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**Article:**

Miller, P.D.E., de Silva, T.I. [orcid.org/0000-0002-6498-9212](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6498-9212), Leonard, H. et al. (6 more authors) (2019) A comparison of viral microneutralization and haemagglutination inhibition assays as measures of seasonal inactivated influenza vaccine immunogenicity in the first year after reduced intensity conditioning, lymphocyte depleted allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplant. *Vaccine*, 37 (3). pp. 452-457. ISSN 0264-410X

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2018.11.061>

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1 **A comparison of viral microneutralization and haemagglutination inhibition assays**  
2 **as measures of seasonal inactivated influenza vaccine immunogenicity in the first**  
3 **year after reduced intensity conditioning, lymphocyte depleted allogeneic**  
4 **haematopoietic stem cell transplant.**

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7 Introduction

8 Respiratory viruses (RV) are identified in approximately 3.5% of haematopoietic stem  
9 cell transplant (HSCT) recipients. Influenza A and B viruses account for 18-44% of RV  
10 infections [1,2]. Patients transplanted during the influenza season are at highest risk  
11 of infection. Progression to pneumonia occurs more frequently in the early post-  
12 HSCT period and is associated with a 30-day mortality rate up to 28% [3,4]. Annual  
13 administration of a seasonal inactivated influenza vaccine (SIV) is considered a  
14 moderately effective strategy for prevention of infection and influenza-associated  
15 hospital admission in the general population[5]; vaccine effectiveness ranging from  
16 19-60% across all age groups has been estimated in the United States over the last  
17 decade[6,7]. Vaccine efficacy of 65.4-80% has been reported in HSCT patients,  
18 although in small cohorts [8,9], and current guidelines for influenza vaccination of  
19 HSCT recipients are largely based on immunogenicity studies.

20 Historically, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Committee for Medicinal  
21 Products for Human Use (CHMP) immunogenicity criteria for annual SIV licensing  
22 have focussed primarily on rates of seroconversion (defined as a fourfold increase in

23 antibody (Ab) titre from baseline) and seroprotection (an Ab titre  $\geq 40$ ) detected by  
24 serological haemagglutination inhibition (HAI) techniques[10]. Studies in HSCT  
25 populations evaluating response to SIV against CHMP criteria have reported minimal  
26 immunogenicity when administered in the first 6 months post-HSCT and impaired  
27 response up to at least 12 months post-HSCT[11–13]. So, although HSCT recipients in  
28 the early post-HSCT are at high risk of influenza related morbidity and mortality,  
29 especially if transplanted during the influenza season, current evidence is insufficient  
30 to recommend SIV administration before at least 4 to 6 months post-HSCT [14,15].  
31 However, in practice a proportion of allogeneic HSCT centres in the United Kingdom  
32 (UK) administer the influenza vaccine at earlier time points[16]. Current guidelines  
33 do not recommend modification of vaccination schedules according to underlying  
34 disease, conditioning intensity, graft manipulation or stem cell source.

35 A growing body of evidence argues that an HAI Ab titre  $\geq 40$  may not be  
36 seroprotective in population subgroups, and suggests that probability of protection  
37 may be better considered along a continuum of titres rather than against this cut-off  
38 value[17–19]. In 2016, the CHMP immunogenicity criteria were updated to reflect  
39 this, and now a more diverse range of assessment methods of SIV immune  
40 responses including neutralizing Ab titres are recommended [20]. The virus  
41 microneutralization (VMN) assay is a highly sensitive and specific method for  
42 detecting influenza strain-specific, functional antibodies that inhibit virus entry or  
43 block virus replication[21]. The VMN has higher sensitivity than HAI for the  
44 detection of low-titre seroconversion particularly to influenza B[22,23] and 2009  
45 pandemic H1N1 virus[24]. Ab titres detectable by VMN assay may confer clinical

46 protection against influenza virus, although titres have not yet been correlated with  
47 clinical efficacy. To our knowledge, the VMN has not previously been used to  
48 determine SIV response in HSCT recipients.

