

Upsizing and restarts: Covid vaccine trials rumble on



Amy Brown

The pause on enrolment into AstraZeneca's pivotal Covid-19 vaccine study proved short-lived; the trial [resumed in the UK](#) six days after a safety concern halted proceedings. However, a substantial expansion of the Pfizer and Biontech trial, [also announced over the weekend](#), shows that other developers are having to proceed carefully. Almost 50% more subjects will be sought as the partners seek to increase population diversity, in terms of age and underlying conditions, as well as adding to safety and efficacy data. Adequately reflecting target populations will be important as developers present findings to regulators and, ultimately, the public - Moderna has also been [actively improving the representation](#) of minority groups in its programme. Another potential motivation for the upsizing could be to improve the trial's chances of showing a benefit, so this might not be an encouraging sign. Leerink analysts suspect the motivation is more likely to be regulatory and commercial - striving for a best-in-class breadth of label - and note that the new patients are unlikely to contribute to an interim read-out anyway, which remains on track for October. With Merck also entering the clinic last week, all of these developers will need to start thinking about differentiation.

Selected Covid-19 vaccines projects

Project	Company	Phase III trial ID	Notes
BNT162b2	Biontech/Pfizer	NCT04368728	30,000 enrolled by mid-September; 44,000 target.
mRNA-1273	Moderna/NIAID	NCT04470427	23,497 of 30,000 target*
AZD1222	AstraZeneca/ Uni of Oxford	NCT04516746 (US pIII) NCT04400838 (UK pII/III)	17,000 patients enrolled so far in UK, Brazil, South Africa
Ad26.COVS-2	Johnson & Johnson	NCT04505722	Starting in Sept, 60,000 target
Ad5-nCoV	Cansino Biologics	NCT04526990 (Pakistan)	Not yet recruiting, 40,000 target
CoronaVac	Sinovac	NCT04456595 (Brazil) & NCT04508075 (Indonesia)	Unknown, 8,800 & 1,600 target
NVX-CoV2373	Novavax	NCT04533399	Ph2 started Aug 2020; Ph3 to start Oct 2020, target 30,000
CVnCoV	Curevac	NCT04515147	Ph2 started Aug 2020
SARS-CoV-2 vaccine	GSK/Sanofi	NCT04537208	Ph1/2 started Sep 2020, ph3 to start by YE'20
V591	Merck (Themis)	NCT04498247	Ph2 started Sept

*As of Sept 11, 2020. Source: EvaluatePharma, [clinicaltrials.gov](#), company statements.

[More from Evaluate Vantage](#)

Evaluate HQ
[44-\(0\)20-7377-0800](tel:44-020-7377-0800)

Evaluate Americas
[+1-617-573-9450](tel:+16175739450)

Evaluate APAC
[+81-\(0\)80-1164-4754](tel:+8108011644754)

© Copyright 2021 Evaluate Ltd.