



# Global update on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness studies during Omicron

**Anshu Varma & Daniel Feikin**  
**Department of Immunization, Biologicals & Vaccines**  
**WHO headquarters**

Technical Consultation Meeting for the EM Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Studies

12–13 November 2023 | Cairo, Egypt

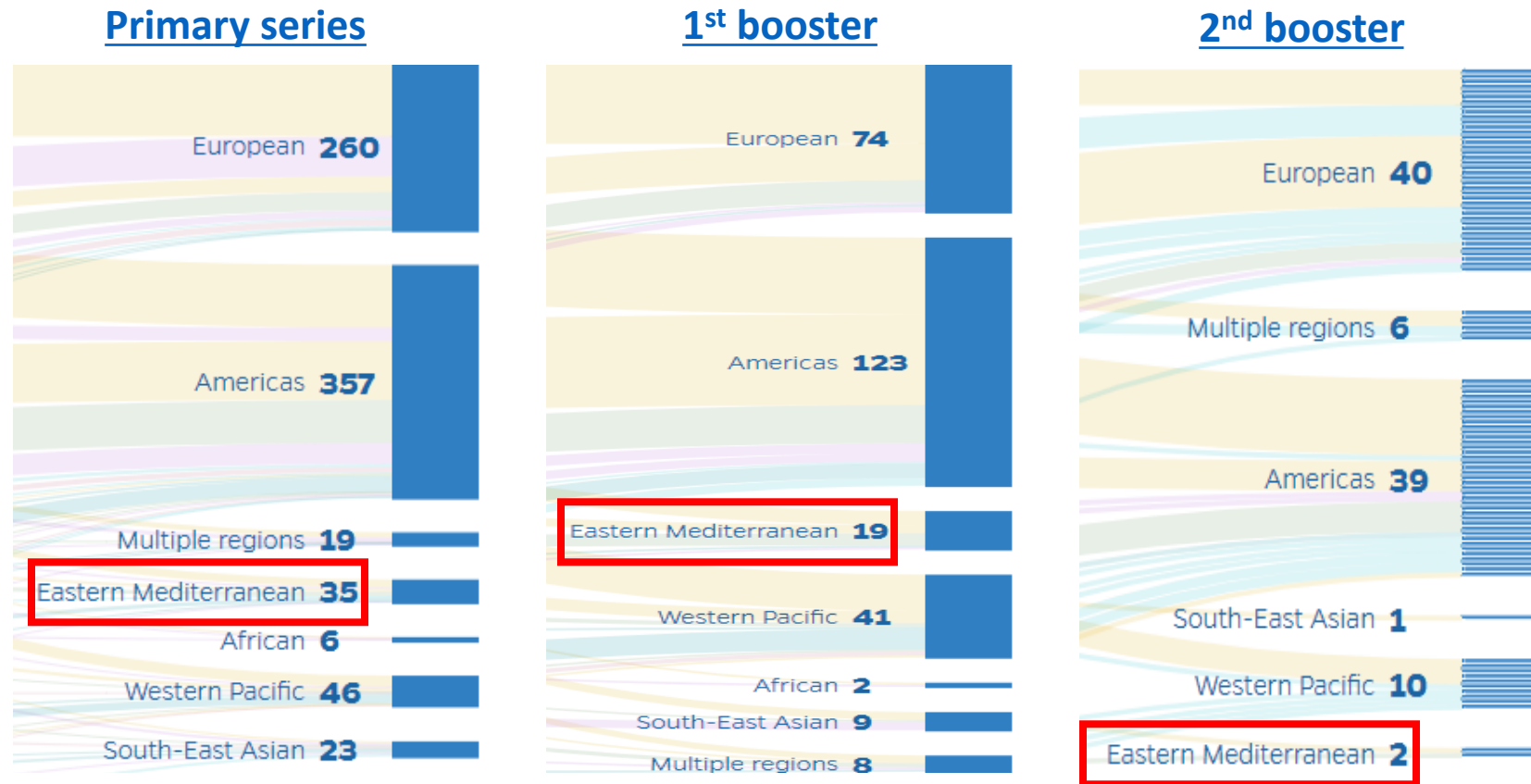
# Global questions on C-19 vaccine effectiveness (VE)

What is VE over time?

What is VE by vaccine?

What is VE against XBB?