49 The primary aim of this study was to assess, by HAI and VMN techniques, the  
50 immunogenicity of SIV administered within the first 12 months in a homogenous  
51 cohort of reduced intensity conditioning (RIC) peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) HSCT  
52 recipients. The secondary aim was to determine whether in patients vaccinated at  
53 less than 3 months, a response is detectable by VMN.

54

55

## 56 Materials and Methods

### 57 *Participants*

58 Participants were screened for study eligibility during routine outpatient clinic  
59 appointments between October 2015 and February 2016. Eligible participants were  
60 aged 16 or over, and recipients of reduced intensity conditioning (RIC) peripheral  
61 blood stem cell (PBSC) alloHSCT within 0 and 12 months of transplant. All  
62 participants were vaccinated in accordance with standards of care at their transplant  
63 centre and were deemed suitable to receive the SIV by their lead transplant  
64 physician. Standard of care at one study centre was to vaccinate from 3 months  
65 post-HSCT, while at the other, vaccination was offered at the beginning of the  
66 influenza season regardless of time-point post-HSCT. All patients gave written

67 informed consent. The study was approved by the Health Research Authority  
68 National Research Ethics Committee of the UK (Reference 15/YH/0394).

69

#### 70 *Vaccination and Blood Samples*

71 Patients received in the deltoid muscle, a single injection of a split virion, trivalent  
72 2015-2016 northern hemisphere SIV (Sanofi-Pasteur, Guildford, UK), containing  
73 15µg haemagglutinin (HA) of each of A/California/7/2009(H1N1)pdm09,  
74 A/Switzerland/9715293/2013(H3N2) and B/Phuket/3073/2013. Blood samples were  
75 collected at recruitment prior to vaccination, and at approximately four weeks post-  
76 vaccination. Serum samples were stored at -20°C until analysis.

77

#### 78 *Viruses, erythrocytes and cell culture*

79 For VMN assays, live, egg-grown influenza A/California/7/2009(H1N1)pdm09,  
80 influenza A/Switzerland/9715293/2013(H3N2) and influenza B/Phuket/3073/2013  
81 (Public Health England, London, UK) were used. HAI assays used the same live, egg-  
82 grown influenza A viruses, but ether-treated influenza B virus (Public Health  
83 England). A 0.5% solution of turkey erythrocytes in phosphate buffered saline (PBS)  
84 (Gibco, Hemel Hempstead, UK) for A(H1N1)pmd09 and B(Phuket), or guinea-pig  
85 erythrocytes, for A(H3N2), were used in HAI assays. All VMN assays used Madin-  
86 Darby canine kidney (MDCK)(Public Health England, London, UK) cells cultured in  
87 Earle's Minimum Essential Medium (MEM) with 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-  
88 piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) and L-Glutamine (Gibco), and supplemented

89 with 0.5mg/ml gentamycin, non-essential amino acids solution (Gibco) and 10% fetal  
90 calf serum (FCS) (Gibco).

91

### 92 *Haemagglutination Inhibition (HAI) and Viral Microneutralisation (VMN) Assays*

93 All assays were performed in the Public Health England (PHE) respiratory virus  
94 reference laboratory. For each of A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and B(Phuket), an HAI as  
95 previously described [25], and a 3-day VMN assay with modified cytopathic effect  
96 (CPE) endpoint, were performed on paired pre- and post-vaccination serum samples.  
97 In addition, for A(H1N1)pdm09 a 2-day VMN enzyme-linked immunosorbent (ELISA)  
98 assay was performed. In brief, for the CPE-VMN, serum samples heat treated at 56°C  
99 for 30 minutes were diluted to 1:10 with PBS followed by serial doubling dilutions  
100 across a 96-well u-bottom plate to a dilution of 1:5120. Live egg-grown virus solution  
101 (Public Health England, London, UK) standardized to 100x50% tissue culture infective  
102 dose/ml (TCID<sub>50</sub>) was added to each well containing serum, and incubated at 37°C in  
103 5% humidified CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 60 minutes. After incubation, confluent MDCK  
104 cells in a 96-well culture plate were inoculated with serum-virus mixture, and viral  
105 growth medium (VGM) consisting of serum-free, modified Eagle Medium (SF-  
106 MEM)(Gibco, Hemel Hempstead, UK), and 1µg/ml Tosyl-phenylalanyl-chloromethyl-  
107 ketone(TPCK) treated Trypsin(Sigma, Gillingham, UK) was added. Inoculated cell  
108 culture plates were incubated for either 2 hours (influenza A viruses) or 3 hours  
109 (influenza B virus) at 37°C in 5% humidified CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Virus-serum inoculum  
110 was then aspirated, and each well rinsed twice with 200µl SF-MEM. one-hundred  
111 and fifty microlitres VGM (1.0µg/ml for influenza A viruses, 1.5µg/ml for influenza B

