

RBDCOV GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Active Substance	The main ingredient in the vaccine that is responsible for its effect.
Adjuvant	An ingredient (a substance or group of substances) used in some vaccines that helps create a stronger immune response.
Antibody	A protective protein, produced by the immune system in order to fight harmful pathogens such as toxins, microorganisms (in this case viruses) or cancer cells.
Antigen	Antigen is a structure (usually a protein) recognised by the immune system that will trigger the production of antibodies and other reactions of the immune system.
Autoimmune Disease	Autoimmune disease happens when the body's natural defence system cannot tell the difference between your own cells and foreign cells, causing the immune system to mistakenly attack normal cells.
Biobank	A biobank is a repository of biological samples (i.e., blood, tissues, DNA material, various cells, etc.), stored for a variable amount of time, usually for research purposes.
Biochemical Analysis	Analysis that allows to looking at the specific properties of biological material.
Booster	The effectiveness of any vaccination wanes over time. Booster vaccinations are meant to bring back the immune response to its original level or even better.
CD4-Cells	CD4-cells are a type of white blood cells that are needed to direct and coordinate the complex reactions of the immune system.
Clinical Investigator	The person who is responsible for the conduct of a clinical trial.
Clinical Trial	Research in humans to assess the specific properties, safety and efficacy of a treatment, procedure or vaccine.
Comorbidity	Any other condition one might have beside the primary illness.
Dialysis	Dialysis is a procedure to remove waste products and excess fluid from the blood when the kidneys do not work properly.
Haematological Analysis	Analysis of the blood.



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Immune Response	Whenever the immune system detects a foreign invader (like bacteria, viruses or cancer cells), it reacts in order to protect the body.
Immunocompromised	Having a weakened immune system. People who are immunocompromised have a reduced ability to fight infections and other diseases.
Immunodeficiency	It is a state in which the immune system cannot react properly because it is weak(ened).
Immunogenicity	Immunogenicity is the ability of a substance to elicit an immune response.
Immunogens	Immunogens are substances that can elicit an immune response. Often synonymous with "antigen".
Immunoglobulins	Also called antibodies, immunoglobulins are proteins that can recognise and inactivate other structures (usually proteins).
Immunosuppressed	Having a weakened immune system. The same as "immunocompromised".
Medical Contraindication	When a certain medication or treatment is not suitable because of circumstances that could lead to a bad outcome.
Pathology	Pathology is the study of the causes and effects of disease or injury.
Phase III Study	Clinical trials are usually divided in three phases: Phase I looks at the safety in volunteers who do not have the targeted disease. Phase II aims to find the correct dose. Phase III looks at the safety and efficacy in a limited number of patients. Sometimes there are also Phase IV studies which are done after marketing authorisation.
Receptor Binding Domain	The structure of a protein that can attach to the specific part of the receptor protein that triggers a response.
Recombinant Protein	A protein that is made or boosted by genetic techniques (also known as gene therapy) in cells that usually would not produce this protein or would produce it in lower quantities.
RNA	"Ribonucleic acid" - While DNA stores genetic information in most organisms (except some viruses), RNA is the "working copy" that serves many purposes in the cells. However, in some viruses (like SARS-CoV-2), RNA is the carrier of genetic information.
Screening	Screening is the process of ensuring that the participants of the study match the eligibility criteria.



TERM	DEFINITION
Side Effects	Side effects are defined as any other reaction one might have to a medicament or vaccine besides the desired one.
Spike Protein	This is the surface protein that the SARS-CoV-2 virus uses to attach to and infect its target cells.
Viral Vaccines	A vaccine based on either an inactivated virus or an attenuated one (a weakened virus that does not cause disease).
Virus Variants	When new viruses are produced, there is always a certain amount of errors. When one of these errors by chance leads to a better survival chance of the virus, this "virus variant" will outperform the others and become dominant. The appearance of viral variants is always a reaction to selective pressure - either by the immune system or by drugs.
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