# 525 VE studies across 50 countries as of Nov 2, 2023

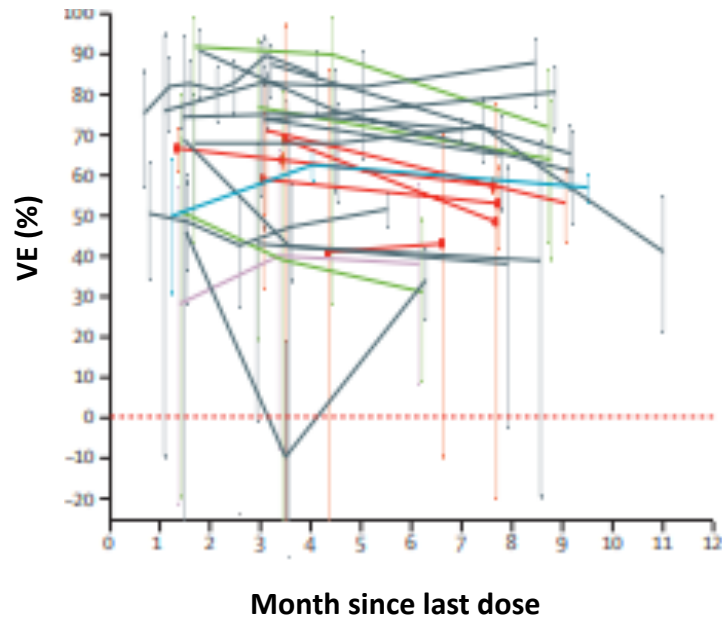


**28 VE studies across Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, UAE**

What is VE over time?

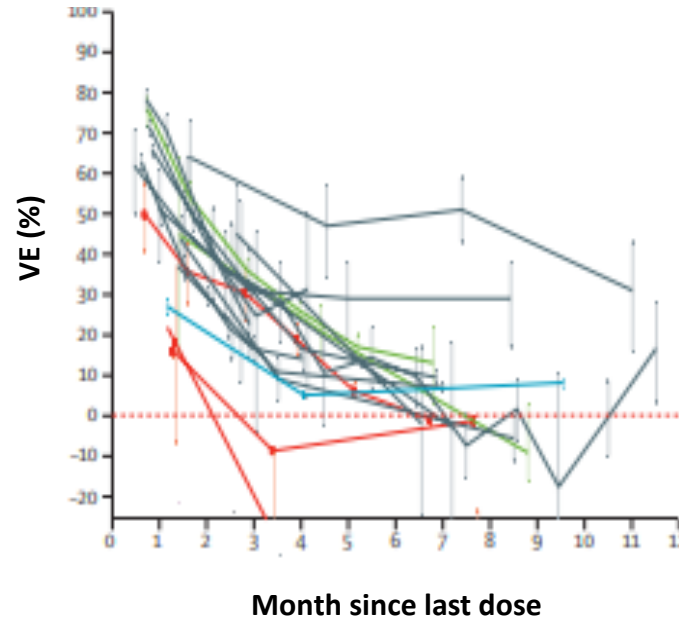
# VE of ancestral monovalent primary series

Severe disease



Average decline in VE from 1-6 months  
1.0 % point [-3.9 to 6.6]

Symptomatic disease

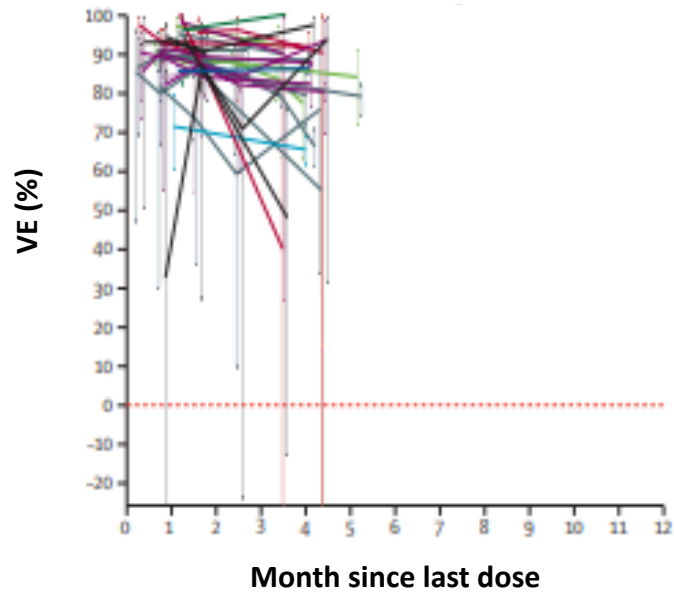


Average decline in VE from 1-6 months  
47.6 % points [36.6 to 60.2]

- Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca; all doses)
- Vaxzevria plus mRNA-1273 (Moderna) booster
- Vaxzevria plus Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) booster
- Ad26.COVID-2-S (Janssen; all doses)
- mRNA-1273 (all doses)
- mRNA-1273 plus Comirnaty booster
- Comirnaty (all doses)
- Comirnaty plus mRNA-1273 booster
- CoronaVac (Sinovac Life Sciences; all doses)
- CoronaVac plus Comirnaty booster

