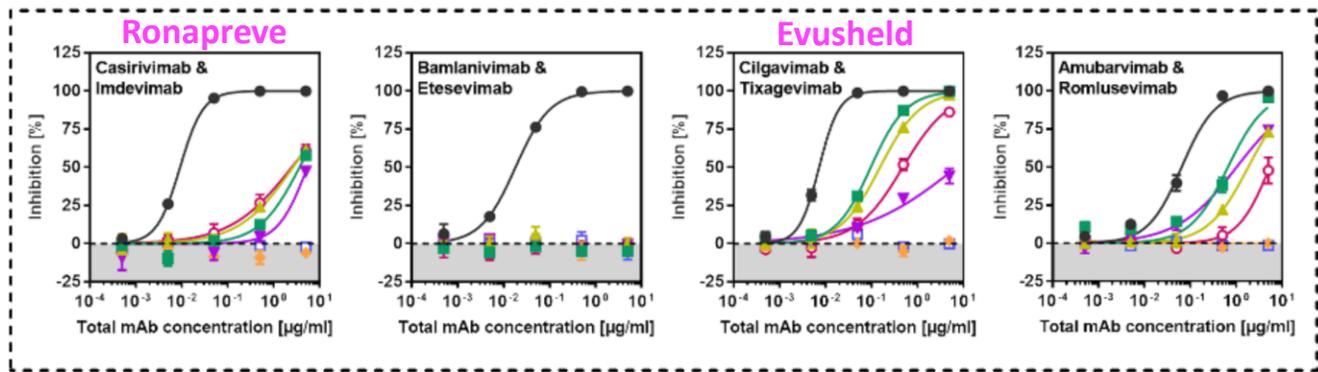
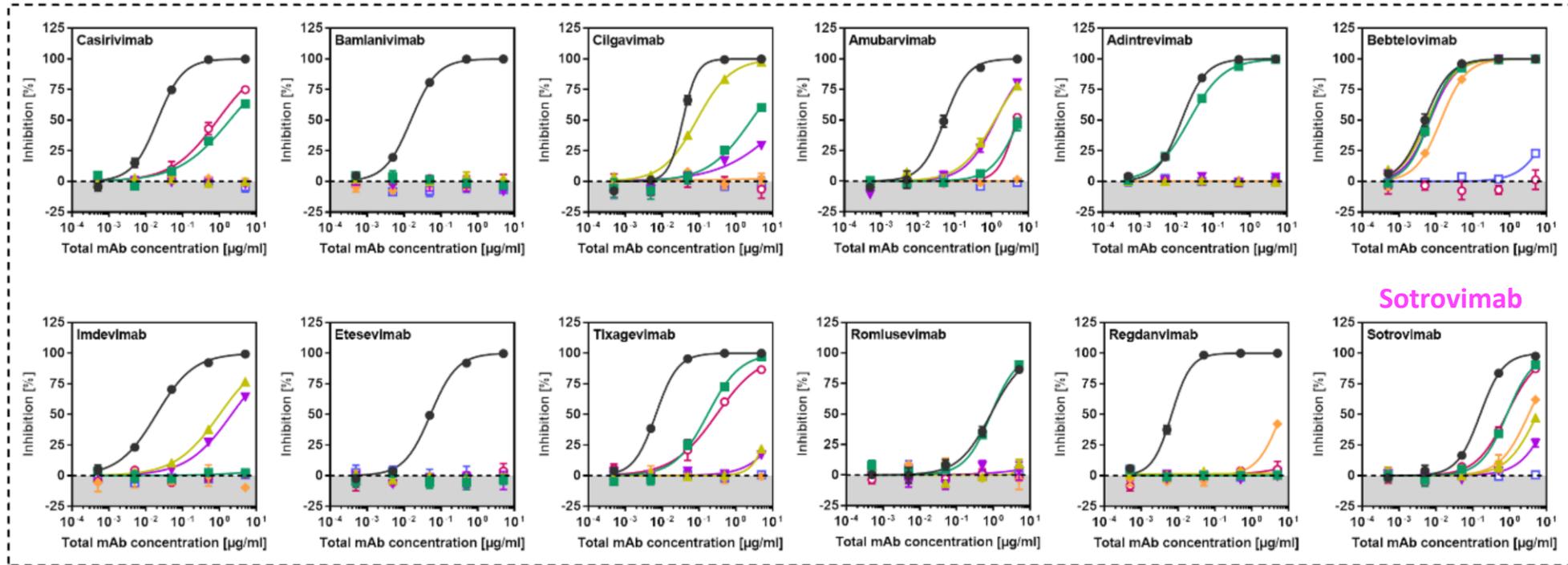
# 1/5 Planas. Resistance of Omicron subvariants BA.2.75.2, BA.4.6 and BQ.1.1 to neutralizing antibodies



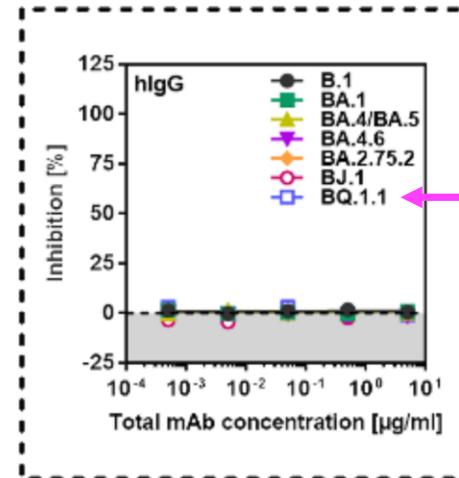
**Figure 3. Neutralization activity of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies against BQ.1.1, BA.2.75.2 and BA.4.6. a.** Neutralization curves of monoclonal antibodies. Dose–response analysis of the neutralization by the indicated antibodies or their clinical combinations. Evusheld: Cilgavimab and Tixagevimab. Ronapreve: Casirivimab and Imdevimab. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.d. of 2 independent experiments. **b.** IC50 values in ng/ mL for each antibody against the indicated viral strains. \*ED50 against BA.2 and BA.5 are from <sup>47</sup>.

