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**Session: 254. Vaccines for the Elderly and Immune Compromised**  
**Saturday, October 6, 2018: 12:30 PM**

**Background.** Herpes zoster (HZ) and its related complications are associated with a significant burden of illness in older adults, which negatively impacts patients' physical functioning and quality-of-life (QoL). The recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV) shows high efficacy for the prevention of HZ in older adults but is associated with local and systemic reactions. Therefore, this study assessed the impact of RZV reactogenicity upon the physical functioning and QoL of participants.

**Methods.** 401 adults aged ≥50 years received a dose of RZV at 0 and 2 months in this open-label, single-arm, multicenter study (NCT02979639). Changes in mean SF-36 Physical Functioning score were assessed between pre-dose-1 vaccination and post-dose-1 vaccination for 7 days (primary endpoint). Decreased scores are associated with decreased physical functioning. QoL, reactogenicity and safety were also assessed. The current analysis was performed post-dose-1 vaccination of the 2-dose RZV schedule.

**Results.** No clinically meaningful reductions in overall mean SF-36 Physical Functioning scores from pre- to post-RZV dose-1 were observed (mean +1.9 points) and no overall quality-adjusted-life-year loss was recorded post-dose-1. However, grade 3 reactogenicity occurred in 9.5% of participants, and was associated with a transient, clinically-important decrease in SF-36 Physical Functioning score (impacting activities such as walking, carrying groceries, climbing stairs) on Days 1–2 post-first-vaccination (Table 1). The solicited local symptoms were pain (77.5%), redness (23.0%) and swelling (13.3%); the most frequent solicited systemic reactions were fatigue (33.5%), headache (28.3%) and myalgia (26.8%).

**Conclusion.** Overall, the physical functioning and QoL of older adults were not significantly affected by a first RZV dose. Grade 3 reactogenicity was associated with a small transient decrease in physical functioning 1–2 days post-dose-1 that resolved by Day 3 post-vaccination.

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**Table 1. Mean SF-36 Physical Functioning scores pre- and post-first vaccination by day, reactogenicity grade and symptom type (total vaccinated cohort)**

| Day                     | Grade 0<br>N=64 | Grade 1 or 2<br>N=299 | Grade 3<br>N=38 | No symptoms<br>N=64 | Local symptoms<br>N=321 | Systemic symptoms<br>N=220 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Pre-vaccination</b>  |                 |                       |                 |                     |                         |                            |
| -7                      | 76.8            | 82.8                  | 75.5            | 76.8                | 81.8                    | 81.8                       |
| 0                       | 82.3            | 84.3                  | 75.8            | 82.3                | 83.5                    | 82.8                       |
| <b>Post-vaccination</b> |                 |                       |                 |                     |                         |                            |
| 1                       | 84.8            | 84.1                  | 65.2            | 84.8                | 82.0                    | 79.7                       |
| 2                       | 84.7            | 85.5                  | 68.0            | 84.7                | 83.8                    | 82.3                       |
| 3                       | 84.9            | 85.7                  | 74.8            | 84.9                | 84.5                    | 83.7                       |
| 4                       | 84.8            | 85.6                  | 75.7            | 84.8                | 84.5                    | 83.6                       |
| 5                       | 85.0            | 85.7                  | 77.2            | 85.0                | 84.8                    | 84.0                       |
| 6                       | 85.0            | 85.7                  | 74.7            | 85.0                | 84.5                    | 83.7                       |
| 7                       | 83.1            | 85.4                  | 75.5            | 83.1                | 84.7                    | 82.9                       |

Norms of SF-36 Physical Functioning scores in the US for ages 45–54, 55–64, 65–74 and 75–89 are 0.80, 0.78, 0.78 and 0.76, respectively (Fryback et al. Med Care. 2007;45(12):1162–70). High scores represent high level of functioning/quality-of-life; N, total number of vaccinated participants; Reactogenicity grading: 0 (none/normal); 1 (mild); 2 (moderate); 3 (severe; prevents normal activity); for swelling/redness: greatest surface diameter, 0 (<20mm); 1 (20–55mm); 2 (50–5100mm); 3 (>100mm); for temperature: 0 (<37.5°C); 1 (37.5–38.0°C); 2 (38.1–39.0°C); 3 (>39.0°C); Participants were characterized according to maximum reactogenicity grade reported within 7 days post-dose 1