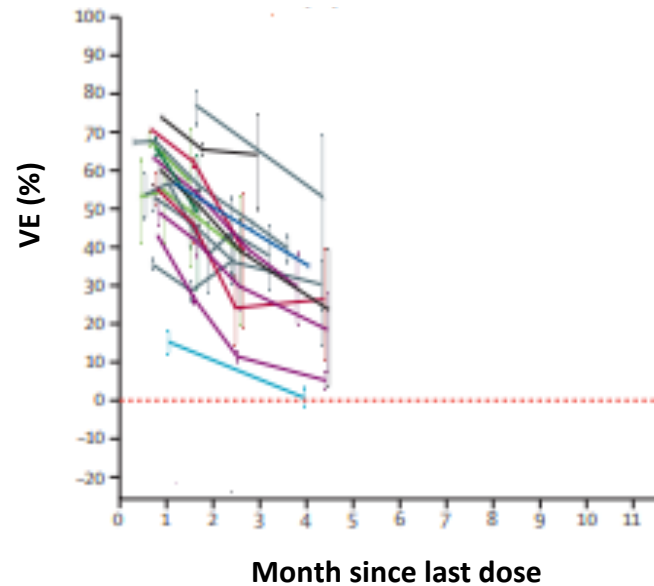
# VE of ancestral monovalent 1<sup>st</sup> booster

## Severe disease



Average decline in VE from 1-4 months  
5.3 % point [2.4 to 8.7]

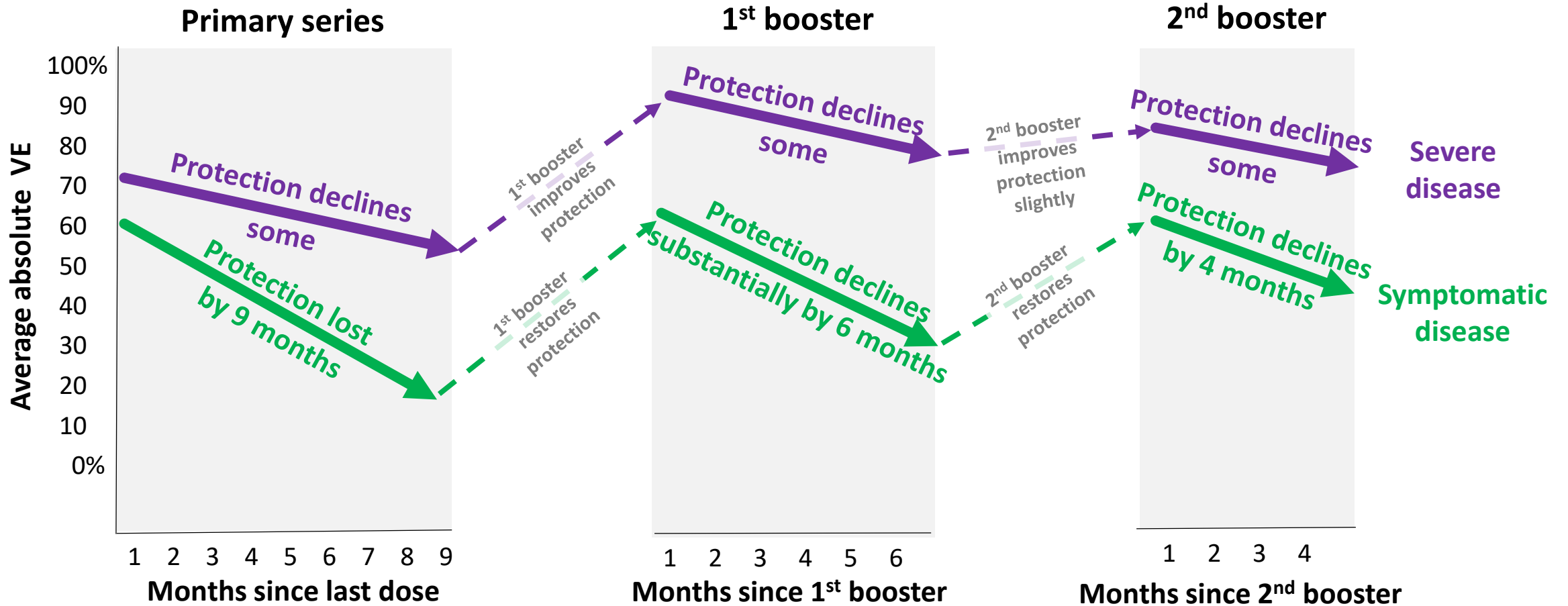
## Symptomatic disease



Average decline in VE from 1-4 months  
24.3 % points [19.9 to 29.1]

- Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca; all doses)
- Vaxzevria plus mRNA-1273 (Moderna) booster
- Vaxzevria plus Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) booster
- Ad26.COVS-2 (Janssen; all doses)
- mRNA-1273 (all doses)
- mRNA-1273 plus Comirnaty booster
- Comirnaty (all doses)
- Comirnaty plus mRNA-1273 booster
- CoronaVac (Sinovac Life Sciences; all doses)
- CoronaVac plus Comirnaty booster