112 virus) was added to wells inoculated with virus, and plates were incubated at 37°C  
113 in 5% humidified CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere (70 hours for influenza A viruses, 46 hours for  
114 influenza B virus). Fifty microlitres of cell supernatant was transferred to  
115 corresponding wells of a 96 well v-bottom plate and tested for influenza virus by HA  
116 assay. Ab titres were recorded as the reciprocal of the highest dilution at which  
117 agglutination was absent. For the A(H1N1)pdm09 ELISA-VMN a virus-serum mixture  
118 was prepared as above and added to a 96-well culture plate. After incubation at  
119 37°C in 5% humidified CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 60 minutes, a 5x10<sup>5</sup> cell/ml MDCK cell  
120 suspension was added to each well. Plates were then incubated for 16 hours at  
121 37°C in 5% humidified CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. An ELISA was then performed as previously  
122 described[26] .

123

#### 124 Statistical Analysis

125 Continuous variables are reported as median values with ranges. Categorical  
126 variables are reported as frequencies and percentages. Immunological data is  
127 summarised as pre- and post-vaccination geometric mean titres (GMT), and  
128 geometric mean ratios (GMRs) of pre- and post-vaccination titres with 95%  
129 confidence intervals. The distribution of Ab titre values was not Gaussian, so paired  
130 results were compared with the Wilcoxon signed-rank test for non-parametric data.  
131 Correlation between GMT and GMRs, and continuous explanatory variables were  
132 explored with Spearman's Rank Correlation; for categorical explanatory variables  
133 Mann-Whitney test was used. Frequencies of seroconversion and HAI Ab titres  $\geq$  40  
134 are reported, and the relationship between these outcome measures and categorical

135 explanatory variables was explored with Pearson’s Chi-Square test, or Fisher’s exact  
136 test; binary logistic regression was used for continuous explanatory variables. The  
137 relationship between log<sub>10</sub> transformed HAI and VMN titres was explored using a  
138 linear regression model. Analysis was performed with IBM SPSS version 24.

139

140

141

## 142 Results

### 143 *Study Population*

144 Twenty-eight alloHSCT recipients with a median age of 57.8 (range 38.0-72.1) years  
145 were recruited for the study (Table 1). Participants were vaccinated at a median  
146 time-point of 78.5 (range 24-363) days after HSCT, and all 28 gave post-vaccination  
147 blood samples at a median of 28 days (range 21-50). All but 1/28 patients provided  
148 their sample within the 21 – 28 day window. Donor type was volunteer unrelated  
149 donor (VUD) in 71.4% of HSCTs, and sibling in 28.6%. All conditioning regimens  
150 included in-vivo lymphocyte depletion with alemtuzumab (89.3%) or antithymocyte  
151 globulin (ATG) (10.7%). Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD) was present in 28.6% of  
152 participants, which was limited to stage 1 acute skin GVHD(17.9%) or mild chronic  
153 skin GVHD (10.7%) in all cases. A minority of participants had been treated with  
154 rituximab (10.7%) or intravenous immunoglobulin (7.1%) in the last 12 months.

155

156 *SIIV Immunogenicity*

157 *Geometric mean titres (GMT) and geometric mean ratios (GMR)*

158 GMTs and GMRs of pre- and post-vaccination titres of A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and  
159 B(Phuket) Ab are shown in Table 2. The GMTs of A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) Ab  
160 were higher by CPE-VMN than HAI, and A(H1N1) GMTs were higher by ELISA-VMN  
161 than CPE-VMN, at both pre- and post-vaccination timepoints. However, none of the  
162 three assays detected a significant change in Ab titre following vaccination, as  
163 reflected in GMRs of pre- and post-vaccination Ab titres close to 1. In contrast,  
164 B(Phuket) GMTs were higher by HAI than CPE-VMN at both pre- and post-vaccination  
165 timepoints. Despite vaccination, there was a statistically significant decline in  
166 B(Phuket)-specific Ab titres from pre- to post- vaccination by both HAI (15.17 v  
167 11.89,  $p=0.017$ ) and CPE-VMN (6.98 v 6.25,  $p=0.018$ ) with similar GMRs of 0.78 (95%  
168 CI 0.62-0.94) and 0.89 (0.82-0.96) by both assays.