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**2490. A Phase 1, Randomized, Observer Blind, Antigen and Adjuvant Dosage Finding Study to Evaluate the Safety and Immunogenicity of an Adjuvanted, Trivalent Subunit Influenza Vaccine in Elderly Subjects ≥65 Years of Age**

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**Background.** Influenza virus infection in the elderly remains one of the ten leading causes of death. One successful strategy to enhance the magnitude of their influenza vaccine immune response has been the addition of the adjuvant MF59<sup>®</sup>.

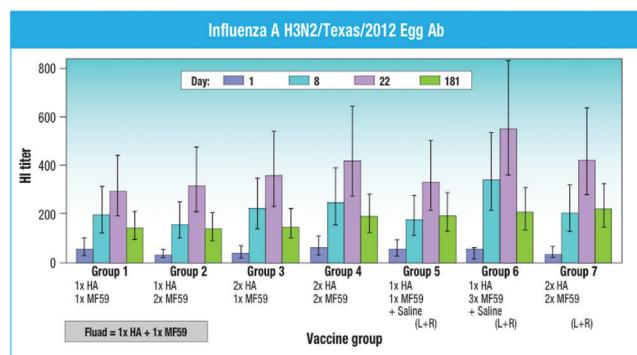
**Methods.** 196 subjects ≥ 65 years of age were enrolled in a dose ranging study with seven treatment arms to assess the safety and immunogenicity of the current

formulation of aTIV compared with aTIV-modified formulations in which the dosage of MF59 was doubled or tripled and/or the dosage of the three influenza virus strains (A/H1N1, A/H3N2, and B) was doubled. Vaccine was administered by single or bilateral deltoid inoculations. The antibody responses to all three influenza virus vaccine strains were compared 21 days after a dose or doses of aTIV or aTIV-modified formulations, as measured by hemagglutination inhibition (HI) assay and microneutralization (MN) assay.

**Results.** In general, HI and MN titers at Day 22 increased to a greater degree with the dosage of MF59 compared with that of HA (HI presented in Figure 1). This was evident when comparing the HI and MN titers where antigen content was a constant 45 µg, but MF59 dose ranged from 9.75, 19.5 to 29.25 mg in a single vaccine dose (Group 1, 2 and 6, respectively). Generally, the highest titers against all strains were evident with the highest MF59 dose (29.25 mg). The relationship of antigen content and immunogenicity of the vaccine was less apparent when comparing titers between groups in which HA antigen content doubled from 45 to 90 µg. Administering the dose of MF59 (19.5 mg) and TIV (90 µg) into either a single arm or dividing between two arms resulted in comparable titers. The incidence of solicited AEs tended to increase with the dose of MF59 and to a lesser degree, antigen. The majority of solicited AEs were mild to moderate in severity. The number of unsolicited AEs were similar across the different dosages used in this trial.

**Conclusion.** In elderly subjects ≥65 years of age, increase in MF59 dose is associated with increased immunogenicity against all 3 components of seasonal influenza vaccine.

**Figure 1.** Geometric mean titer (HI) against influenza A/H3N2/Texas/2012 according to dose of MF59 and HA.



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**2491. Post-Exposure Prophylaxis With Ribavirin Plus Lopinavir/Ritonavir for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in Healthcare Workers**

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**Session: 255. Virology Potpourri**

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**Background.** In 2015, an outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection occurred in South Korea involving 186 patients, 39 of whom were healthcare workers (HCWs) exposed to the infection. An effective post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) strategy may limit the spread of infection; however, there is no consensus regarding PEP for MERS-CoV infection. In this study, we assessed (1) the efficacy of oral ribavirin and lopinavir/ritonavir as PEP for HCWs exposed to patients with severe MERS-CoV pre-isolation pneumonia, and (2) safety of the PEP regimen.