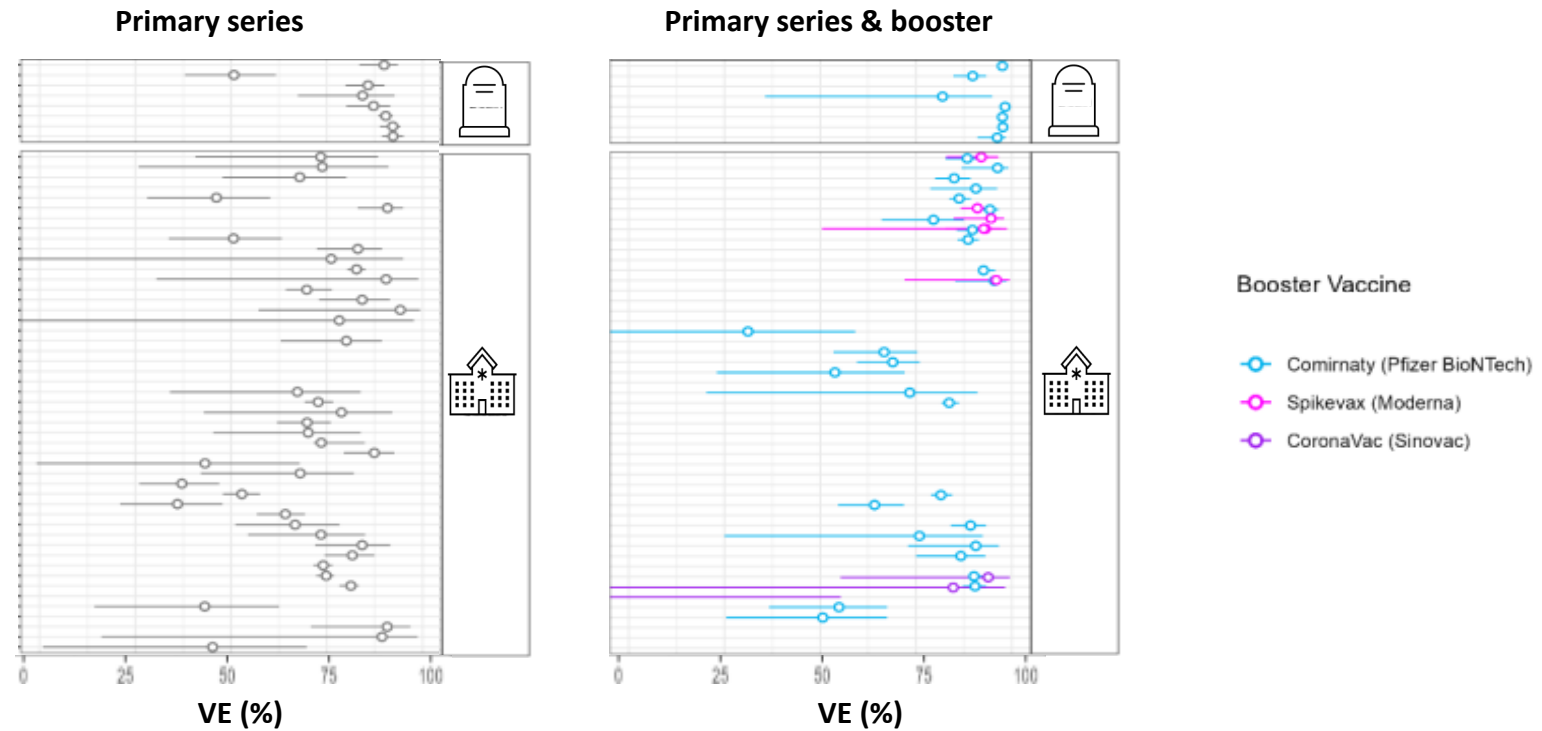
# VE of ancestral monovalent vaccines



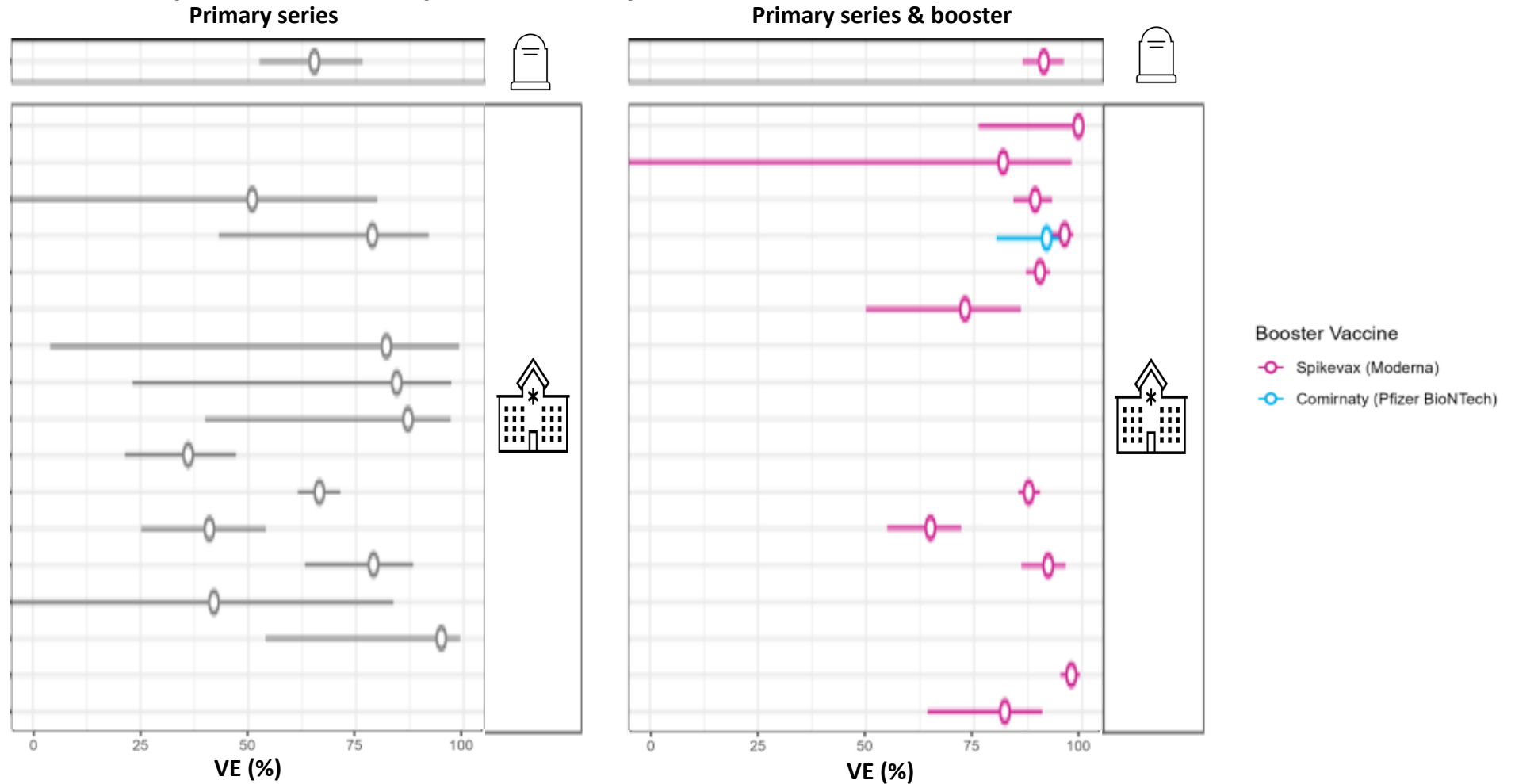
What is VE by vaccine?



