

Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

27 November - 03 December 2021

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of November 27 to December 03, 2021. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 15 studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 4 studies on Epidemiology; 2 studies on Transmission; 3 studies on Drugs; 2 studies on Vaccines, 0 studies on Equipment and Devices; 0 studies on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 1 study on Traditional Medicine; and 2 studies on Preventive & Promotive Health.

The following report notes that 1 study have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.



Sections

Epidemiology

Transmission

Drugs

Vaccines

Equipment & Devices

Medical & Surgical Procedures

Traditional Medicine

Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Epidemiology

Local COVID-19 Tracker: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker>

Local COVID-19 Case Tracker: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid-19/case-tracker>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
30 Nov 2021	WHO Global	Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 30 November 2021	<i>WHO Global (Situation Report)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 case incidence plateaued globally (3.8 million new cases vs 3.6 million during the previous week); weekly case incidence increased by 24% in the Western Pacific Region New weekly deaths decreased by 10% Global specimen sampling shows that Delta has become the dominant variant in most countries. The new VOC Omicron has only been reported in a limited number of countries so far” In the Western Pacific Region, the highest numbers of new deaths continued to be reported from the Philippines
01 Dec 2021	WHO Western Pacific Region	COVID-19 situation report for the Western Pacific Region	<i>WHO WPR (External Situation Report)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 197,927 cases with 6 3009 deaths were reported, for a cumulative 10,251,383 cases with 142.231 deaths
26 Nov 2021	WHO Global	Classification of Omicron (B.1.1.529): SARS-CoV-2 Variant of Concern	<i>WHO Global (Situation Report)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The B.1.1.529 variant was first reported to WHO from South Africa on 24 November 2021 Based on the evidence presented indicative of a detrimental change in COVID-19 epidemiology, the Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution has advised WHO that this variant should be designated as a VOC, and the WHO has designated B.1.1.529 as a VOC, named Omicron

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
29 Nov 2021	Khedmat et al.	Pregnant women and infants against the infection risk of COVID-19	Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a high susceptibility in pregnant women to COVID-19 infection, especially in the third trimester of pregnancy.

Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
01 Dec 2021	Sharun et al.	SARS-CoV-2 in animals: potential for unknown reservoir hosts and public health implications	<i>The veterinary quarterly journal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though human-to-animal spillover has been reported at several instances, SARS-CoV-2 transmission from animals-to-humans has only been reported from mink-to-humans in mink farms • It is clear that for SARS-CoV-2, human-to-human transmission remains the main route. • However, the fact that the virus infects and multiplies in animal hosts supports the need for animal surveillance to track virus prevalence and circulation and the possibility of spill-back to humans under still unknown conditions
28 Nov 2021	WHO Global	Update on Omicron	<i>WHO Global (Situation Report)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible (e.g., more easily spread from person to person) compared to other variants, including Delta • The number of people testing positive has risen in areas of South Africa affected by this variant, but epidemiologic studies are underway to understand if it is because of Omicron or other factors. • Studies are currently ongoing regarding its severity, and susceptibility to vaccines and treatments

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
01 Dec 2021	Kumar et al.	Efficacy of Interferon-β in Moderate-to-Severe Hospitalised Cases of COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	<i>Clinical Drug Investigation Journal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 RCTs were eligible for qualitative synthesis and 7 for meta-analysis. The overall effect estimate (odds ratio [OR] 0.59; 95 % CI 0.91, 1.12) and (mean difference [MD] – 1.41; 95 % CI – 2.84, 0.02) indicated no statistically significant difference between effect of IFN-β and that of control on mortality and length of hospital stay, respectively. However, the overall effect estimate (hazard ratio [HR] 1.95; 95 % CI 1.36, 2.79) denoted a favourable effect of INF-β on reducing the time to clinical improvement in moderate-to-severe COVID-19 patient
01 Dec 2021	Özluşen et al.	Effectiveness of favipiravir in COVID-19: a live systematic review	<i>Reviews in Medical Virology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 clinical trials with 1636 patients were analyzed. Nine out of 12 studies were randomized controlled trials The meta-analysis did not reveal any significant difference between the intervention and the comparator on fatality rate (OR 1.11, 95% CI 0.64-1.94) and mechanical ventilation requirement (OR 0.50, 95% CI 0.13-1.95).