169

170 *Frequency of detectable Ab titres and frequency of seroconversions*

171 Considering both pre- and post-vaccination values, 25/56 (44.6%) serum samples had  
172 detectable Ab against H1N1(pdm09) by HAI compared with 31 (55.4%) by CPE-VMN  
173 and 38 (67.9%) by ELISA-VMN. For H3N2, 32 (57.1%) serum samples had detectable  
174 Ab by HAI versus 54 (96.4%) by VMN, while for B(Phuket) equivalent values are 27  
175 (48.2%) by HAI versus 12 (21.4%) by VMN. No seroconversions to any vaccine  
176 component were detected by HAI assay or CPE-VMN. A single seroconversion was  
177 detected by ELISA-VMN in a patient vaccinated at 9 weeks post-HSCT.

178

179 *HAI titres  $\geq 40$*

180 The frequency of patients with HAI Ab titres  $\geq 40$  are displayed by vaccination time-  
181 point in Table 3. Pre-vaccination, 50% of participants had HAI Ab titres  $\geq 40$  against  
182 any single vaccine component. Frequency of HAI Ab titre  $\geq 40$  was highest in those  
183 vaccinated at 0-3 months (60.0%) and lowest at 6-12 months (28.6%) although this  
184 trend was not statistically significant ( $p=0.39$ ). As seroprotective titres for CPE and  
185 ELISA-VMN have not been defined, equivalent data are not presented for these  
186 assays.

187

188 *Relationship between HAI and VMN titres*

189 Statistically significant correlation was observed between HAI and VMN titres for all  
190 3 strains ( $p<0.001$ ). From the linear regression equation, CPE-VMN titres equivalent  
191 to an HAI titre of 40 were estimated as 65.18 (95%CI 42.33-100.36) for  
192 A(H1N1)pdm09, 366.77 (95% CI 105.41-1276.12) for A(H3N2), and 10.17 (95% CI  
193 7.74-13.36) for B(Phuket). For A(H1N1)pdm09, the ELISA-VMN titre equivalent to an  
194 HAI titre of 40 was 164.10 (95% CI 86.37-311.78).

195

196 Discussion

197 In this study, the immunogenicity of the 2015-2016 SIIV was evaluated in HSCT  
198 recipients using the HAI and VMN assays. This is the first study to report VMN data

199 in this patient group. A limitation of this study is that it did not include a comparator  
200 arm of immunocompetent participants.

201 GMTs for A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) determined by VMN were statistically  
202 significantly higher than by HAI, suggesting VMN may provide a more sensitive assay  
203 to detect influenza-specific antibody titres in this population. The estimated VMN  
204 equivalent of an HAI titre of 40 was 65.18 (95% CI 42.33-100.36) for CPE endpoint  
205 and 164.10 for ELISA endpoint . Previous studies of H1N1(A/Brisbane/59/2007) in a  
206 paediatric population, and A(H1N1)pdm09 in a healthy adult population using an  
207 ELISA-based VMN, estimated that titres of 200 and 211 respectively were equivalent  
208 to an HAI titre of 40[27,28]. The same paediatric study estimated that VMN titre of  
209 140 was equivalent to HAI titre of 40 for H3N2(A/Brisbane/10/2007). In a small  
210 study of patients infected by H3N2(A/SouthAfrica/114/95/7), GMTs by HAI and  
211 ELISA-based VMN were 29.19 and 362.98 respectively[29]. The comparative  
212 A(H3N2) HAI and VMN titres in this present study are similar to these previous  
213 findings, while for A(H1N1)pdm09 our estimate is lower. For A(H1N1)pdm09, an  
214 ELISA-based VMN appears to offer greater sensitivity than a CPE-VMN for detection  
215 of strain-specific Ab. A(H3N2) viruses have been the dominant circulating strains and  
216 a component of the SIV since at least 1998[30], while the A(H1N1)pdm09 virus is by  
217 definition antigenically dissimilar to H1N1 strains preceding 2009. The presence of  
218 cross-reacting neutralizing Ab to A(H3N2) from previous exposure may explain why  
219 the titres by VMN were markedly higher than for the more recent A(H1N1)pdm09  
220 virus.

