

8 April 2023

Dear BPG Editorial Team,

Thank you for considering our manuscript and for taking the time to review and share your input. While we are happy to make the necessary changes, we wanted to first explain why they were originally excluded from the selected studies.

As per our inclusion and exclusion criteria, the studies were excluded because: (1) Zhang et al and Li et al were systematic reviews and meta-analysis; (2) Li et al and Mazagatos et al did not specifically identify the variant of concern in their research and; (3) Zhang et al and Grewal et al were published after our manuscript was submitted on 28 Jan 2023 which fell outside the period of 01 January 2021 – 31 December 2022 as per the inclusion criteria of the manuscript. Our review only included research that specifically identified studies on the effectiveness of vaccine during the Delta and Omicron variants. We believed that it would be valuable to focus only on Delta and Omicron variants since they were dominant and hypothesize that many of the studies related to vaccine effectiveness included earlier variants which may have reported skewed results for newer variants.

With our intention to improve the quality of our manuscript, we made the following adjustments to resolve the issues as per the peer-review reports.

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors:

1. The topic of this paper is of high interest as the issue of COVID-19 vaccines effectiveness in the real world. Similar study also reports elsewhere. But, COVID-19 as always, is the top topic to study till the end. Overall, the study was well-conducted and the authors clearly explained the findings meticulously. – *We sincerely appreciate the favorable review.*
2. The studies did not state the ethical clearance. Please state clearly on the manuscript if there is the ethical clearance. – *We apologize for the oversight and thank you for the astute observation. We added an ethical approval statement which can be found in the last paragraph under Data Extraction and Outcomes.*
3. This paper can have a good impact on COVID-19 vaccine literature, but authors need to review the recent literature and make necessary changes in order to make it exceptional, credible, enlightening and instructional paper for clinicians as well as researchers in the discussion section. The discussion is too short since there were so many studies published elsewhere that the authors need to compare it in the discussion section. – *We appreciate the thoughtful recommendation. We've included recently published literature to present and compare their methodology and results with ours. We also incorporated other relevant research studies to enrich the discussion. These changes can be found in the discussion section of the manuscript.*

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

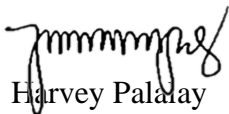
Specific Comments to Authors:

1. The manuscript is relatively well-written and organized. Systemic reviews of this kind provide valuable information for future vaccination strategies. – *We sincerely appreciate the favorable review.*
2. However, the main concern about this manuscript is lack of comparison of their study (source of data, methodology, results) with other recently published systemic reviews and meta analyses. For example in a very recent systemic review, authors published their study on the Effectiveness (real world) of mRNA and viral-vector vaccines in epidemic period led by different SARS-CoV-2 variants (including Delta and Omicron) and including the elderly people which is a great study that includes almost all studied items of the presently submitted manuscript (Jun Zhang et al, Effectiveness of mRNA and viral-vector vaccines in epidemic period led by different SARS-CoV-2 variants: a systematic review and meta-analysis, J Med Virol, 2023 Feb 28. doi: 10.1002/jmv.28623). Therefore this published study should have been well addressed and cited in the present submission and their study (source of data, methodology, results) should have been compared. There are still several other recently published systemic reviews that should have been addressed and compared. Some examples are: - Clara Mazagatos et al, Effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections and COVID-19 hospitalisations and deaths in elderly long-term care facility residents, Spain, weeks 53 2020 to 13 2021, Euro Surveill. 2021 Jun;26(24):2100452. - Ramandip Grewal et al, Effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine booster doses against Omicron severe outcomes. Nat Commun. 2023 Mar 7;14(1):1273. doi: 10.1038/s41467-023-36566-1. - Zejun Li et al, Efficacy, immunogenicity and safety of COVID-19 vaccines in older adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis, Front Immunol. 2022 Sep 13;13:965971. – *We appreciate the thoughtful recommendation. We've included these recently published systemic reviews and meta-analyses to present and compare their methodology and results with ours. We also incorporated other relevant research studies to enrich the discussion. These changes can be found in the discussion section of the manuscript.*

We sincerely hope that our revised manuscript is now in suitable form for publication in World Journal of Meta-Analysis.

If there are any further recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,



Harvey Palalay