**Methods.** We retrospectively enrolled 43 HCWs with high-risk exposure to MERS-CoV from 5 hospitals affected during this outbreak in South Korea. The rate of MERS-CoV infection was compared between 22 workers at 1 hospital who received PEP consisting of oral ribavirin and lopinavir/ritonavir after exposure to patients with severe MERS-CoV pre-isolation pneumonia and 21 workers at other hospitals who did not receive PEP.

**Results.** Six workers (14%) developed MERS-CoV infection; all of these subjects belonged to the non-PEP group. The attack rate was lower in the PEP group compared with the non-PEP group (0% vs. 28.6%; Odds ratio = 0.405, 95% confidence interval = 0.274–0.599; P = 0.009). The most commonly reported side effects of PEP therapy were nausea and diarrhea, but there were no severe adverse effects associated with PEP therapy.

**Conclusion.** PEP with a combination of oral ribavirin and lopinavir/ritonavir appears to be effective and generally safe for preventing MERS-CoV infection after high-risk exposure in healthcare workers.

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## 2492. Clinical, Virologic, and Immunologic Characteristics of Zika Virus Infection in a Cohort of US Patients

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**Background.** The clinical, virologic and immunologic characteristics of Zika virus (ZIKV) infections in US patients are poorly defined.

**Methods.** US patients with suspected Zika virus (ZIKV) infection were enrolled and clinical data and specimens were prospectively collected. Body fluids were tested for ZIKV RNA by PCR and blood was tested using serologic and cellular immune assays. Findings from those with confirmed ZIKV infections (cases) and ZIKV-negative controls were compared.

**Results.** We enrolled 45 cases and 14 controls. The most commonly reported symptoms among cases and controls were maculopapular rash (97.8% and 81.8%), fatigue (86.7% and 81.8%) and arthralgia (82.2% and 54.5%), respectively. The sensitivity and duration of detection by PCR were highest in whole blood samples (94% of 35 cases who had samples collected up to day 79 post illness onset were positive); strikingly, 84% of those were still positive at 65–79 days post illness onset (Figure 1). ZIKV neutralizing antibodies were detected in all cases and none of the controls, and titers were significantly higher in dengue virus (DENV)-experienced subjects than in DENV-naïve ones (Figure 2). Among cases, anti-ZIKV IgG antibodies were also significantly higher in DENV-experienced patients, while anti-ZIKV IgM antibodies were no higher in DENV-experienced compared with naïve ones. Using intracellular cytokine staining, the highest frequencies of T cells producing IFN-γ, IL-2 and/or TNF-α were against the NS1, NS3, and NS5 proteins for CD4+ T cells, and against the E, NS3, and NS5 proteins for CD8+ T cells (Figure 3).

**Conclusion.** Detection of ZIKV RNA was more frequent and much more prolonged in whole blood samples compared with other body fluids. Diagnostic molecular assays on this easily obtained fluid should be prioritized for point-of-care development. Robust cellular responses to E, NS3 and NS5 proteins could have implications for vaccine development.

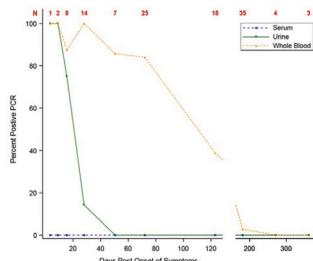


Figure 1. Percent of Zika virus infected patients with a positive PCR in whole blood, urine and serum by day post onset of symptoms. N represents the number of subjects with the specified body fluid at the specified time point.

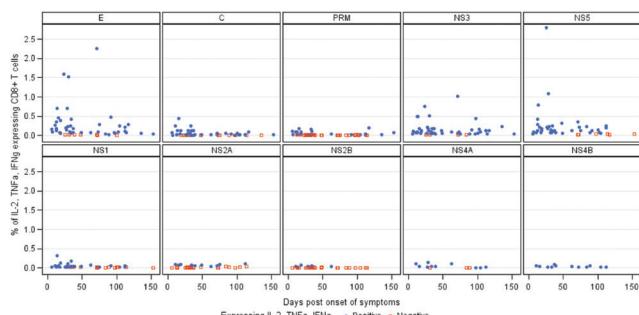


Figure 2. Percent of CD8+ T cells expressing IL-2, TNF-α and IFN-γ following stimulation with the specified proteins in cases (positive) and controls (negative).