221 For B(Phuket) the VMN assay GMT was statistically significantly lower than the HAI  
222 titre. The estimated equivalent VMN titre of HAI 40 was 10.17 (95% CI 7.74-13.36). A  
223 previous study comparing HAI and VMN reported increased rates of seroconversion  
224 by VMN compared with HAI but equivalent GMTs were not reported[23]. Several  
225 previous studies have documented low sensitivity of the HAI assay when using  
226 influenza B virus, which can partially be overcome by ether-treatment of the  
227 antigen[31–33]. Ether treatment cleaves the virion and increases Ab binding  
228 sites[32,34] however the virion is rendered unable to replicate and therefore  
229 unsuitable for use in VMN assay. We used the same egg-grown B(Phuket) virus  
230 batch in both HAI and VMN assays to improve comparability of the data, and applied  
231 antigen modification with ether treatment to the part of the virus batch to be used  
232 in the HAI to optimise assay sensitivity. This may account for the relative  
233 insensitivity of VMN compared with the HAI in our study.

234 In this study population, seroconversion by HAI was completely absent for all 3  
235 vaccine components, while the more sensitive ELISA-VMN detected a single  
236 seroconversion in a patient vaccinated within the first 3 months of HSCT. Pauksen et  
237 al. observed seroconversion rates by HAI to SIV administered within 12 months  
238 post-HSCT of 31% for A(H1N1), 9% for A(H3N2), and 20% for influenza B.

239 Conditioning intensity, HSC source and use of lymphocyte depletion were not  
240 reported[12]. Karras et al reported low seroconversion rates of 0% to A(H3N2), 6%  
241 for A(H1N1) and 8% for Influenza B[13]. In this study 44.6% of patients received RIC  
242 and the remainder myeloablative conditioning (MAC) and none received lymphocyte  
243 deplete grafts. In bone marrow alloHSCT recipients who universally received

244 lymphocyte deplete grafts, no seroconversions were reported in the first 6 month  
245 post-HSCT[11]. In our present study, universal in-vivo lymphocyte depletion may  
246 have impacted on vaccine immunogenicity. Both alemtuzumab and ATG are broadly  
247 immunosuppressive with activity beyond the target T-cell compartment[35], and In  
248 vivo lymphocyte depletion with these agents may contribute to delayed immune  
249 reconstitution and an increased risk of viral infection[36,37]. In the solid organ  
250 transplant setting, a trend towards poorer response to SIV in patients vaccinated  
251 within a year of receiving ATG has been reported[38]. The median age in our study  
252 was 57.8, compared with 21-40.8 [11,13] in the studies above. Older age is  
253 associated with poorer influenza vaccine immunogenicity in the general population  
254 and this may have been a contributing factor to the poor response in this study  
255 population[39].

256 Despite vaccination, rates of titre  $\geq 40$  by HAI were stable from pre- to post-  
257 vaccination for A(H3N2) and fell for A(H1N1) and B(Phuket). Baseline seroprotection  
258 rates were 28.6% for A(H1N1)pdm09, 14.3% for A(H3N2), 32.1% for B(Phuket) and  
259 50% to any 1 or more strain. In an immunogenicity study of the monovalent  
260 A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccine, Issa and colleagues reported seroresponse rates to the  
261 study vaccine, but also HAI titres  $\geq 40$  to the seasonal influenza strains. These  
262 ranged from 20.7% for Influenza B to 57.4% for A(H3N2). However, these patients  
263 were evaluated at 2.5 to 92.7 months post-HSCT, and some had received the  
264 seasonal IIV in previous post-HSCT influenza seasons. In contrast, patients in this  
265 current study were all seasonal IIV naïve following HSCT. Other studies have  
266 reported baseline seroprotection rates to Influenza A and B of 12-16%[12] and 0-

