Vaccsheet



Avacc[®] **10:** An intranasal vaccine against COVID-19 based on *Neisseria meningitidis* Outer Membrane Vesicles mixed with stabilized spike protein



At a glance



Technology Proprietary Outer Membrane Vesicle technology (OMV-Vacc).



Status Clinical phase.

Unmet need Over 770 million cases reported to the WHO as of September 2023¹. Reported cases >770 million



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Target SARS-CoV-2.

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Route of administration & schedule Intranasal spray; a 2-dose booster vaccine.

Disease: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is a contagious viral disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Infection often, but not always, leads to flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, headache, fatigue),^{2,3} and loss of smell and taste.⁴ The most severe cases develop dyspnea, hypoxia, respiratory failure, or multiorgan dysfunction. Some patients continue to experience symptoms for years after infection (long COVID).⁵ As of September 2023, over 770 million people worldwide have been affected by and 6.9 million people have died from COVID-19.¹

Concept: a safe, intranasal vaccine to build a first line of defense

Avacc 10 consists of Outer Membrane Vesicles (OMV) derived from the bacterium *N. meningitidis* that are mixed with the stabilized spike protein of SARS-CoV-2. Like other intranasal vaccines, Avacc 10 triggers the mucosal system in the nose and upper airways to secrete immunoglobulin A (IgA). As a result, both local and systemic immunity can provide more robust protection against initial infection and transmission of SARS-CoV-2. The intranasal route of administration is non-invasive, making it ideal for low- and middle-income countries.

Technology: A platform designed for infectious diseases

Avacc 10 is based on Intravacc's OMV platform, OMV-Vacc. This highly versatile technology has demonstrated efficient performance in prophylactic vaccines for bacterial and viral infections. The naturally secreted bacterial vesicles are mixed with the spike proteins as antigens. These OMVs are safe in both adults and children and highly stable, requiring only a standard cold chain.

Current status: Avacc 10 induced high IgA and IgG titers and prevented lung lesions in challenge studies

In preclinical studies, intranasal vaccination with Avacc 10 induced high levels of spikebinding immunoglobulin G (IgG) in serum, and high levels of IgA in the nose and lungs of mice (Figure 1). These antibodies also exhibited cross-neutralization against various SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (data not shown). In challenge studies with Syrian hamsters, intranasal vaccination with Avacc 10 induced 100% protection against lung lesions after animals were exposed to SARS-CoV-2 intranasally (Figure 2) and delayed virus transmission among immunized animal groups (data not shown).





Intranasal vaccination with Avacc 10 induces high levels of IgA and IgG in animal models

Figure 1. Mice vaccinated intranasally with Avacc 10 (OMV mixed with stabilized spike protein) developed high levels of IgA in nasal and lung tissue, as well as in serum. By comparison, vaccination with the OMV alone and intramuscular vaccination with either Avacc 10 or the OMV alone elicited no significant increases (A). IgG levels in serum also increased significantly in response to vaccination with Avacc 10 compared to the OMV alone, especially when administered intranasally (B).



Vaccination with Avacc 10 prevents lung lesions from SARS-CoV-2 infection in animal models

Figure 2. Vaccination with Avacc 10 prevents lung lesions after exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Syrian hamsters were vaccinated intranasally with Avacc 10 (OMV mixed with stabilized spike protein), the spike protein alone, the OMV alone, or a placebo. After 2 vaccinations, animals were challenged with SARS-CoV-2, and lung lesions were quantified 4 and 7 days later. Vaccination with Avacc 10 protected 100% against lesion formation. Toxicology studies have also demonstrated the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of Avacc 10 in rabbits (data not shown). Avacc 10 is currently being tested in a phase I clinical study as a booster vaccine in healthy volunteers.

With funding from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Intravacc is also working to develop a vaccine that provides broad protection against SARS-CoV-2, including its variants, and other Betacoronaviruses.

Further development of Avacc 10 is planned under partnerships or licensing. We offer a complete technology transfer package with a scalable production process, a pre-clinical, clinical, and toxicology data package, GMP master seed lots, and comprehensive documentation.

Image: Second second

Other supportive data and structures for partnership or licensing are available and can be presented in a confidential follow-up meeting.

are completed.

¹ WHO Coronavirus Dashboard. https://covid19.who.int/

- ² Islam et al. 2021. PLOS ONE 16: e0249788. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0249788
- ³ Islam *et al.* 2020. Front Neurol. 11: 562634. doi:10.3389/fneur.2020.562634
- ⁴ Agyeman *et al.* 2020. Mayo Clin. Proc. 95: 1621. doi:10.1016/j.mayocp.2020.05.030
- ⁵ Davis *et al.* 2023. Nature Rev. Microbiol. 21: 133. doi:10.1038/s41579-022-00846-2

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