# 2/5 Arora. Omicron sublineage BQ.1.1 resistance to monoclonal antibodies

Individual mAbs

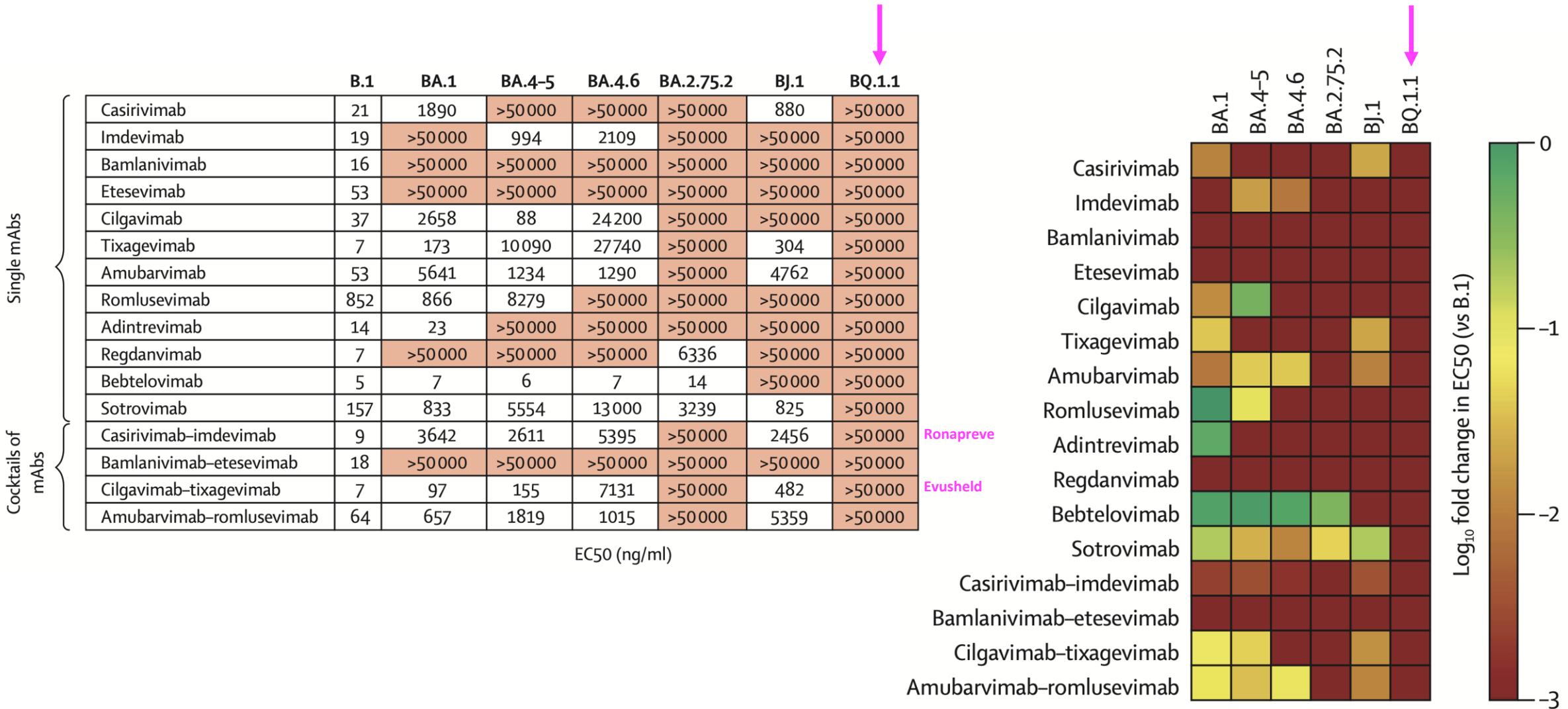


Cocktails



Control mAb

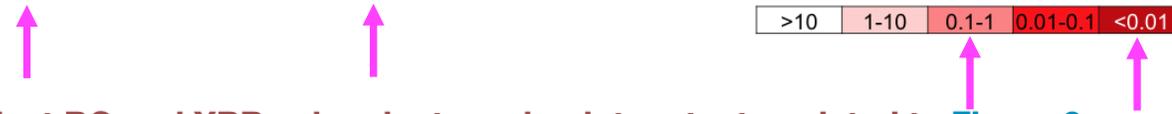
## 2/5 Arora. Omicron sublineage BQ.1.1 resistance to monoclonal antibodies



### 3/5 Wang. Alarming antibody evasion properties of rising SARS- CoV-2 BQ and XBB subvariants

IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/ml)	NTD	NTD-SD2	SD1	RBD Class 1				RBD Class 2				RBD Class 3								RBD Class 4	Evusheld			
	C1520	C1717	S3H3	S2K146	Omi-3	Omi-18	BD-515	XGv051	XGv347	ZCB11	COV2-2196	LY-CoV1404	XGv289	XGv264	S309	P2G3	SP1-77	BD55-5840	XGv282	BD-804		35B5	COV2-2130	10-40
D614G	0.002	0.125	0.022	0.004	0.004	0.012	0.010	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.023	0.001	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.011	0.014	0.007	0.049	0.003
BA.4/5	0.001	0.209	0.014	0.090	0.023	0.013	0.010	0.050	3.450	4.868	>10	0.001	0.038	0.002	0.514	0.002	0.005	0.009	0.001	0.019	>10	0.021	2.414	0.035
BQ.1	0.001	0.666	0.019	0.585	0.860	0.131	0.343	0.159	2.830	>10	>10	>10	0.425	0.494	0.600	1.608	>10	0.034	0.020	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
BQ.1.1	0.003	1.117	0.025	0.527	0.804	0.170	0.377	0.191	3.311	>10	>10	>10	1.013	>10	2.140	>10	>10	0.098	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
BA.4/5-R346T	0.002	0.141	0.020	0.081	0.019	0.009	0.006	0.042	2.166	2.560	>10	0.001	0.045	0.003	1.726	0.041	>10	1.447	0.001	>10	>10	>10	5.069	>10
BA.4/5-K444T	0.002	0.116	0.009	0.104	0.016	0.010	0.006	0.040	4.766	3.731	>10	>10	0.161	0.273	0.552	1.245	4.007	0.038	0.006	>10	>10	>10	6.976	>10
BA.4/5-N460K	0.002	1.166	0.016	0.542	1.279	0.186	0.431	0.152	3.046	>10	>10	0.002	0.353	0.003	0.934	0.003	0.009	0.012	0.002	0.122	>10	0.030	>10	0.063
BA.2	0.002	0.561	0.016	0.028	0.015	0.005	0.012	0.001	0.003	0.012	1.924	0.001	0.067	0.003	0.833	0.002	0.006	0.014	0.001	0.038	0.827	0.009	8.770	0.019
XBB	>10	0.836	0.016	0.223	1.181	0.468	0.555	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	0.343	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
XBB.1	>10	0.693	0.019	0.190	1.705	0.605	0.803	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	0.405	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
BA.2-V83A	0.001	0.354	0.015	0.036	0.019	0.007	0.015	0.002	0.003	0.013	3.039	0.001	0.070	0.002	0.641	0.002	0.007	0.019	0.001	0.045	1.274	0.011	>10	0.025
BA.2-Del144	0.002	0.501	0.011	0.026	0.016	0.004	0.011	0.002	0.002	0.008	4.134	0.001	0.063	0.002	0.455	0.002	0.005	0.014	0.001	0.031	0.341	0.010	8.766	0.021
BA.2-H146Q	0.001	0.356	0.011	0.032	0.011	0.004	0.009	0.002	0.002	0.010	2.924	0.002	0.055	0.002	0.641	0.003	0.007	0.019	0.001	0.044	1.107	0.009	9.106	0.019
BA.2-Q183E	0.322	0.307	0.019	0.034	0.018	0.006	0.014	0.002	0.003	0.013	3.098	0.001	0.067	0.003	0.649	0.002	0.008	0.020	0.002	0.028	1.019	0.011	9.251	0.022
BA.2-V213E	0.002	0.406	0.013	0.030	0.014	0.004	0.010	0.002	0.002	0.006	2.177	0.001	0.047	0.003	0.720	0.002	0.006	0.014	0.001	0.026	1.247	0.009	8.198	0.018
BA.2-G252V	0.001	0.577	0.013	0.030	0.012	0.004	0.008	0.002	0.003	0.008	2.258	0.001	0.048	0.002	0.564	0.002	0.005	0.012	0.001	0.032	0.939	0.011	>10	0.026
BA.2-G339H	0.001	0.485	0.017	0.034	0.020	0.006	0.012	0.002	0.002	0.010	3.876	0.002	0.114	0.002	0.302	0.002	0.007	0.040	0.002	0.050	0.661	0.012	8.575	0.023
BA.2-R346T	0.003	0.372	0.012	0.017	0.010	0.003	0.007	0.001	0.002	0.007	2.109	0.002	0.048	0.004	1.433	0.007	>10	1.442	0.001	0.112	>10	>10	7.767	1.486
BA.2-L368I	0.003	0.453	0.019	0.027	0.010	0.004	0.010	0.002	0.001	0.006	2.603	0.001	0.030	0.002	0.605	0.002	0.005	0.021	0.001	0.026	0.324	0.008	3.202	0.018
BA.2-V445P	0.001	0.433	0.019	0.026	0.009	0.004	0.009	0.002	0.002	0.008	2.313	>10	>10	1.141	0.428	>10	0.007	0.144	>10	1.582	0.486	>10	6.311	3.135
BA.2-G446S	0.002	0.367	0.012	0.021	0.009	0.004	0.009	0.001	0.003	0.008	2.614	0.002	0.026	0.004	0.686	0.002	0.004	0.014	0.022	0.026	0.965	0.017	5.774	0.029
BA.2-N460K	0.002	1.323	0.012	0.132	0.784	0.013	0.358	0.007	0.004	0.073	1.756	0.001	0.355	0.003	0.878	0.002	0.011	0.017	0.001	0.058	1.957	0.013	>10	0.025
BA.2-F486S	0.002	0.677	0.008	>10	0.583	0.011	0.017	>10	>10	>10	>10	0.001	0.049	0.003	0.581	0.002	0.006	0.009	0.002	0.060	2.264	0.011	>10	0.023
BA.2-F490S	0.001	0.428	0.014	0.022	0.033	0.004	0.008	0.001	0.004	0.012	1.105	0.001	0.030	0.002	0.564	0.002	0.006	0.011	>10	0.048	>10	0.013	5.337	0.016
BA.2-R493Q	0.003	0.338	0.024	0.005	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.034	0.001	0.045	0.002	1.109	0.002	0.007	0.022	0.000	0.010	1.175	0.010	3.419	0.008