# VE against severe outcomes by mRNA primary series – Pfizer

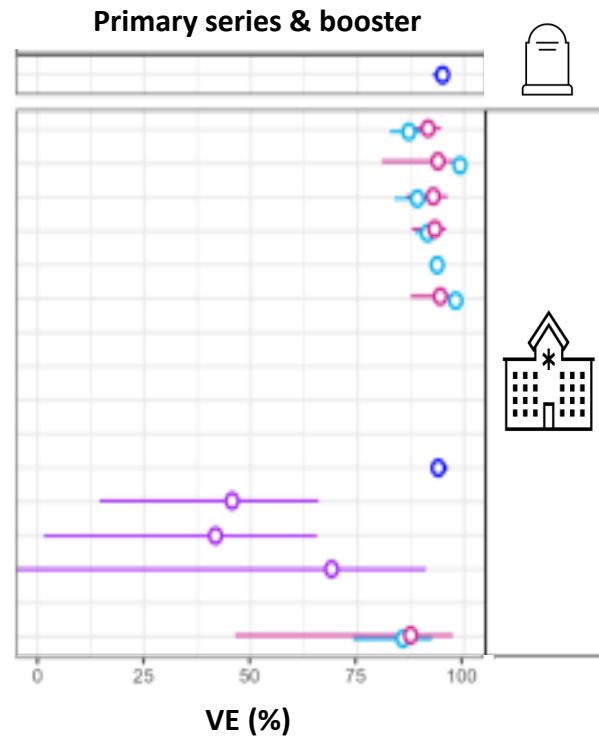
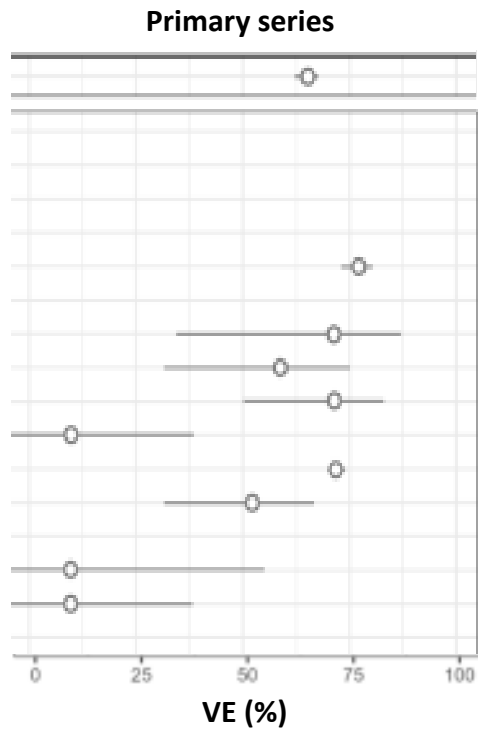


