

# HIV and COVID-19 in 2021 and beyond

**Thana Khawcharoenporn, MD, MSc**  
**Associate Professor of Medicine**  
**Division of Infectious Diseases**  
**Faculty of Medicine, Thammasat University**



## Disclosure

**I have received conference travel grants from:**

- **Pfizer, Meiji, Siam, Mylan, MSD, Janssen**

**Speaker Bureau**

- **Pfizer, Meiji, Mylan, Janssen, GSK, Zuellig Pharma**

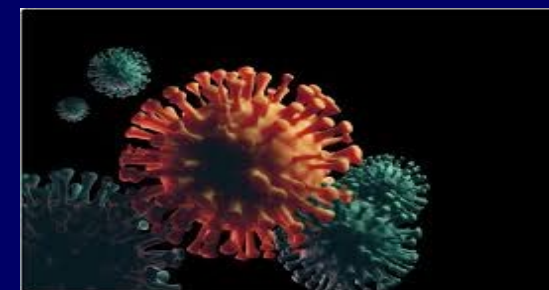
# Outlines

- **HIV and COVID-19 pandemics**
- **Interaction between HIV and SARS-CoV-2**
- **Clinical and treatment outcomes of COVID-19 among PLWH**
- **The impact of antiretroviral drugs**
- **COVID-19 and impact on HIV care**
- **COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH**

# HIV and COVID-19 pandemics

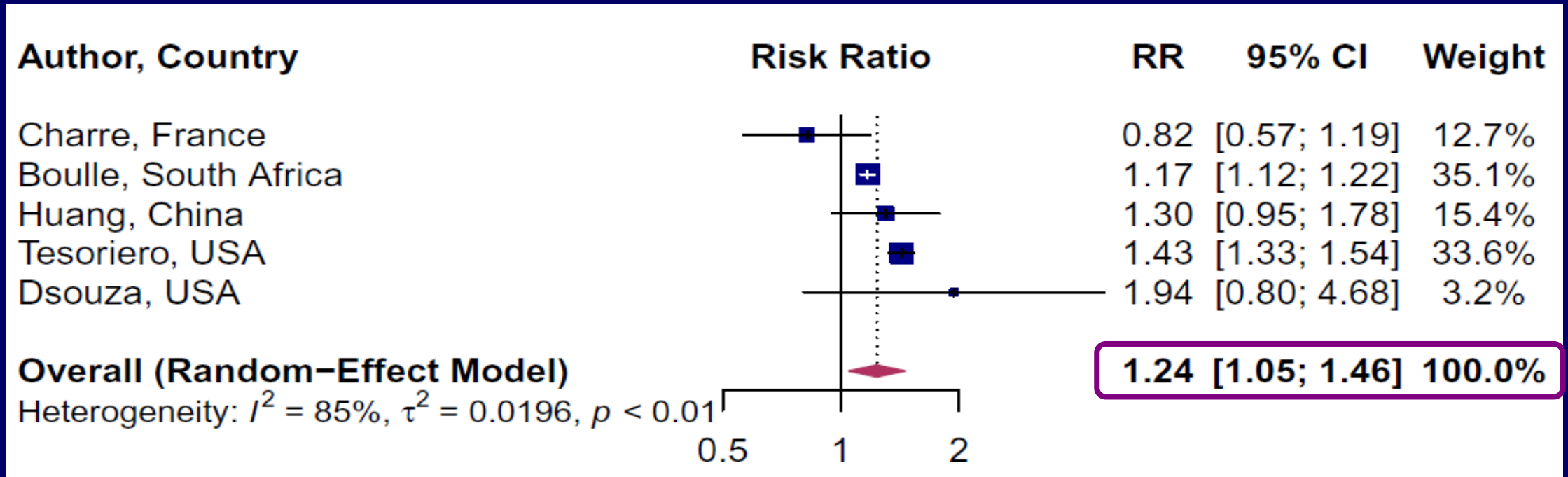
|                                       | HIV infection | COVID-19      |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Time emerged                          | April 1980    | December 2019 |
| Estimated total number of cases       | 80 million    | 204 million   |
| Estimated annual new case             | 1.5 million   | 102 million   |
| Estimated accumulated number of death | 36 million    | 4 million     |
| Estimated annual death                | 700,000       | 2 million     |
| Sterile cure                          | ?             | Yes           |

UNAIDS 2021.  
Worldometer 2021.



# HIV and COVID-19 pandemics

- A systematic review and meta-analysis performed for published studies from January 1, 2020 to December 12, 2020.
- HIV-positive persons had a significantly higher risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection.