>10 1-10 0.1-1 0.01-0.1 <0.01



**Figure S2. Pseudovirus neutralization IC<sub>50</sub> values for mAbs against BQ and XBB subvariants and point mutants, related to Figure 3**  
Pseudovirus neutralization IC<sub>50</sub> values for mAbs against D614G, Omicron subvariants, and point mutants of BQ.1, BQ.1.1, XBB, and XBB.1 in the background of BA.4/5 or BA.2.

# 4/5 Cao. Imprinted SARS-CoV-2 humoral immunity induces convergent Omicron RBD evolution

Pango lineages	REGN		REGN10933 +10987	Tixagev Cilgav Evusheld			Sotrov				Additional RBD mutations					
	10933	10987		COV2-2196	COV2-2130	COV2-2196+2130	BRII-196	BRII-198	BRII-196+198	S309	DXP-604	LY-CoV1404	SA58	SA55	SA55+SA58	
BA.2	*	590	821	4312	6.3	8.2	8530	8990	8610	852	219	0.9	5.1	7.2	7.8	
BA.2.3.20	121	*	199	15	*	26	14	*	24	897	181	9.7	20	4.6	7.8	K444R+N450D+L452M+N460K+R493Q
BA.2.10.4	*	*	*	*	289	501	2109	7990	3984	706	6348	1.3	4.3	4.9	5.0	G446S+F486P+R493Q+S494P
BJ.1	*	*	*	3076	*	5985	7609	*	*	709	166	*	8163	3.7	8.6	D339H+R346T+L368I+V445P+G446S+V483A+F490V
XBB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	963	*	*	8805	5.3	9.8	D339H+R346T+L368I+V445P+G446S+N460K+F486S+F490S+R493Q
BA.2.75	278	*	410	119	352	121	1730	6622	3861	672	5920	2.2	246	4.3	9.6	
BL.1	260	*	511	93	*	174	1251	*	3075	508	7193	2.8	7975	6.3	10	R346T
BR.1	319	*	679	117	*	170	1992	*	3160	564	6689	*	1616	5.9	9.7	L452R+K444M
BN.2.1	390	*	701	59	303	109	4101	*	8444	6979	8901	1.7	4960	5.7	9.4	K356T+F490S
BN.1	344	*	599	70	*	166	3683	*	7791	*	6012	3.3	8295	4.9	9.0	R346T+K356T+F490S
BA.2.75.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	852	*	3.0	6922	5.9	9.7	R346T+F486S
BM.1.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	879	*	2.3	8823	5.2	8.9	R346T+F486S
BM.1.1.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	956	*	1.9	8082	4.8	10.5	R346T+F486S+F490S
BR.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	921	*	2.6	7263	4.7	10.5	R346T+L452R+F486I
CA.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	897	*	3.2	6927	6.0	11.5	R346T+L452R+F486S
BA.4/5	*	520	709	*	23	40	7124	*	*	1055	6264	0.8	3.9	5.0	4.5	
BA.4.6.1	*	2338	5402	*	*	*	4763	*	7809	4456	4634	1.2	50	4.8	9.9	R346T
BA.5.6.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	4636	*	7883	1408	5892	1662	58	5.1	8.9	K444T
BQ.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1709	*	1905	44	6.6	9.2	K444T+N460K
BU.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1082	*	26	56	5.3	10.5	K444M+N460K
BQ.1.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5581	*	*	900	5.9	10.3	R346T+K444T+N460K

**Pseudovirus IC50 (ng/mL)**

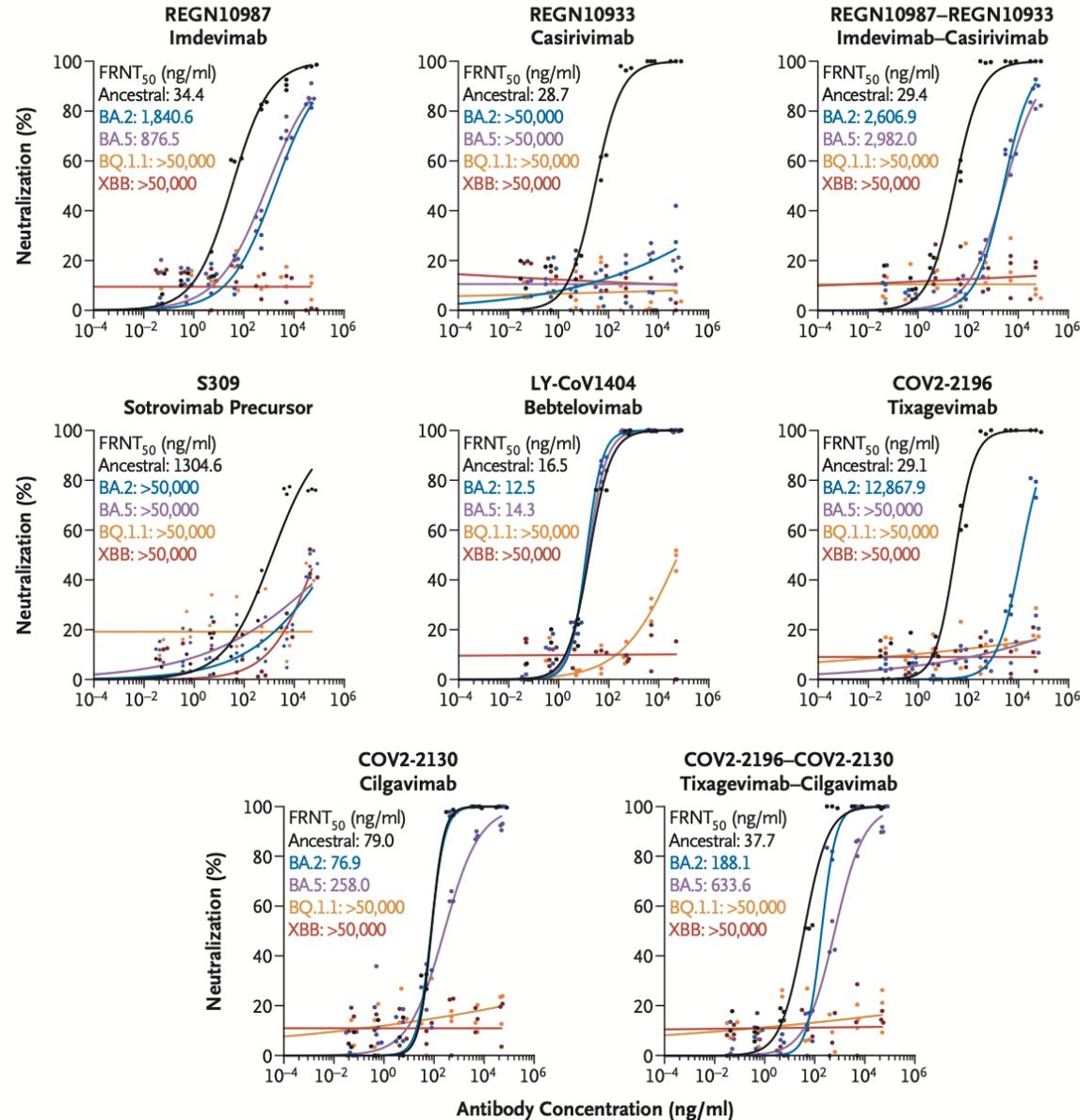
<100	100~1,000	>1,000	* >10,000
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**NICE**