267 29%[40]. Pre-vaccination rates of HAI titre  $\geq$  40 fell with time from HSCT (60% at 0-3  
268 months, 50% at 3-6 months, 28.6% at 6-12 months) and this is consistent with  
269 previous studies that have reported a waning of disease specific Ab within the first-  
270 year post-HSCT. Although we did not compare pre- with post-HSCT titres, our  
271 findings suggest that pre-HSCT vaccination may be an approach to protecting  
272 recipients during the first few months post-HSCT when they are most vulnerable. A  
273 study investigating this approach has shown seroresponse rates of 22.9% (H1N1)  
274 and 25% (H3 and B Ag) when recipients were vaccinated 10 days pre-HSCT[41].

275 None of the evaluated patient characteristics correlated with seroresponse  
276 measures or with GMT or GMRs (data not shown). Neither active GvHD nor  
277 concomitant IST correlated with post-vaccination HAI titre  $\geq$  40. An association  
278 between IST, GvHD and response to influenza vaccination has not been identified  
279 consistently. Our findings are in agreement with previous studies reporting low  
280 response by HAI in the first 12 months. While Karras and colleagues suggest that  
281 equivalent seroconversion rates to 1 or more strains at 2-6 and 6-12 months (12 % v  
282 30% p=0.43)[13] may justify early vaccination, our findings of almost entirely absent  
283 humoral response throughout the first year would argue against this strategy in RIC  
284 PBSC lymphocyte deplete alloHSCT recipients.

285

## 286 Conclusions

287 In conclusion, this is the first study to use the VMN assay to assess the  
288 immunogenicity of seasonal IIV in HSCT recipients. The CPE and ELISA VMN detected

289 Ab in more serum samples than HAI, and GMTs were statistically significantly higher  
290 by VMN than HAI for A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2). However, for influenza B, GMTs  
291 were lower by VMN than an ether-modified HAI. The ELISA-VMN detected a single  
292 seroconversion to A(H1N1)pdm09. This limited seroresponse to trivalent SIIV  
293 administered in the first-year post-HSCT in a cohort of RIC PBSC alloHSCT recipients  
294 who underwent in-vivo lymphocyte depletion suggests that a more tailored  
295 approach to vaccination may be desirable, although future studies to define clinical  
296 and immunological predictors of response to vaccine are required. Furthermore,  
297 there is a clear need for novel immunogenic vaccination schedules and vaccine  
298 formulations in this patient group. Early phase studies of high-dose seasonal  
299 influenza vaccines have shown promising results[42]. In line with CHMP  
300 recommendations, consideration should be given to using the VMN assay to assess  
301 immunological response to SIIV in such future studies, and combining this with  
302 clinical efficacy data may define seroprotective VMN titres. The VMN assay may  
303 provide useful data in other immunocompromised patient groups such as recipients  
304 of chemo- or immunotherapies and future studies are warranted.

305

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**Table 1. Characteristics of n=28 Study Participants**

<b>Characteristic (n=28)</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Age at HSCT, median (range), (IQR)</b>	57.8 (38.0-72.1), (12.7)
<b>Gender male, n(%)</b>	15 (53.6)
<b>Diagnosis, n (%)</b>	
Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL)	3 (10.7)
Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML)	14 (50.0)
Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL)	1 (3.6)
Chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia (CMML)	1 (3.6)
Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)	4 (14.3)
Myelofibrosis (MF)	2(7.1)
Multiple myeloma (MM)	1 (3.6)
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL)	2 (7.1)
<b>Donor type, n (%)</b>	
Sibling donor	8 (28.6)
Volunteer unrelated donor (VUD)	20 (71.4)
<b>Stem cell source, n (%)</b>	
Peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC)	28 (100)
<b>Conditioning Intensity, n (%)</b>	