# VE against severe outcomes by mRNA primary series – Moderna






# VE against severe outcomes by vector primary series – AstraZeneca & Sputnik

## AstraZeneca

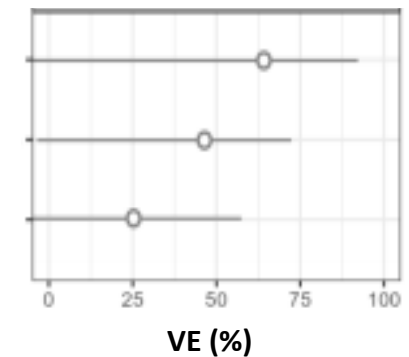


**Booster Vaccine**

-  Comirnaty (Pfizer BioNTech)
-  Spikevax (Moderna)
-  Comirnaty (Pfizer BioNTech) OR Spikevax (Moderna)
-  Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca)

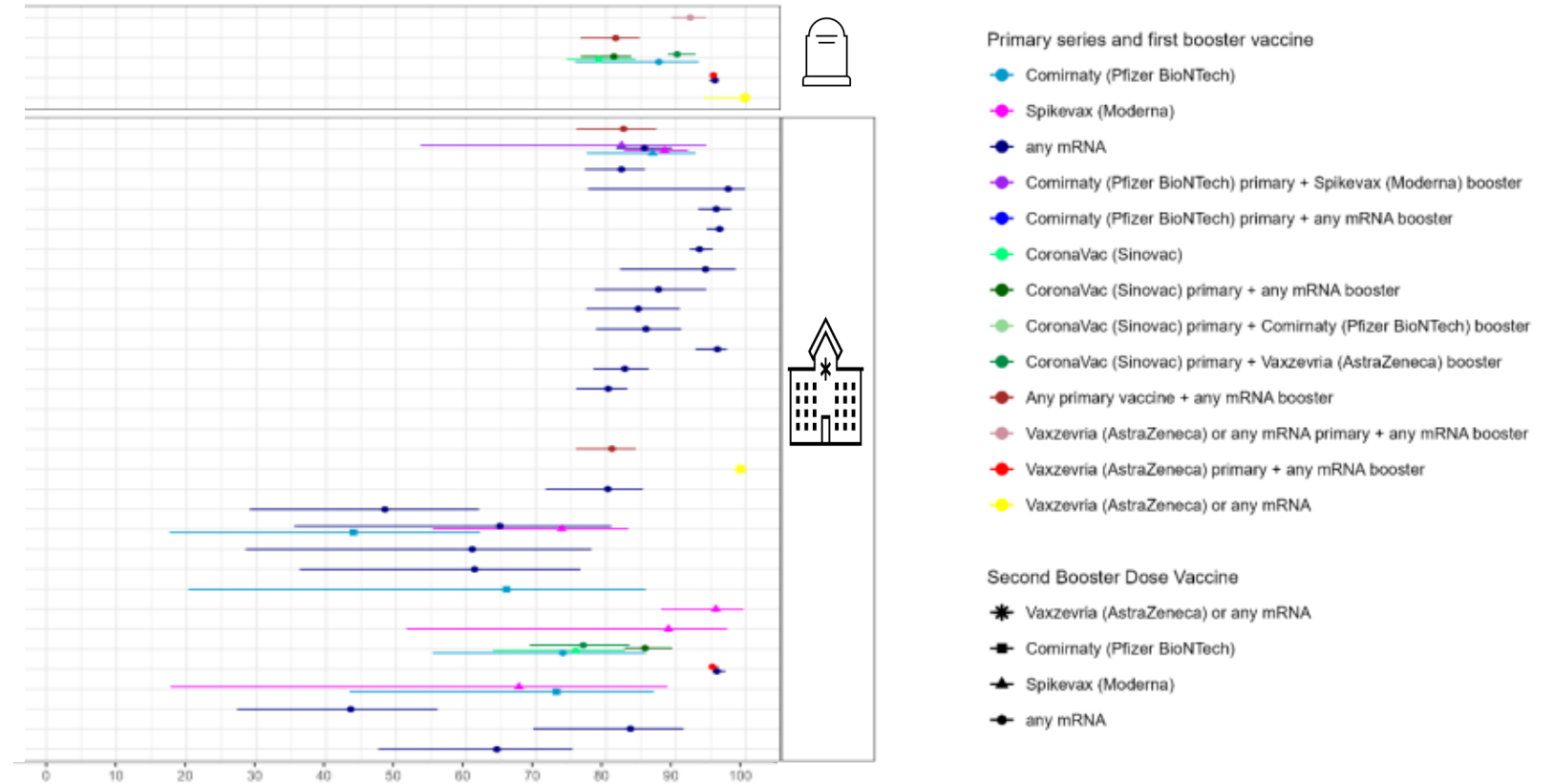
## Sputnik

**Primary series**



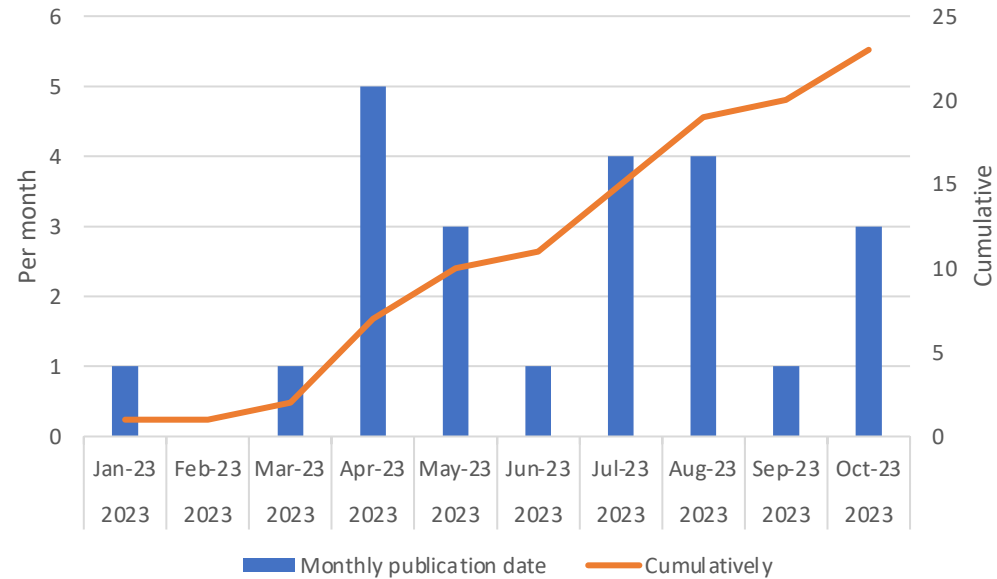


# VE against severe disease by vaccine - 2<sup>nd</sup> booster



What is VE against XBB?