RBD, Receptor binding domain

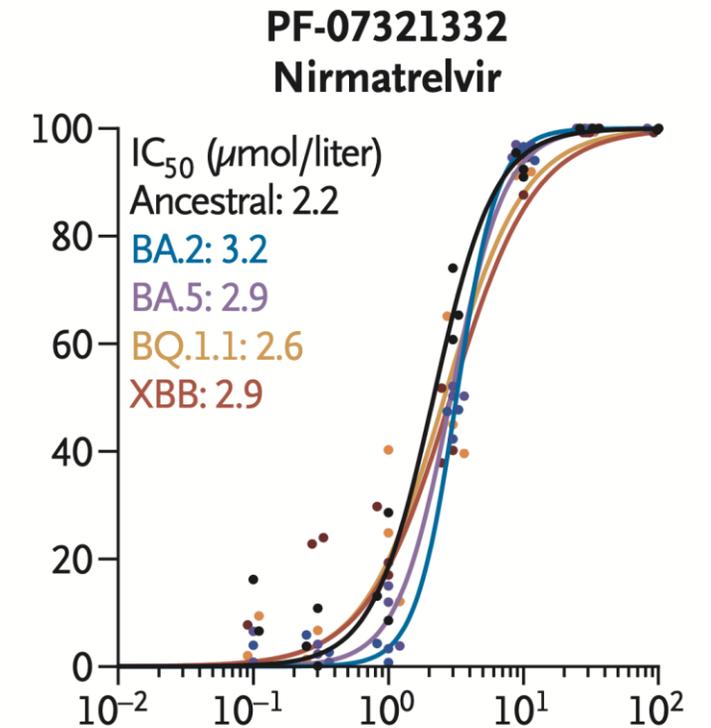
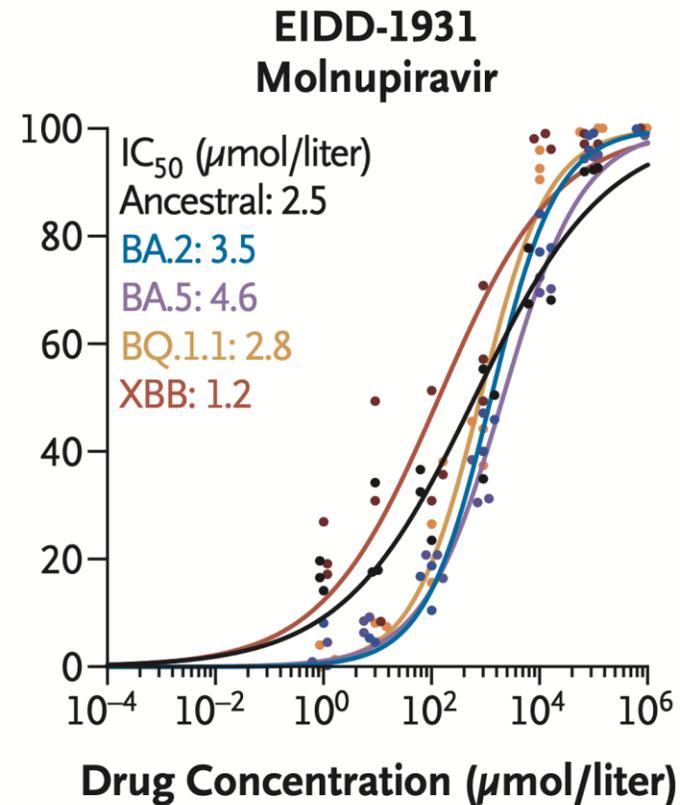
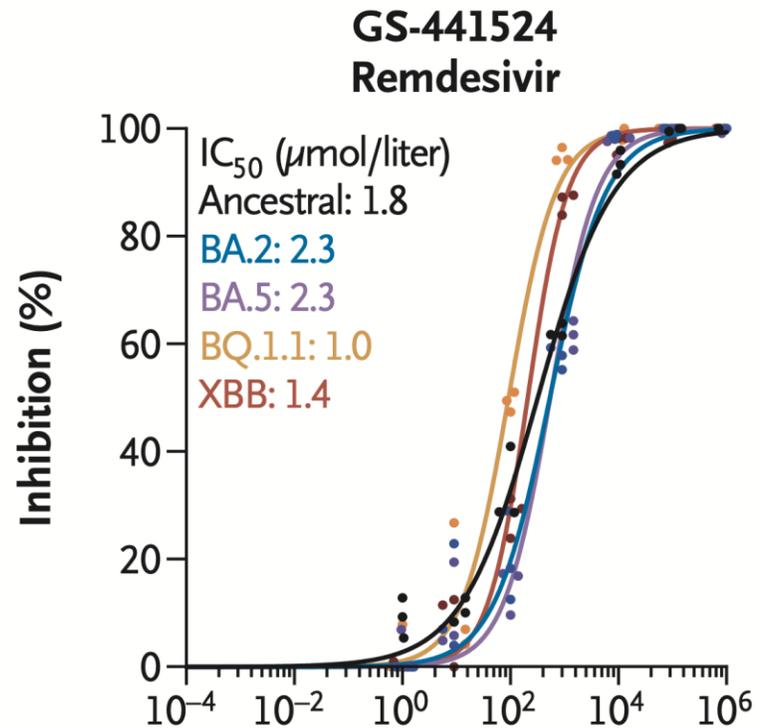
# 5/5 Imai. Efficacy of Antiviral Agents against Omicron Subvariants BQ.1.1 and XBB