# HIV and COVID-19 pandemic

- The incidence rate of COVID-19 infection among PLWH differs by country.
- The US (0.8%) and Spain (1.8%) (based on PCR test)<sup>1,2</sup>
- China (0.68%) (based on both PCR and clinical diagnosis)<sup>3</sup>
- PLWH were more likely to be tested for COVID-19; HIV did not increase susceptibility to COVID-19, nor incidence of severe disease.<sup>4</sup>

| COVID-19 Testing                 | PLWH       | HIV-       | OR (95% CI)*     |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Alive in 2020, n                 | 30,981     | 76,745     | --               |
| Total tested, n (%) <sup>†</sup> | 2599 (8.4) | 4977 (6.5) | 1.36 (1.29-1.43) |
| Total COVID-19+, n               | 253        | 504        |                  |
| ▪ % of total alive               | 0.8        | 0.7        | 1.38 (1.18-1.61) |

<sup>1</sup>Richardson S, et al. JAMA 2020;323:2052–9.

<sup>2</sup>Vizcarra P, et al. Lancet HIV 2020;7:e554–64.

<sup>3</sup>Guo W, et al. SSRN: China; 2020.

<sup>4</sup>AIDS 2020. Abstract LBPEC23.

# Interaction between HIV and SARS-CoV-2

| HIV infection   | Potential outcome   | COVID-19  |
|---|---|---|
| CD4+ lymphopenia                                      | Delayed SARS-CoV-2 clearance<br>COVID-19 disease progression<br>Risk for opportunistic infections | Lymphopenia<br>(particularly CD4 lymphopenia)         |
| Chronic inflammation induced prothrombotic conditions | Hypercoagulable state<br>Thrombotic complications   | Elevated levels of multiple proinflammatory cytokines |

# Clinical presentations of COVID-19 in PLWH

## Demographics

- Median age 40-60 years
- Men more than women
- Most of the PLWH with COVID-19 were on antiretroviral therapy and were virologically suppressed.
- High prevalence of comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes and chronic kidney disease

# Clinical presentations of COVID-19 in PLWH

## Clinical manifestations

- The most common symptoms of COVID-19 detected were fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- The symptoms were similar to those reported in people without HIV.
- Most had mild to moderate severity of COVID-19.
- Risk factors for severe COVID-19 among PLWH were similar to those without HIV such as older age, obesity and comorbid medical conditions.

Ho HE, et al. J Infect Dis 2020;223:403–8.

Okoh AK, et al. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2020;85:e4–5.

Shalev N, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2020;71:2294–7.

Suwanwongse K, et al. J Med Virol 2020;92:2387–9.

# Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH

## Analysis of data from 39 US clinical centers in National COVID Cohort

| Outcome                              | HIV-/SOT-<br>(n = 501,416) | HIV+ Alone<br>(n = 2932) | SOT+ Alone<br>(n = 4633) | HIV+/SOT+<br>(n = 111) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Hospitalization, %                   | 30.6                       | 48.5                     | 63.8                     | 70.3                   |
| Invasive ventilation, %              | 1.9                        | 5.5                      | 9.9                      | ≤ 20                   |
| Odds of hospitalization vs HIV-/SOT- |                            |                          |                          |                        |
| ▪ Adjusted OR estimate* (95% CI)     | Ref                        | 1.32 (1.22-1.43)         | 1.69 (1.58-1.81)         | 1.65 (1.06-2.56)       |
| ▪ P value                            |                            | < .01                    | < .01                    | .03                    |
|                                      | (n = 153,310)              | (n = 1421)               | (n = 2956)               | (n = 78)               |
| Odds of ventilation vs HIV-/SOT-     |                            |                          |                          |                        |
| ▪ Adjusted OR estimate* (95% CI)     | Ref                        | 1.86 (1.56-2.22)         | 1.96 (1.74-2.12)         | 3.73 (2.08-6.67)       |
| ▪ P value                            |                            | < .01                    | < .01                    | < .01                  |

\*Model adjusted for age, sex, race, ethnicity, study site, number of comorbidities.

# Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH

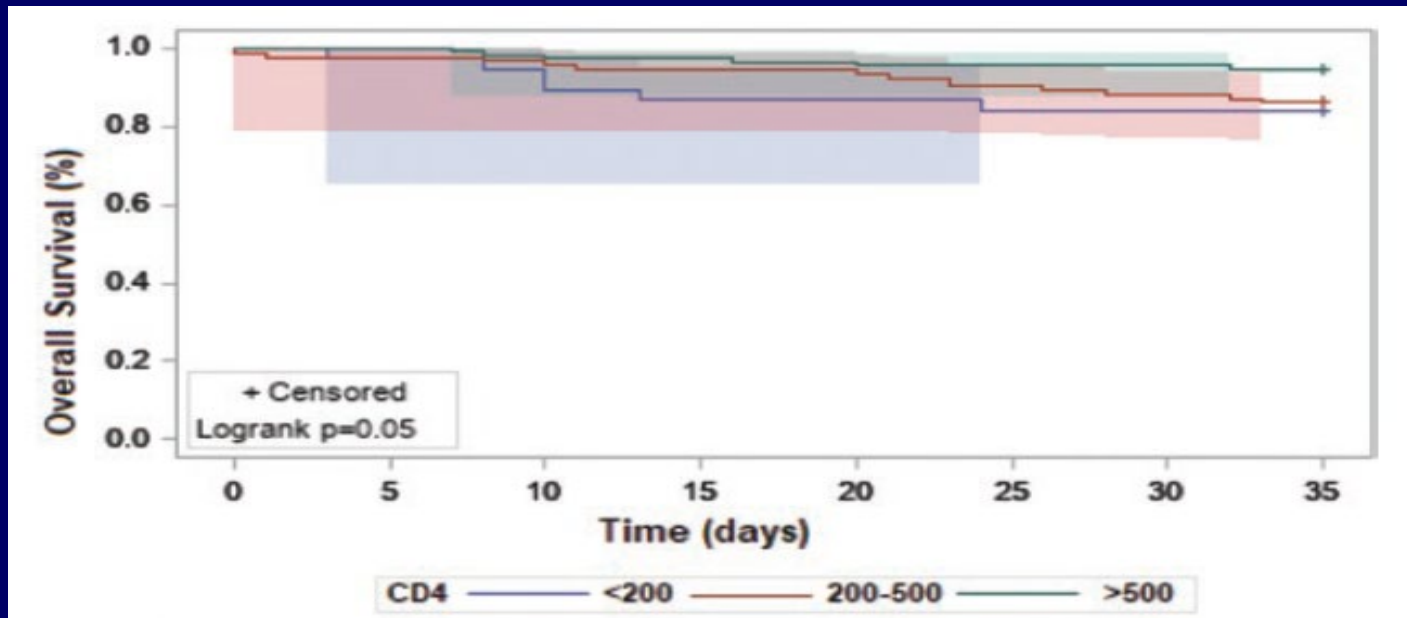
## Analysis of data from 39 US clinical centers in National COVID Cohort

- PLWH and SOT or both more likely to be hospitalized and receive mechanical ventilation with COVID-19
  - Increased risk of hospitalization independent of demographic factors in all groups
- Increased risk of hospitalization in immunosuppressed groups driven mainly by comorbid conditions
  - Higher odds of hospitalization in PLWH with history of cardiopulmonary (OR: 2.27; 95% CI: 1.58-3.26) and renal (OR: 2.28; 95% CI: 1.68-3.09) comorbidities

# Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH

## The study of 286 PLWH with COVID-19 from 36 US centers

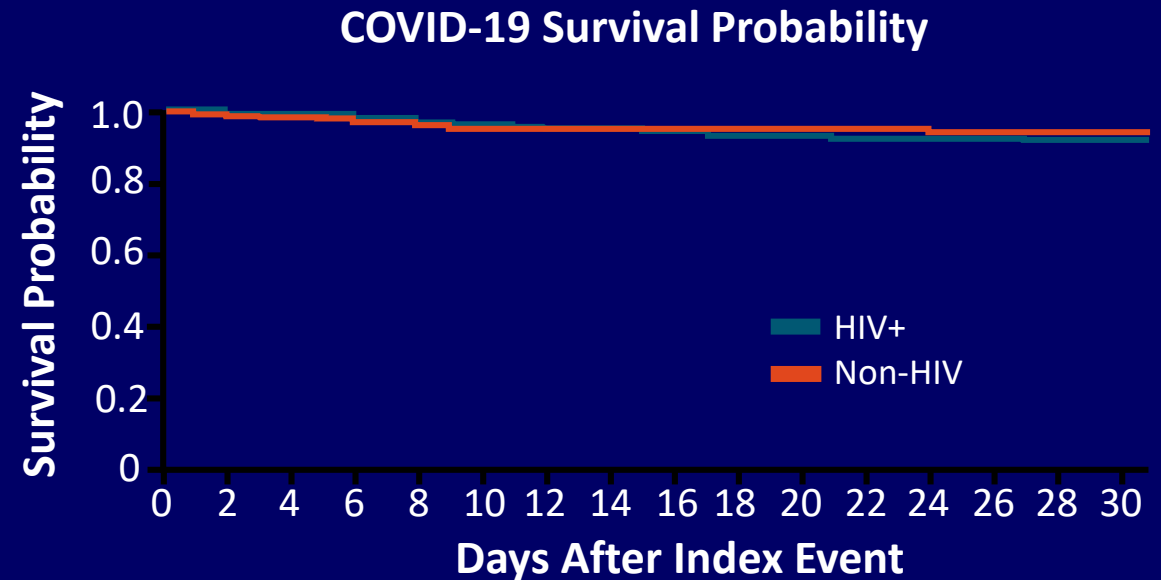
- 94.3% on ART; 88.7% with HIV virologic suppression
- Older age, chronic lung disease, hypertension, and lower CD4+ counts associated with decreased survival
- No association between ART or lack of viral suppression and COVID-19 outcomes



# Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH

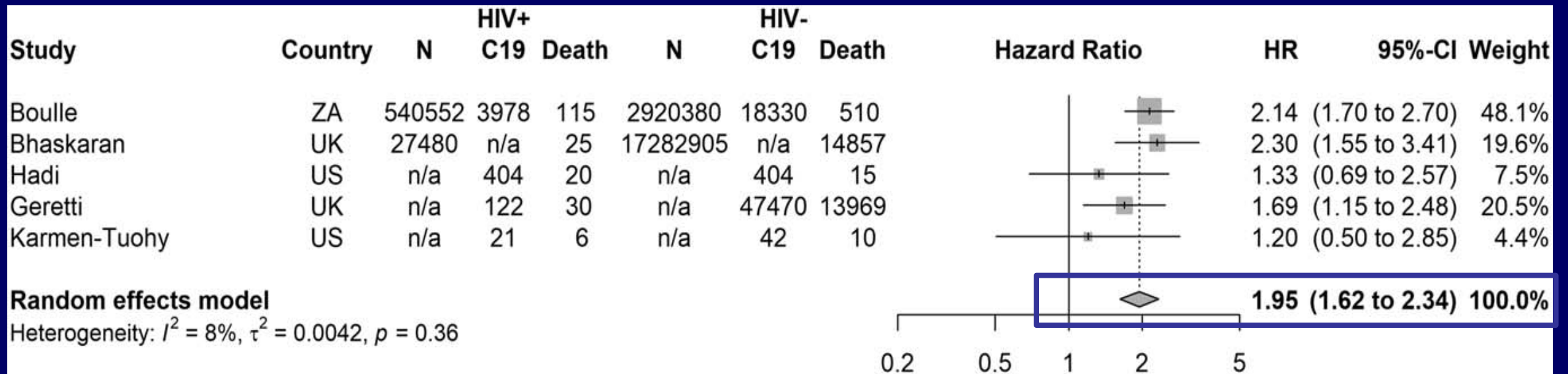
## Outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH: Multicenter Research Network

- COVID-19–positive patients with HIV (n = 404) compared with a propensity-matched cohort of patients without HIV (n = 49,763)
- After 1:1 matching (BMI, diabetes, hypertension, chronic lung diseases, chronic kidney disease, race, history of nicotine dependence and sex), mortality no longer significantly different with vs. without HIV (risk ratio: 1.33; 95% CI: 0.69-2.57).



# Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH

## Meta-analysis of studies describing COVID-19 outcomes in PLWH



- Risk of death remained elevated for PLWH in a subgroup analysis of hospitalized cohorts (hazard ratio 1.60, 95%CI: 1.12–2.27)
- There were insufficient data on the effect of CD4+ T-cell count and HIV viral load on COVID-19 outcomes.

# Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH

## Data from WHO Global Clinical Platform for COVID-19 2020-2021

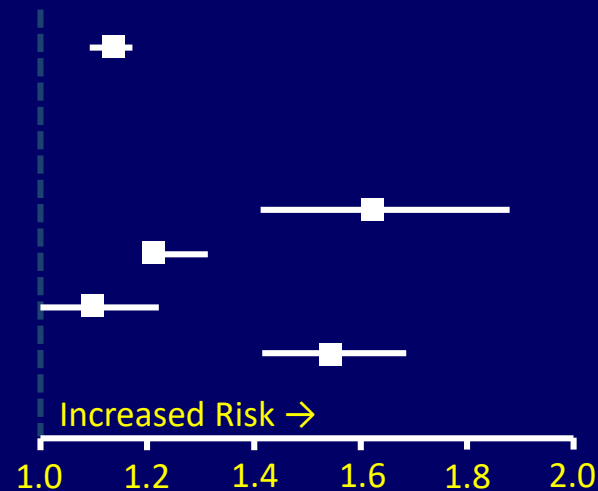
- 168,649 patients from 24 countries with known HIV status hospitalized with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- 15,552 (9.2%) with HIV infection; information on ART available for 40% of PLWH
- Among PLWH: mean age 45.5 yr, 37.1% male, 94.6% from South Africa

### Association of HIV status with COVID-19 severity

aOR (95% CI)  
1.13 (1.09-1.17)

#### Risk factors among PLWH

Age >65 yr 1.62 (1.41-1.87)  
Male 1.21 (1.23-1.31)  
Diabetes 1.10 (1.00-1.22)  
Hypertension 1.54 (1.41-1.68)