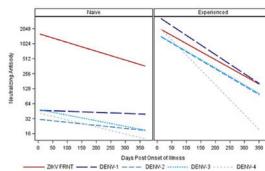


Figure 3. Neutralizing antibody titers by days post onset of illness in Dengue virus-naïve and experienced patients with confirmed Zika virus infection. FRNT=focus reduction neutralizing test.

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## 2493. Marburg Virus Disease: Virulence of Angola vs. Musoke Strain in Cynomolgus Macaques

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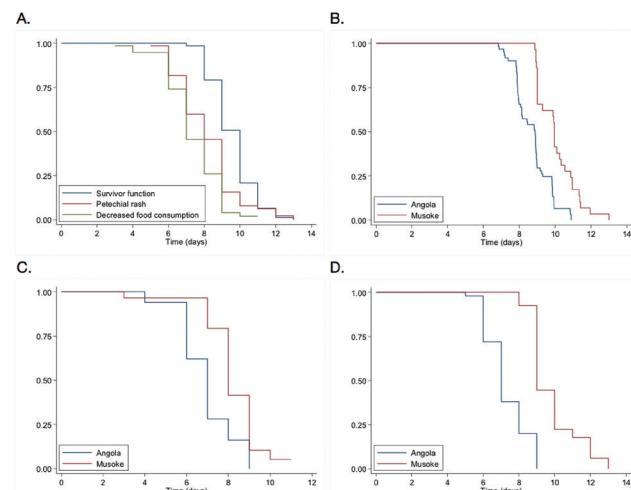
**Background.** From 2004 to 2005, an outbreak of Marburg virus, a filovirus, in Angola led to a case-fatality rate of 90 percent. However, little information is available regarding the virulence of the Angola strain from this outbreak compared with the virulence of other strains. Therefore, we sought to assess time to selected outcomes in non-human primates (NHPs) experimentally infected with either Angola or Musoke Marburg strains.

**Methods.** Between 2012 and 2017, nine therapeutic trials at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases were conducted in *Macaca fascicularis* monkeys challenged with 1 to 10,000 plaque forming units of Marburg virus administered intramuscularly. The current study population was comprised of 90 control NHPs, of which, 61 were administered Angola strain in four separate trials and 29 with Musoke strain in five trials. Clinical responses including development of rash and oral intake were collected following infection. The primary outcome of interest was time to death or euthanasia post-inoculation between strains evaluated using Cox proportional hazards regression. Secondary endpoints included time to development of a petechial rash and time to decreased appetite.

**Results.** Following Marburg virus challenge, all NHPs died and most NHPs experienced decreased food consumption (97%), and petechial rash (96%). The median time to death for Angola-infected NHPs was 8.9 days (25th, 75th percentiles: 7.9, 9.3), whereas Musoke-infected NHPs survived for a median of 10.0 days (25th, 75th percentiles: 9.0, 10.9) (Figure 1). Irrespective of strain, petechial rash was preceded by decreased food consumption by 0.7 days (SD 1.5) on average. Angola strain was associated with statistically significant earlier death (adjusted HR = 21.8; 95% CI: 8.9, 53.2), earlier development of petechiae (adjusted HR = 17.6; 95% CI: 7.0, 44.5) and earlier loss of appetite (adjusted HR = 5.8; 95% CI: 2.9, 11.7).

**Conclusion.** This was the first study to compare survival and clinical characteristics in NHPs between these strains. Despite sharing the similar genetic lineage, our data strongly supports increased virulence of Angola strain compared with Musoke strain. Pathophysiological mechanisms involved in increased virulence require further study.

**Figure 1.** Kaplan Meier survival curves in Cynomolgus macaques for A) overall time to death, petechial rash, and decreased food consumption (n=77); B) time to death by strain (n=90); C) time to decreased food consumption by strain (n=79); D) time to petechial rash by strain (n=77).



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