Reduced intensity	28 (100)
<b>Lymphocyte depletion, n (%)</b>	
Alemtuzumab	25 (89.3)
Antithymocyte globulin (ATG)	3 (10.7)
<b>Days from HSCT to vaccination, median (range), (IQR)</b>	
	78.5 (24-363), (136)
<b>Months from HSCT to vaccination, n (%)</b>	
0-3	15(53.6)
>3-6	6 (21.4)
>6-12	7 (25)
<b>Lymphocyte count (x10<sup>9</sup>) at vaccination, median (range), (IQR)</b>	
	0.57 (0.02-2.98),(0.63)
<b>Graft versus host disease at vaccination, n(%)</b>	
Acute (stage 1, skin)	5 (17.9)
Chronic (mild, skin)	3 (10.7)
<b>Immunosuppressive therapy (IST) at vaccination, n(%)</b>	
Any IST	18 (64.3)
Single agent	13 (46.4)
Dual agent	4 (14.3)
Triple agent	1 (3.6)
<b>Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg) in last 12 months, n(%)</b>	
	2 (7.1)
<b>Rituximab in last 12 months, n(%)</b>	
	3 (10.7)

**Table 2. Geometric Mean Titres (GMT), Geometric Mean Ratios (GMR), percentage of seroconversions and percentage of titres  $\geq 40$  of A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and B(Phuket) antibodies by Haemagglutination (HAI) and Virus Microneutralisation (VMN) assays. Value (95% Confidence interval).**

	Vaccine Component		
	A(H1N1)pdm09	A(H3N2)	B(Phuket)
<b>HAI</b>			
GMT pre-vaccination	12.65 (7.94-21.67)	11.46 (7.76-18.05)	15.17 (9.31-35.41)
GMT post-vaccination	11.45 (7.44-19.06)	11.60 (8.07-17.89)	11.89 (7.54-20.50)
GMR	0.91 (0.78-1.03)	1.01 (0.93-1.11)	0.78(0.62-0.94)
% seroconversion	0	0	0
% Pre-vaccination HAI $\geq 40$	28.6 (8)	14.3 (4)	32.1 (9)
% Post Vacc HAI $\geq 40$	25.0 (7)	14.3 (4)	25.0 (7)
<b>CPE-VMN</b>			
GMT pre-vaccination	16.82 (9.26-33.22)	129.64(70.62-241.87)	6.98 (5.54-9.14)
GMT post-vaccination	16.41 (9.76-30.55)	118.88 (67.68-212.68)	6.25 (5.20-7.69)
GMR	0.98 (0.82-1.17)	0.92 (0.74-1.11)	0.89 (0.82-0.96)
% seroconversion	0	0	0
<b>ELISA-VMN</b>			
GMT pre-vaccination	34.43 (16-85-75.68)		
GMT post-vaccination	32.87 (16.80-68.49)		
GMR	0.95 (0.74-1.11)		
% seroconversion	3.6 (1)		

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**Table 3. Proportion of patients with pre and post-vaccination haemagglutination inhibition (HAI) antibody (Ab) titres  $\geq 40$**

Vaccine Component	Vaccination timepoint, months	Pre-Vaccination titres $\geq 40$ , n (%)	Post-Vaccination, $\geq 40$ , n (%)
A(H1N1)pdm09	<3 (n=15)	5 (33.3)	4 (26.7)
	3-6 (n=6)	2 (33.3)	2 (33.3)
	6-12 (n=7)	1 (14.3)	1 (14.3)
	<b>Total</b>	8 (28.6)	7 (25.0)
A(H3N2)	<3 (n=15)	2 (13.3)	2 (13.3)
	3-6 (n=6)	1 (16.7)	1 (16.7)
	6-12 (n=7)	1 (14.3)	1 (14.3)
	<b>Total</b>	4 (14.3)	4 (14.3)
B(Phuket)	<3 (n=15)	6 (40.0)	4 (26.7)
	3-6 (n=6)	1 (16.7)	1 (16.7)
	6-12 (n=7)	2 (28.6)	2 (28.6)
	<b>Total</b>	9 (32.1)	7(25.0)

≥ any one vaccine component	<3 (n=15)	9 (60.0)	9 (60.0)
	3-6 (n=6)	3 (50.0)	3 (50.0)
	6-12 (n=7)	2 (28.6)	2 (28.6)
	<b>Total</b>	14 (50)	14 (50.0)

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