# 20 VE booster studies against XBB as of Oct 23

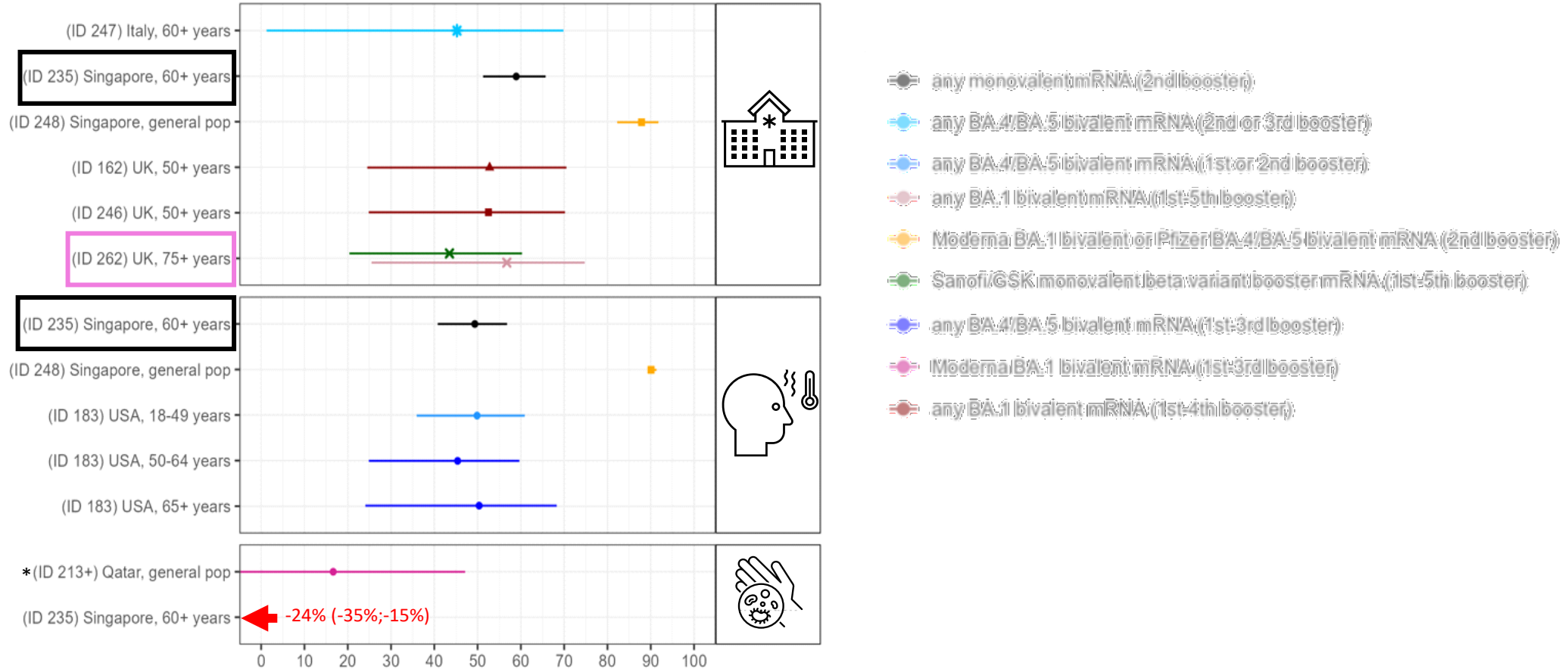


Only from high-income countries

Majority study mRNA vaccines

16 report relative VE estimates

# Relative VE against XBB within 4 months after a 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> booster





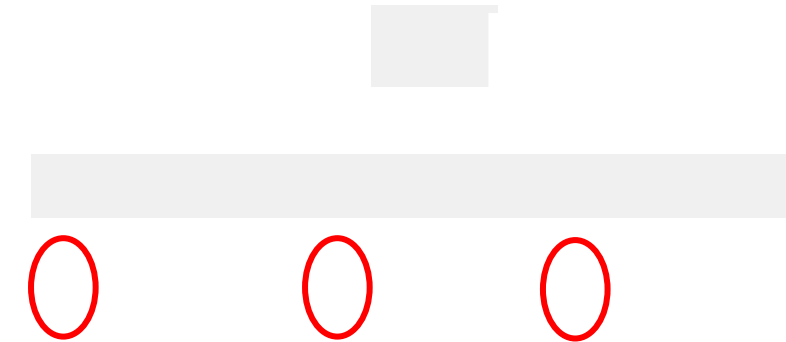


# VE of a booster against severe disease by subvariant

Methods

Results

| Population  | Covid-19 vaccination status   | Follow-up period             | Covid-19 Outcome | Variant context   |
|---|---|------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 378,577 individuals aged 50+ years<br> | Bivalent BA.1 mRNA vaccine – 1st, 2nd 3rd, or 4th booster<br><br><i>VERSUS</i><br><br>≥2 doses (ancestral monovalent mRNA boosters) at least 6 months prior | 5th Dec 2022 to 2nd Apr 2023 | Hospitalization  |  Omicron BQ.1, CH.1.1, XBB.1.5* |


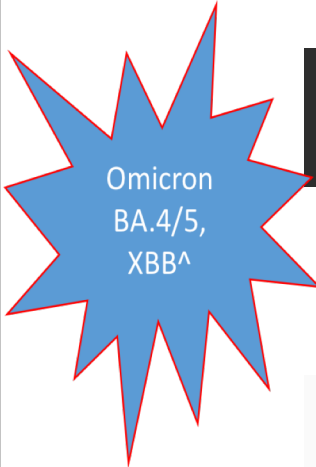


Boosters offer somewhat similar low-to-moderate additional protection against XBB.1.5/BQ.1/CH.1.1 but imprecision

# VE against severe disease over time

Methods

Results

| Population  | Covid-19 vaccination status   | Follow-up period                           | Covid-19 Outcome   | Variant context  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| N=66,141 immunocompetent adults >18 years with primary series +/- monovalent booster<br> | Bivalent