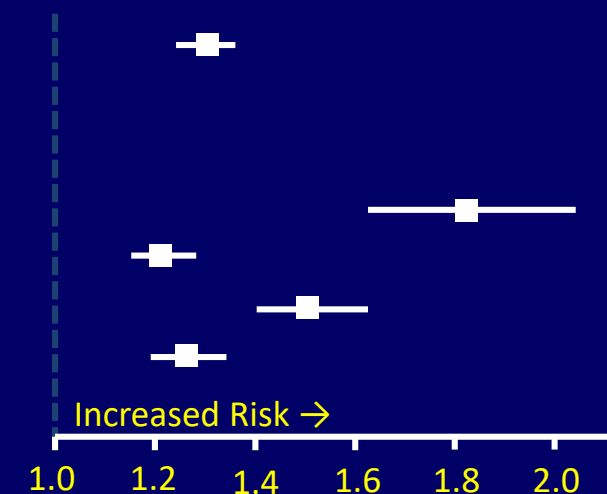


### Association of HIV status with in-hospital mortality

aOR (95% CI)  
1.30 (1.24-1.36)

#### Risk factors among PLWH

Age >65 yr 1.82 (1.62-2.04)  
Male 1.21 (1.15-1.28)  
Diabetes 1.50 (1.39-1.62)  
Hypertension 1.26 (1.19-1.34)



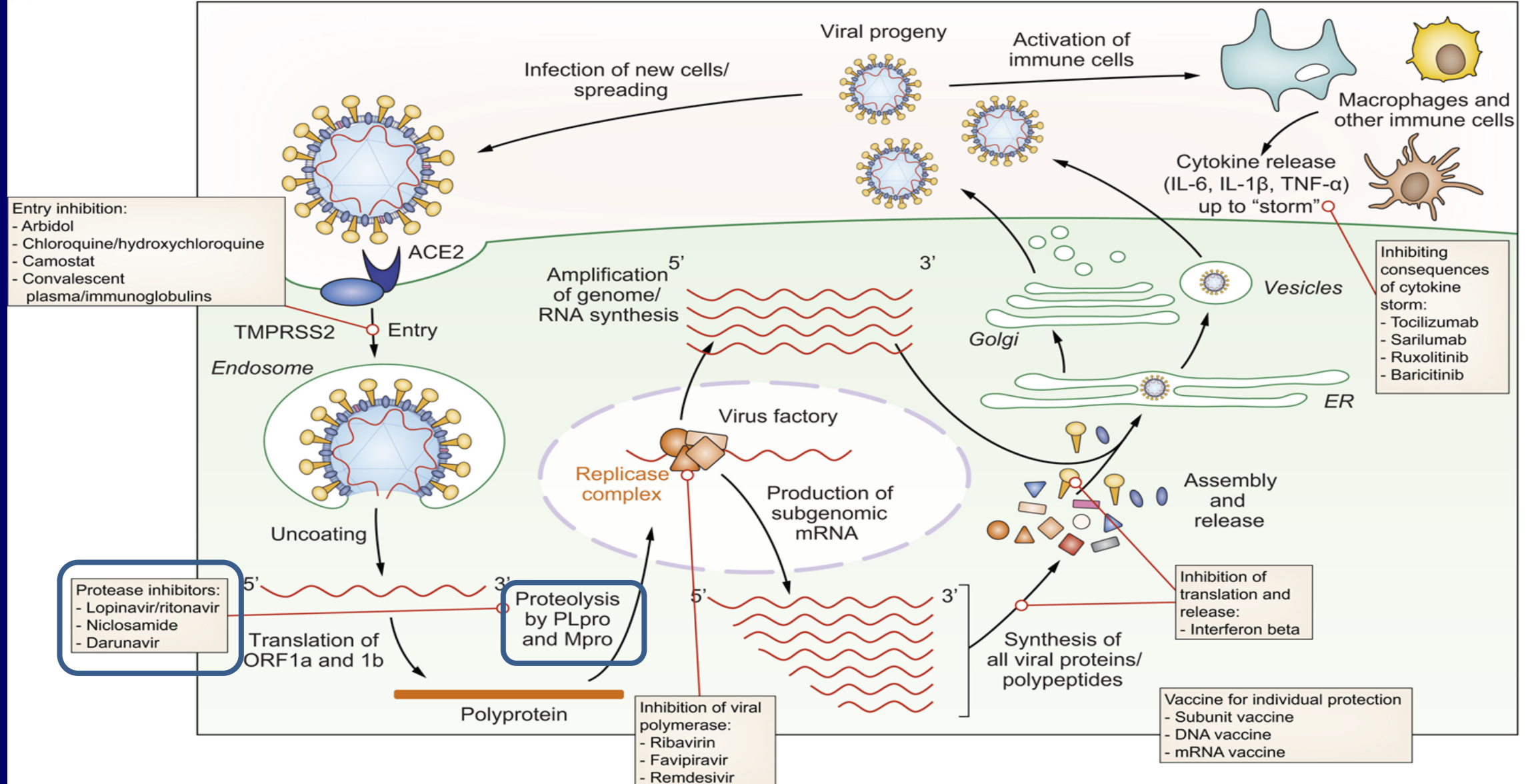
# Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in PLWH