## A Neutralizing Activity of Monoclonal Antibodies



# 5/5 Imai. Efficacy of Antiviral Agents against Omicron Subvariants BQ.1.1 and XBB

## B Inhibitory Activity of Antiviral Drugs



# Recent papers on BQ.1, BQ.1.1 or XBB\*

Lead	Title	Date	Journal	Origin	Link
Planas	Resistance of Omicron subvariants BA.2.75.2, BA.4.6 and BQ.1.1 to neutralizing antibodies	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	bioRxiv (preprint)	Paris	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36415455/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36415455/</a>
Arora	Omicron sublineage BQ.1.1 resistance to monoclonal antibodies	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Lancet Infect Dis	Göttingen	<a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00733-2/fulltext">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00733-2/fulltext</a>
Wang	Alarming antibody evasion properties of rising SARS- CoV-2 BQ and XBB subvariants	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Cell	New York	<a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867422015318">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867422015318</a>
Cao	Imprinted SARS-CoV-2 humoral immunity induces convergent Omicron RBD evolution	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Nature	Beijing	<a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05644-7">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05644-7</a>
Imai	Efficacy of Antiviral Agents against Omicron Subvariants BQ.1.1 and XBB	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	NEJM	Tokyo	<a href="https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2214302">https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2214302</a>

# Summary of *in vitro* papers investigating BQ.1, BQ.1.1, XBB.

		Sotrovimab	Casirivimab	Imdevimab	Ronapreve Cas + Imdev	Tixagevimab	Cilgavimab	Evusheld Tixa + Cilga	Remdesivir	Molnupiravir	Paxlovid Nirmatrelvir Ritonavir
Planas	BQ.1.1	Reduced neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
	XBB	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
Arora	BQ.1.1	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
	XBB	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
Wang	BQ.1.1	S309 (precursor)	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
	XBB	Reduced neutralisation	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Reduced neutralisation	Reduced neutralisation	Reduced neutralisation	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
Cao	BQ.1.1	S309 (precursor)	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
	XBB	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated	Not evaluated
Imai	BQ.1.1	S309 (precursor)	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	Unaffected neutralisation	Unaffected neutralisation	Unaffected neutralisation
	XBB	?	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	No neutralisation	Unaffected neutralisation	Unaffected neutralisation	Unaffected neutralisation



# Susceptibility summaries

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SEARCH DATABASE

Last updated on Jan 11, 2023, 10:18 PM

**Table 1: Virus variants and spike mutations vs monoclonal antibodies**

<https://covdb.stanford.edu/susceptibility-data/table-mab-susc/>

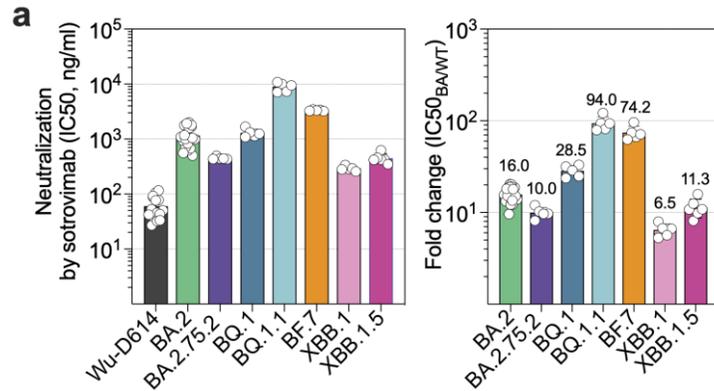
## Fold reduced neutralizing susceptibility to monoclonal antibodies under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)

Copy to clipboard

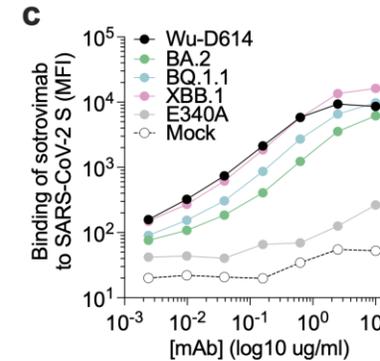
Test \ mAb	BAM	ETE	BAM/ETE	CAS	IMD	CAS/IMD <i>Ronapreve</i>	CIL	TIX	CIL/TIX <i>Evusheld</i>	SOT <i>Sotrovimab</i>	BEB	ADI
Alpha	1 <sub>23</sub>	13 <sub>20</sub>	1.3 <sub>9</sub>	1 <sub>32</sub>	0.6 <sub>33</sub>	0.9 <sub>14</sub>	0.6 <sub>15</sub>	1.5 <sub>14</sub>	0.8 <sub>14</sub>	1.6 <sub>29</sub>	0.9 <sub>6</sub>	1.3 <sub>6</sub>
Beta	>1000 <sub>29</sub>	516 <sub>25</sub>	990 <sub>12</sub>	91 <sub>38</sub>	0.6 <sub>38</sub>	1.6 <sub>19</sub>	1.1 <sub>16</sub>	5.8 <sub>17</sub>	1.7 <sub>16</sub>	1.0 <sub>30</sub>	1 <sub>8</sub>	2.8 <sub>6</sub>
Gamma	>1000 <sub>16</sub>	348 <sub>16</sub>	404 <sub>4</sub>	124 <sub>24</sub>	0.4 <sub>24</sub>	1 <sub>9</sub>	0.5 <sub>12</sub>	3.7 <sub>11</sub>	0.9 <sub>10</sub>	1 <sub>23</sub>	1 <sub>5</sub>	2.2 <sub>6</sub>
Delta	>1000 <sub>24</sub>	0.4 <sub>24</sub>	1 <sub>9</sub>	0.7 <sub>32</sub>	1.5 <sub>33</sub>	1.3 <sub>14</sub>	2.7 <sub>14</sub>	1 <sub>15</sub>	1 <sub>17</sub>	1.1 <sub>29</sub>	1 <sub>11</sub>	1.5 <sub>7</sub>
Omicron/BA.1	>1000 <sub>41</sub>	432 <sub>41</sub>	980 <sub>17</sub>	>1000 <sub>49</sub>	>1000 <sub>50</sub>	>1000 <sub>23</sub>	263 <sub>46</sub>	264 <sub>48</sub>	60 <sub>34</sub>	3.8 <sub>61</sub>	1 <sub>25</sub>	110 <sub>19</sub>
Omicron/BA.2	>1000 <sub>22</sub>	504 <sub>22</sub>	744 <sub>15</sub>	>1000 <sub>30</sub>	220 <sub>29</sub>	387 <sub>21</sub>	2.1 <sub>33</sub>	893 <sub>32</sub>	8 <sub>31</sub>	23 <sub>45</sub>	1 <sub>27</sub>	>1000 <sub>14</sub>
Omicron/BA.2.12.1	>1000 <sub>10</sub>	468 <sub>10</sub>	794 <sub>8</sub>	>1000 <sub>11</sub>	88 <sub>11</sub>	250 <sub>9</sub>	3 <sub>12</sub>	382 <sub>12</sub>	9.5 <sub>9</sub>	19 <sub>15</sub>	1 <sub>11</sub>	>1000 <sub>5</sub>
Omicron/BA.2.75	705 <sub>7</sub>	383 <sub>7</sub>	554 <sub>5</sub>	233 <sub>9</sub>	>1000 <sub>9</sub>	>1000 <sub>7</sub>	19 <sub>10</sub>	30 <sub>10</sub>	25 <sub>8</sub>	9.6 <sub>10</sub>	3.8 <sub>10</sub>	673 <sub>6</sub>
Omicron/BA.2.75.2	556 <sub>2</sub>	489 <sub>2</sub>	>1000 <sub>1</sub>	589 <sub>4</sub>	588 <sub>4</sub>	>1000 <sub>3</sub>	700 <sub>4</sub>	819 <sub>4</sub>	738 <sub>4</sub>	17 <sub>4</sub>	3.0 <sub>4</sub>	509 <sub>2</sub>
Omicron/XBB	-	-	-	177 <sub>1</sub>	175 <sub>1</sub>	200 <sub>1</sub>	700 <sub>2</sub>	819 <sub>2</sub>	738 <sub>2</sub>	14 <sub>2</sub>	>1000 <sub>2</sub>	-
Omicron/BA.4/5	>1000 <sub>17</sub>	432 <sub>17</sub>	588 <sub>11</sub>	>1000 <sub>23</sub>	143 <sub>23</sub>	379 <sub>16</sub>	8.1 <sub>27</sub>	>1000 <sub>27</sub>	22 <sub>23</sub>	22 <sub>33</sub>	1 <sub>23</sub>	968 <sub>12</sub>
Omicron/BA.4.6	556 <sub>2</sub>	489 <sub>2</sub>	>1000 <sub>1</sub>	589 <sub>4</sub>	173 <sub>4</sub>	738 <sub>3</sub>	527 <sub>6</sub>	819 <sub>6</sub>	738 <sub>6</sub>	44 <sub>5</sub>	1.1 <sub>6</sub>	509 <sub>2</sub>
Omicron/BQ.1	-	-	-	177 <sub>1</sub>	175 <sub>1</sub>	200 <sub>1</sub>	700 <sub>2</sub>	819 <sub>2</sub>	738 <sub>2</sub>	25 <sub>2</sub>	>1000 <sub>2</sub>	-
Omicron/BQ.1.1	>1000 <sub>1</sub>	943 <sub>1</sub>	>1000 <sub>1</sub>	>1000 <sub>3</sub>	>1000 <sub>3</sub>	>1000 <sub>3</sub>	>1000 <sub>4</sub>	>1000 <sub>4</sub>	>1000 <sub>4</sub>	106 <sub>4</sub>	>1000 <sub>4</sub>	>1000 <sub>1</sub>
Omicron/BF.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	>1000 <sub>1</sub>	>1000 <sub>1</sub>	>1000 <sub>1</sub>	49 <sub>1</sub>	1 <sub>1</sub>	-