booster (BA.4/BA.5) 1st-3rd (N=13,358/20%)<br><br><i>VERSUS</i><br><br>Unvaccinated (N=15,514/23%) | Sep 13, 2022<br><br>To<br><br>Apr 21, 2023 | Hospitalization with COVID-like illness &<br><br>Intensive care unit admission/death with COVID-like illness |  |

Hospitalization

Critical illness

Boosters' moderate protection wanes over a 6-month period and more so against hospitalization but XBB dominance only 30%

# How can we assess VE against severe disease with reduced testing?



|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| 3 doses | 0.46 (0.21, 1.00) |
| ≥4 dose | 0.30 (0.13, 0.70) |

Boosters offer moderate protection against XBB cases progressing to hospitalization compared to being unvaccinated

# Take away

## **What is VE over time?**

«VE is consistently restored for a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> booster to the protection level of primary series, highest against severe disease, and waning slowest against severe disease »

## **What is VE by vaccine?**

«mRNA vaccines offer high protection as primary series, 1<sup>st</sup> booster, and 2<sup>nd</sup> booster»

## **What is VE against XBB?**

«Boosters offer moderate additional protection against XBB severe disease and symptomatic disease – may be somewhat similar to BQ.1/CH.1.1/BA.4-5 and wane»



# Thank you



Melissa Higdon  
Maria Knoll  
Anurima Baidya  
Karoline Walter