

Covaxin demonstrates persistant immunity against emerging variants after booster dose

20 July 2022 | News

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Bharat Biotech International has announced that BBV152 (COVAXIN), its whole-virion inactivated COVID-19 vaccine, has proven to be safe, well-tolerated, and immunogenic in subjects in controlled clinical trials. The study has been accepted and published in *Nature Scientific Reports*.

The comprehensive study has demonstrated multiple benefits of COVAXIN, such as long-term immune response, cell-mediated immunity, the safety of booster dose, immunogenicity against spike protein, N protein and neutralising antibody responses against alpha, beta, delta, delta plus and omicron variants.

The study was conducted on ~184 subjects, who were randomised 1:1 and received either a booster dose of BBV152 or a placebo, ~six months after the primary series of two doses. Subjects were evaluated for safety, neutralising antibody responses against variants of concern, binding antibodies against spike protein, RBD, N proteins, and for memory T and B cell responses to demonstrate cell-mediated immunity.

Dr Krishna Ella, CMD, Bharat Biotech, said, "We have now achieved our goal of developing a safe and efficacious vaccine with long-term protection against a spectrum of variants."

Bharat Biotech has a stockpile of more than 50 million doses of COVAXIN ready to be distributed as required.