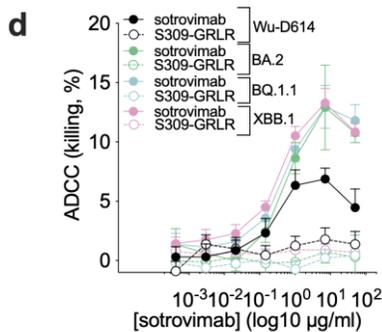
# Late breaking (17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023): Therapeutic and vaccine-induced cross-reactive antibodies with effector function against emerging Omicron variants



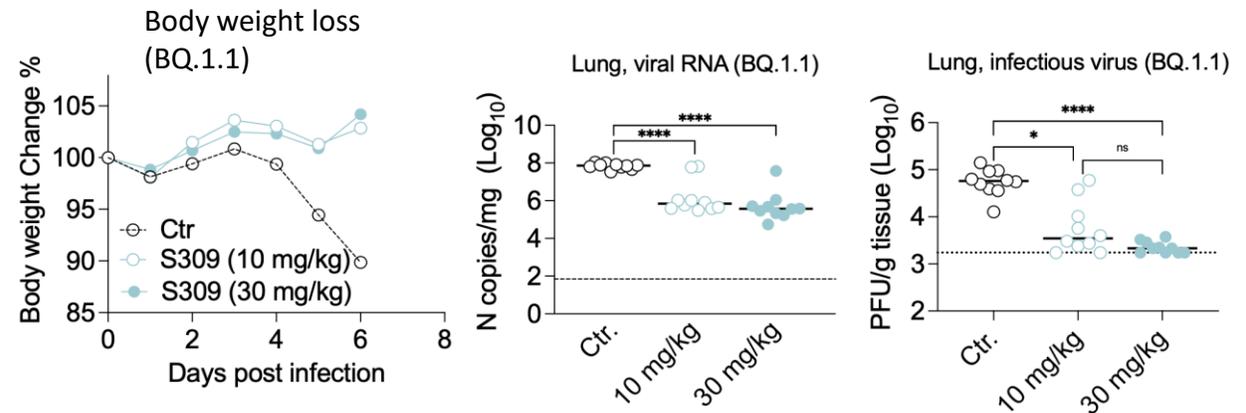
1) Neutralisation activity reduced



2) Sotrovimab still binds to virus

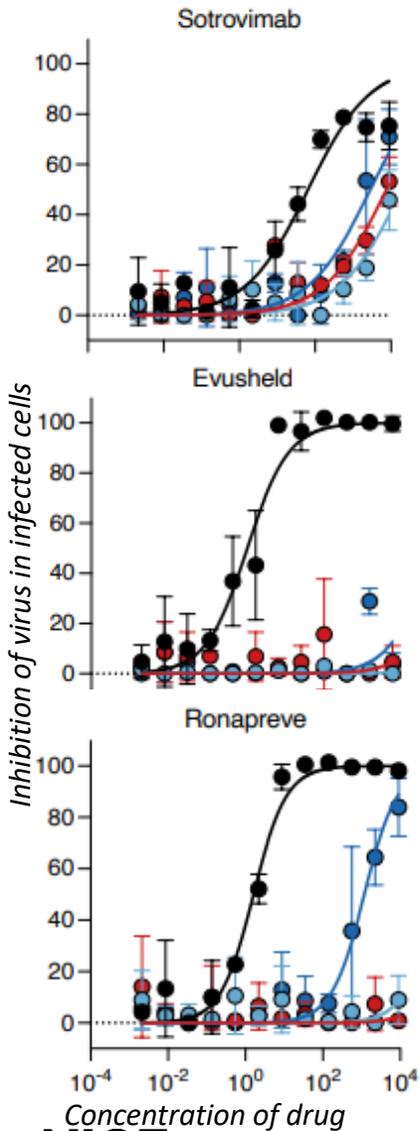


3) Virus-infected cells still killed



4) Still works in mice with BQ.1.1

# Interpretating neutralisation curves – IVAG conclusions



Unclear	<p><b>Sotrovimab</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sotrovimab neutralises all variants tested, but needs higher concentrations to achieve the same effect as when used to neutralise Delta ~100 n-fold difference measured at EC50</li> <li>∴ need to consider PK/PD to understand the effect on clinical outcomes</li> </ul>
No neutralising activity	<p><b>Tixagevimab + cilgavimab</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence of neutralisation activity against any new variants tested at concentrations likely to be achieved in the body</li> <li>∴ likely no clinical effect of the treatment for these variants</li> </ul>
Variant - dependent	<p><b>Casirivimab/ + imdevimab</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence of neutralisation activity against BA.2.75.2 or BQ.1.1.</li> <li>Reduced neutralisation against BA.4.6             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~1000 n-fold more drug required to achieve EC50</li> </ul> </li> <li>∴ need to consider PK/PD to understand effect on clinical outcomes</li> <li>NICE can appraise drugs only within licensed dosages</li> </ul>

● Delta ● BA.2.75.2 ● BA.4.6 ● BQ.1.1

[Planas et al. 2022](#)

# Section 1      Data relevant to both appraisals

- SARS-CoV-2 variant tracking
  - Evolution of variants
  - UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) technical briefings
- *In vitro* data
  - The *In Vitro* data **A**ssessment **G**roup (IVAG)
  - BQ.1, BQ.1.1, XBB
- **Position of various organisations**