## CDC and NIH guidance summary

- Older adults and those with underlying medical conditions are at highest risk of life-threatening COVID-19.
- PLWH not receiving effective ART or with low CD4+ cell counts may also be at increased risk for severe disease.
- Recommendations for treatment in PWH are the same as those for the general population.
- In persons with advanced HIV and suspected or documented COVID-19, HIV-associated OIs should be considered in the differential diagnosis of febrile illness.
- Pay attention to potential DDIs and overlapping toxicities among COVID-19 treatments, ARV medications, and other co-medications

# Impact of antiretroviral drugs

B



# Impact of antiretroviral drugs

## Lopinavir/ritonavir

- Lopinavir-ritonavir has been shown to have in vitro antiviral activity against beta-coronaviruses such as SARS-CoV, and MERS-CoV.
- Several observational studies and case reports demonstrated that the clinical benefit of LPV/r among COVID-19 patients was inconclusive.
- Three RCTs demonstrated lack of clinical benefits of LPV/r.

IDSA guidelines 2021.

Gatechompol et al. AIDS Res Ther 2021;18:28.

Cao B, et al. N Engl J Med 2020;382:1787–99.

Horby PW, et al. Lancet 2020;396:1345–52.

Pan H, et al. N Engl J Med 2021;384:497–511.

# Impact of antiretroviral drugs

## Lopinavir/ritonavir (cont.)

- Patients receiving LPV/r had a shorter stay in the ICU than those receiving standard of care (-5 days; CI [-9 – 0]).

## Darunavir/ritonavir

- No in-vitro activity against SARS-CoV-2
- PLWH receiving a darunavir-containing regimen were not protected from COVID-19 in a case series.

IDSA guidelines 2021.

Cao B, et al. N Engl J Med 2020;382:1787-99.

Riva A, et al. Pharmacol Res 2020;157:104826.

# Impact of antiretroviral drugs

## Thai guidelines 2021

ฉบับปรับปรุง วันที่ 4 สิงหาคม พ.ศ. 2564 สำหรับแพทย์และบุคลากรสาธารณสุข  
แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ การวินิจฉัย ดูแลรักษา และป้องกันการติดเชื้อในโรงพยาบาล  
กรณีโรคติดเชื้อไวรัสโคโรนา 2019 (COVID-19)

7. ข้อมูลการศึกษา boosted lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/r) ส่วนใหญ่ที่ทำในต่างประเทศ มีผู้ป่วยในการศึกษาจำนวนมาก ให้ผลตรงกันว่ายานี้มีประโยชน์ไม่ชัดเจนในการลดอัตราการตาย แต่ช่วยลดระยะเวลาที่อยู่ในหอผู้ป่วยวิกฤตได้ และไม่มีข้อมูลเกี่ยวกับ darunavir/ritonavir มากพอ

# Impact of antiretroviral drugs

## Tenofovir

- Has in-vitro activity against SARS-CoV-2
- A prospective cohort in Spain observed a higher rate of COVID-19 infection among PLWH on TAF or TDF.
- A case series demonstrated that tenofovir-based ART did not provide any clinical benefit against COVID-19 among PLWH.
- PREVENIR/Sapris-Sero Substudy: IgG Spike Seroprevalence suggests that TDF/FTC PrEP does not reduce risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Gatechompol et al. AIDS Res Ther 2021;18:28.

Vizcarra P, et al. Lancet HIV 2020;7:e554–64.

Shalev N, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2020;71:2294–7.

Byrd KM, et al. J Int AIDS Soc 2020;23:e25573.

Delaugerre, et al. IAS HIV Science 2021. Abstr OAC0201.