Evidence on Drugs (cont.)

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
02 Dec 2021	Kolanko et al.	Potential therapeutic application of mesenchymal stem cells in COVID-19 complications	<i>Medycyna Pracy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) offer treatment possibilities as an alternative or complementary therapy.

Evidence on Medical & Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Equipment & Devices

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Link to Living CPG: <http://www.linktolivingcpghere.com>

Evidence on Vaccines

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
02 Dec 2021	Molica et al.	mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in patients with CLL: A systematic review and meta-analysis	<i>European Journal of Haematology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mRNA vaccines BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273 have been shown to be safe and efficacious against SARS-CoV-2 infection CLL patients are considered to have a heterogeneous and in most instances sub-optimal response to SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines
01 Dec 2021	Assawasaksakul et al.	Immunogenicity, safety and reactogenicity of a heterogeneous booster following the CoronaVac inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in patients with SLE: a case series	<i>RMD Open Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal diseases</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings support the use of mRNA or viral vector vaccine as a third booster dose vaccine in patients with SLE who have previously received CoronaVac inactivated vaccine.
02 Dec 2021	Munro et al.	Safety and immunogenicity of seven COVID-19 vaccines as a third dose (booster) following two doses of ChAdOx1 nCov-19 or BNT162b2 in the UK (COV-BOOST)	<i>The Lancet Journal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunogenicity: The immunogenicity of homologous or heterologous third dose boost with all tested vaccines was superior to control regardless of which vaccine had been received in the initial course All vaccines tested (Astrazeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, Janssen, CureVac, and Valvena) boosted immunity after AstraZeneca primary series as measured by anti-spike IgG and neutralising assays, and six vaccines (Astrazeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, Janssen, and CureVac) boosted immunity after Pfizer-BioNTech primary series

Evidence on Vaccines

NYT Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/science/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker.html>

Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Vaccine Trial Mapper and Tracker:

https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov_vaccine_landscape/

ACIP Files:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1v-jd66qllxnUkfzXWKqiD0mkVvqy_VvJ?pli=1

Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
03 Dec 2021	Xiang et al.	Efficacy and potential mechanisms of Chinese herbal compounds in coronavirus disease 2019: advances of laboratory and clinical studies	<i>Natural Products Research Journal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study evaluated studies regarding TCM: (1) <i>Lianhua Qingwen</i> prescription, (2) <i>Shufeng Jiedu</i> prescription, and (3) <i>Qingfei Paidu Tang</i> for COVID-19 treatment The clinical effects of Chinese herbal compounds for COVID-19 treatment mainly included improved symptoms (fever, cough, muscle pain, fatigue) and lung CT manifestations, decreased risk of in-hospital mortality and adverse reactions, and increased inflammatory focus absorption as well as nucleic acid negative conversion rate

Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Screening

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Community Measures

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Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Personal Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
03 Dec 2021	Alomari et al.	Sleeping Habits during COVID-19 Induced Confinement: A study from Jordan	<i>Heliyon Journal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home isolation due to COVID-19 affected several aspects of people's quality of life, including physical activity, mental health, social communication, and possibly sleep In the current study, most of the participants reported a decrease in daytime sleeping while many experienced an increase in nighttime sleeping and total sleeping time.
03 Dec 2021	Herbec et al.	Perceived risk factors for severe Covid-19 symptoms and their association with health behaviours: Findings from the HEBECO study	<i>Acta Psychologica</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study cross-sectionally analyzed risk perceptions for severe Covid-19 symptoms and health behaviour using multivariable logistic regression models among 2206 UK adults In all cases, engagement in a given health behaviour was associated with classification of risk for that behaviour with its impact on Covid-19 risk i.e. classifying an unhealthy behaviour (e.g. smoking cigarettes) as decreasing the risk for severe Covid-19 symptoms and vice versa The greatest uncertainty regarding the impact of health conditions and behaviours on the risk of severe Covid-19 symptoms existed for the use of NRT, drinking alcohol, and vitamin D deficiency; reflective of the current scientific uncertainty regarding the relationship between these behaviours and Covid-19 symptom severity