# Position of various organisations



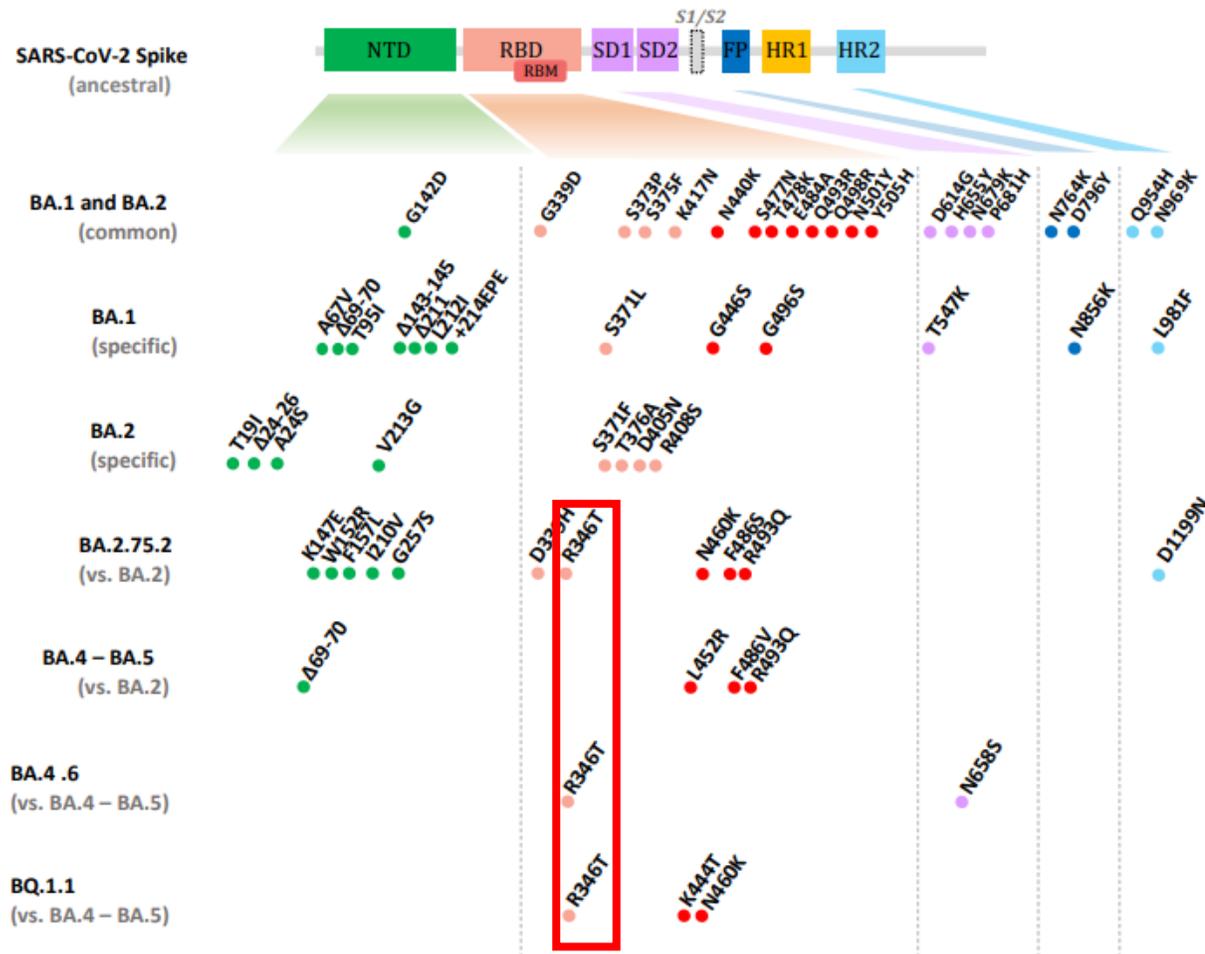
Sotrovimab	Casirivimab plus imdevimab	Tixagevimab plus cilgavimab
Strong recommendation against use (13 January 2023, first published 14 January 2022)	Strong recommendation against use (13 January 2023, first published 24 September 2021)	NA (prevention only)
Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) withdrawn 5 April 2022	EUA withdrawn 24 January 2022	NA (prevention only)
As of 9th December 2022, EMA’s Emergency Task Force (ETF) has cautioned that monoclonal antibodies currently authorised for COVID-19 (including sotrovimab, casirivimab plus imdevimab and tixagevimab plus cilgavimab) are unlikely to be effective against emerging strains of SARS-CoV-2.		

# Overview of the day

Section	Data relevant to both appraisals	
1.1	SARS-CoV-2: variant tracking	Public
1.2	<i>In vitro</i> data	Public
1.3	Position of various organisations	Public
ID 4038	MTA of COVID-19 treatments	ACM 2
2.1	Community setting (mild COVID-19) – Part 1	Public
3.1	Hospital setting (severe COVID-19) – Part 1	Public
2.2	Community setting – Part 2	Private
3.2	Hospital setting – Part 2	Private
ID 6136	STA of tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld)	ACM 1
4.1	Prophylaxis in highly vulnerable people – Part 1	Public
4.2	Prophylaxis – Part 2	Private

\*Appendix slides

# Variants can have 'spike mutations' which cause resistance to neutralising monoclonal antibody treatments



- Certain spike mutations are associated with more significant loss of neutralisation compared to drug's activity against reference variant e.g. R346T
- Spike mutations can develop independently through different lineages
- Evolution of virus **in the near future** likely from currently circulating variants that may retain these mutations (e.g. BQ.1.1 from BQ.1)
- Neutralisation activity of drugs against historical variants (or their sublineages) may become relevant because mutations and recombinant strains can occur in immunocompromised patients

# Comparison of the estimated relative growth rates for emerging BA.5, BA.4, BA.2 and recombinant lineages versus that for specifically BQ.1.1 lineages