# COVID-19 and impact on HIV care

## Risk of care interruption, especially ART interruption

- Affecting 17.7 million people receiving ART
- 10% increase in deaths among PLWH in low- and middle-income countries over 5 years
- Strict quarantine measures and transportation lock downs
- Shortage of ART
- Diversion of HIV care to COVID-19 care among HCWs

# COVID-19 and impact on HIV care

## Impact beyond HIV care

- Emergency services
- Urgent blood transfusions
- Routine immunization
- Dental services
- Rehabilitation services
- Non-communicable disease care
- Family planning
- Surgery
- Sexually-transmitted infection diagnosis and treatment

# COVID-19 and impact on HIV care

## Strategies to mitigate care disruptions

- ARV multi-month dispensing policy
- Telemedicine platforms
- Toll-free hotlines
- Community sample collection and community ART deliveries
- Triageing to identify priorities
- Task shifting
- Strategies to maintain HCWs' physical and mental health
- Redirecting patients to other facilities

# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH

## The 4 available types of COVID-19 vaccine

**Whole virus**  
Inactivated virus



**Sinopharm**  
BBIBP-CorV  
**SinoVac**  
CoronaVac  
**Bharat Biotech**  
Covaxin

**Protein subunit**  
Virus-like particles



**Novavax**  
NVX – Cov2373

**Nucleic acid**  
Encapsulated mRNA



**Moderna**  
mRNA – 1273  
**BioNTech/Pfizer**  
BNT162b2

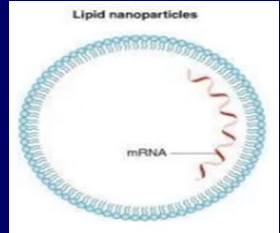
**Viral vector**



**Oxford/AstraZeneca**  
ChAdOx1/AZD222  
(Covidshield)  
**Johnson & Johnson**  
JNJ-78436735/Ad26.Cov2S  
**Gamaleya (Sputnik)**  
Sputnik V/Gam-Covid-Vac

# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH

## COVID-19 mRNA vaccine efficacy trials that recruited PLWH



- **Pfizer study recruited at 196 people with stable HIV infection**
  - Whole study VE of 95% (symptomatic infection)
  - Safety/efficacy results for PLWH not included in primary analysis
- **Moderna study recruited 176 people with HIV infection**
  - Whole study VE of 94% (symptomatic infection)
  - Efficacy in PLWH: 0 cases in vaccine group (n = 80) and 1 case in placebo group (n = 76); No safety concerns

# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH

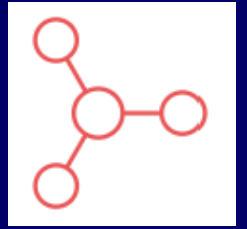
## COVID-19 viral vector vaccine efficacy trials that recruited PLWH



- Oxford/AstraZeneca studies recruited 160 people with HIV infection in the UK and South Africa
  - Whole study VE of 70% (symptomatic infection)
  - Safety/efficacy results for PLWH not reported in the article
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine study recruited 1218 people with HIV infection (2.8% of all participants)
  - Whole study VE of 66% (symptomatic infection)
  - 2 cases of COVID 19 in the vaccine and 4 in the placebo recipients;  
No safety concerns

# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH

## COVID-19 subunit vaccine efficacy trials that recruited PLWH



- **Novavax vaccine study against the B.1.351 Variant in South Africa**
  - Whole study VE of 60% (symptomatic infection)
  - Included 148 PLWH
  - Covid-19 was observed in 4 of 76 participants in the vaccine group and in 2 of 72 participants in the placebo group.
  - No safety concerns

# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH

## COVID-19 viral vector vaccine efficacy trials that recruited PLWH

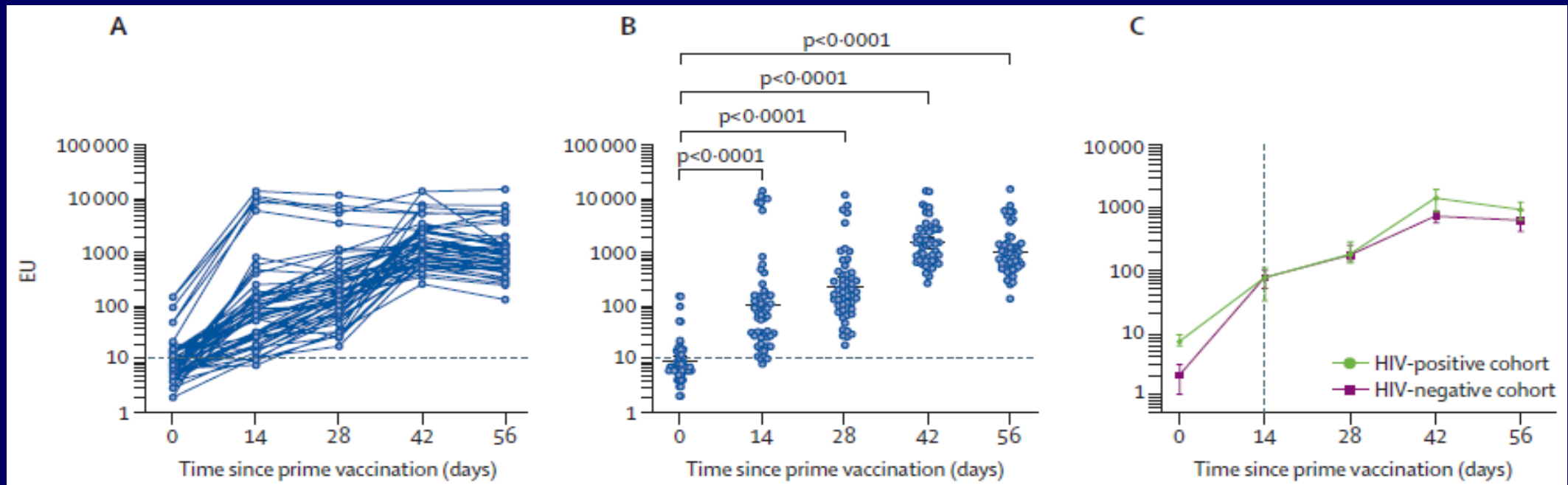


- **Safety and immunogenicity of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 (AZD1222) vaccine in PLWH**
  - Single-arm open-label vaccination substudy within the protocol of the larger phase 2/3 trial COV002
  - Eligible participants were required to be on antiretroviral therapy (ART), with undetectable plasma HIV viral load (<50 copies per mL), and CD4 counts of more than 350 cells per  $\mu$ L.
  - 54 participants with HIV (all male, median age 42.5 years [IQR 37.2–49.8])

# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH



- **Safety and immunogenicity of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 (AZD1222) vaccine in PLWH**
  - **Similar rates of local and systemic reactions as HIV-negative participants**
  - **No correlation between anti-spike IgG response at day 56 and CD4 cell count or age.**



# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH

## Points to consider

- The available data so far are limited
- Unknown the effect size of low CD4 cell count or high HIV VL
- HIV affects T cell responses more than B cell responses.
- All currently available COVID 19 vaccines contain some of the genetic material from SARS-CoV-2 but not the whole live virus.
- There is no reason to think these vaccines will be less safe for people with HIV.

# COVID-19 vaccine for PLWH



## แนวทางการฉีดวัคซีนโควิด-19 ในผู้ติดเชื้อเอชไอวี

จัดทำโดย : กองโรคเอดส์และโรคติดต่อทางเพศสัมพันธ์ กรมควบคุมโรค

วันที่ 1 มิถุนายน 2564



ผู้ติดเชื้อเอชไอวีเป็นกลุ่มผู้มีภาวะภูมิคุ้มกันบกพร่องซึ่งเสี่ยงต่อการติดเชื้อโควิด-19 และเกิดอาการของการติดเชื้อโควิด-19 รุนแรงได้ ผลงานวิจัยต่างๆ พบว่าในผู้ที่มี  $CD4 < 350 \text{ cells/mm}^3$  จะเกิดอาการรุนแรงเมื่อติดเชื้อโควิด-19 มากกว่าผู้ที่มี  $CD4$  สูง ถึง 3 เท่า ดังนั้นผู้ติดเชื้อเอชไอวี จึงควรได้รับการฉีดวัคซีนเพื่อป้องกันอาการรุนแรงจากการติดเชื้อโควิด-19 <sup>(1) (2)</sup>

### ผู้ที่สามารถฉีดวัคซีนโควิด-19 ได้ <sup>(1) (2)</sup>



- ผู้ติดเชื้อเอชไอวีทุกรายสามารถเข้ารับบริการฉีดวัคซีนได้โดยไม่ต้องคำนึงถึงระดับ  $CD4$  หรือปริมาณไวรัสในเลือด
- ในผู้ที่มีระดับ  $CD4 < 200 \text{ cells/mm}^3$  หรือ มีปริมาณไวรัสในเลือดสูง ควรได้รับการพิจารณาเข้ารับบริการฉีดวัคซีนก่อน แต่ควรให้แพทย์ผู้ดูแลรักษาเป็นผู้พิจารณาอาการแสดงทางคลินิก ณ ขณะนั้นของผู้ติดเชื้อว่า จะสามารถฉีดวัคซีนได้หรือไม่

### วัคซีนโควิด-19 ที่ผู้ติดเชื้อสามารถใช้ได้<sup>(3)</sup>



ในปัจจุบันมีวัคซีนโควิด-19 ที่ผลิตจากหลายบริษัท มีกรรมวิธีการผลิตที่แตกต่างกัน ซึ่งวัคซีนโควิด-19 ที่เข้ามาในประเทศไทยทุกชนิดสามารถใช้ได้กับผู้ติดเชื้อเอชไอวี ได้แก่ Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson&Johnson เป็นต้น โดยยังไม่มีรายงานการเกิดปฏิกิริยาระหว่างวัคซีนโควิด-19 กับยาต้านไวรัสเอชไอวี ที่ผู้ติดเชื้อรับประทานอยู่เป็นประจำ



คณะแพทยศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์

Q&A