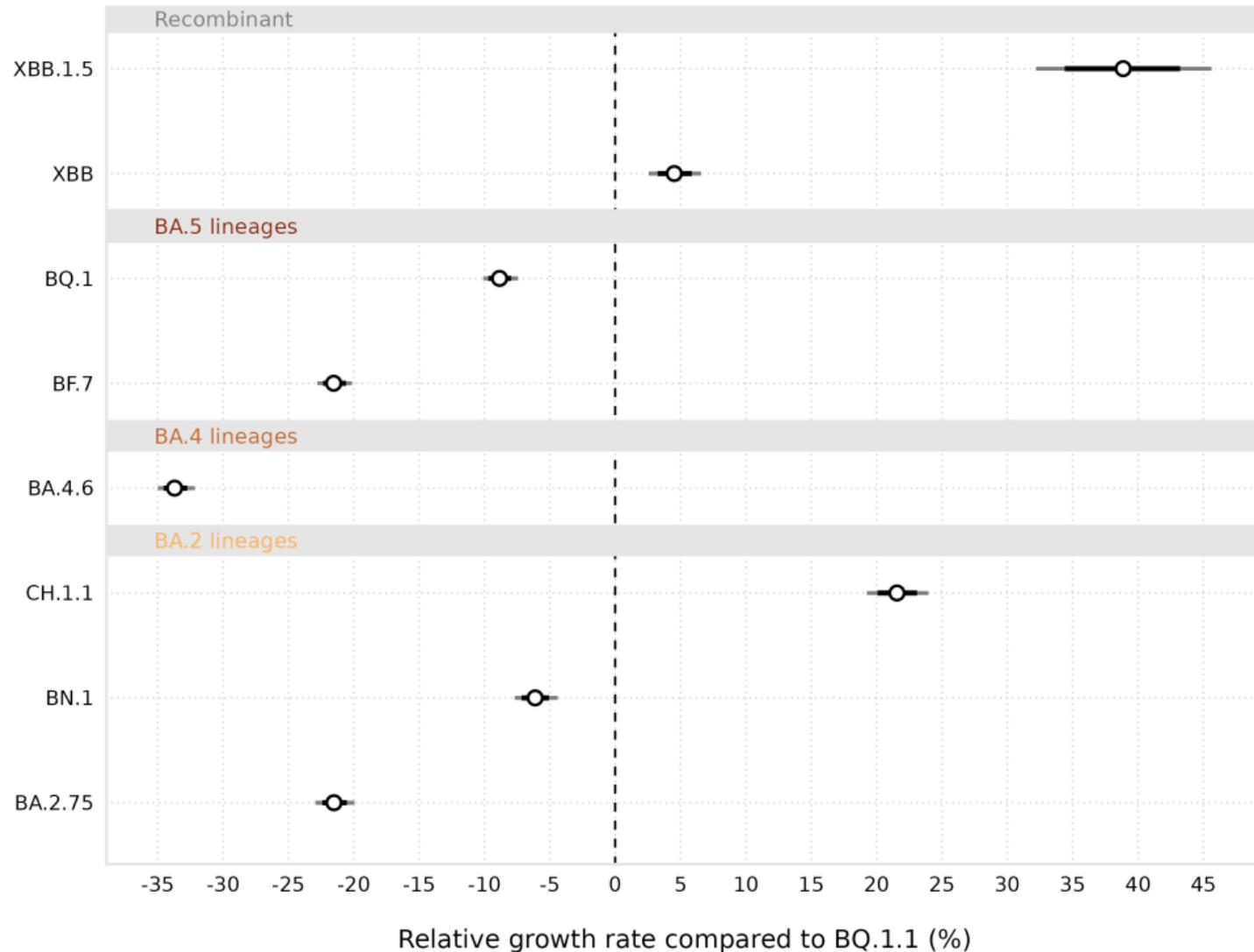
Omicron BQ.1 - relative growth rate vs BA.5.2 ~x39  
(Tech briefing 48)

Relative growth rate compared with Omicron BQ.1.1

XBB.1.5: ~ x39%

CH.1.1 ~ x22%

XBB ~ x4



Source: UKHSA Technical briefing 49 (11 January 2023).

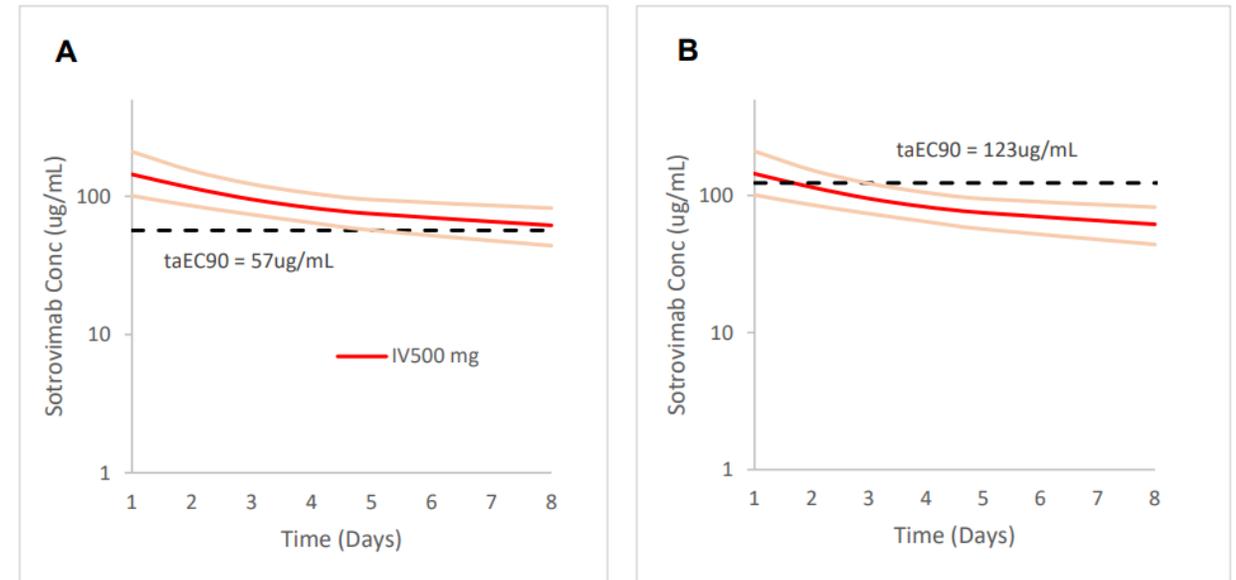
# How to determine the quality of in vitro evidence

- Cell-lines
- Pseudo-virus/live virus
- Reproducibility
- Good Clinical Practice-compliant high-throughput platform, calibrated to WHO International Standards ([Wu et al 2022](#))
- MHRA in partnership with DHSC have created a variant framework (agreed with companies) for best practice

# Adjusting serum concentrations to reflect lung tissue

- An alternative approach is to simulate an EC-90 value for sotrovimab compared to reference variant generating trial evidence
- Reduce this using a tissue-adjustment – to account for serum levels of sotrovimab being higher than where it would have effect (i.e. the lungs)
- FDA suggests lung tissue concentrations are 6.5% to 12% of serum
- IVAG concurs that this approach has limited use for quantifying likelihood of efficacy and is weaker than analysis of when a dose would fail

Figure 2. Simulated Sotrovimab 500 mg IV Compared to Tissue Adjusted EC<sub>90</sub> Value for Live BA.2 Subvariants at Lung Penetration of 12%



Note: The sotrovimab 500 mg IV concentration-time profile is based on data from BLAZE-4, Japan-PK, COMET-PEAK studies in relationship to the taEC<sub>90</sub> value (live virus Omicron BA.2 subvariant EC<sub>90</sub>/lung penetration at 12%).

# GSK submitted data on sotrovimab (VIR-7831), 13 Jan 2023

**Table 1 Activity of Sotrovimab Against Pseudotyped Virus Expressing SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike Variants**

SARS-CoV-2 Variant Name		Geometric Mean EC50 (ng/mL)	Average Fold Change in EC50 Compared to Wuhan-Hu-1 Wild-Type
WHO	Lineage		
Omicron	BA.1	336.4	2.7
	BA.1.1	201.85	3.3
	BA.2	1139	16
	BA.4	1711	21.3
	BA.5	1556	22.6
	BA.2.12.1	1120	16.6
	BA.2.75	541.8	8.3
	BA.4.6	3637	57.9
	BQ.1	1277	28.5
	BQ.1.1	8818	94
	BF.7	3317	74.2
	BA.2.75.2	447.6	10.0
	XBB.1	289.5	6.5

Sources: Cathcart, 2022<sup>1</sup>; Park Y-J et al. Science. 2022;378(6620):619-627<sup>2</sup>; GSK data on file<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Cathcart AL, Havenar-Daughton C, Lempp FA, et al. The dual function monoclonal antibodies VIR-7831 and VIR-7832 demonstrate potent in vitro and in vivo activity against SARS-CoV-2. bioRxiv [Preprint]. 01 April 2022. doi: 10.1101/2021.03.09.434607v12

<sup>2</sup>Park YJ, Pinto D, Walls AC, et al. Imprinted antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2 Omicron sublineages. Science. 2022 Nov 11;378(6620):619-627. doi: 10.1126/science.adc9127. Epub 2022 Oct 20.

<sup>3</sup> GSK data on file not public/peer reviewed