

Table 2. Multivariable Analysis of Predictors for Readmission within 30 days from COVID-19 Infection

Variables	OR (95% CI)	p value
CWIC at hospital admission	1.21 (1.06, 1.39)	0.004
Creatinine on admission	1.12 (1.03, 1.21)	0.009
Rhabdomyolysis	3.84 (1.07, 13.78)	0.04

Abbreviations: OR: Odds ratio, CI: Confidence interval, CWIC: Charlson weighted index of comorbidity

Conclusion. In our cohort, infectious etiologies were common among those readmitted within 30 days of COVID-19. A higher Charlson score, acute renal failure, and rhabdomyolysis during the index admission were independent predictors of a 30-day readmission. Further studies are required to investigate these contributing factors.

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37. Allogeneic, Off-the-Shelf, SARS-CoV-2-specific T Cells Demonstrate Reactivity Against Emerging Variant Strains

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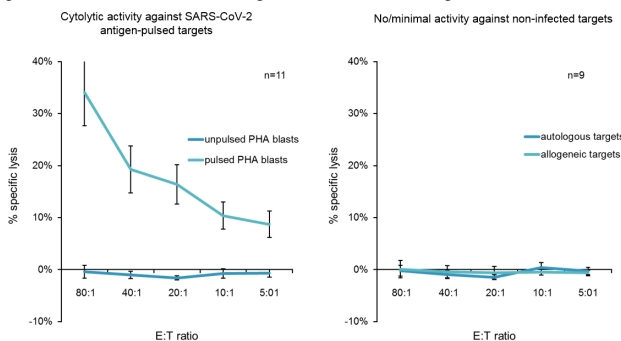
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Background. The impact of COVID-19 has been profound with >170,000,000 confirmed cases worldwide and emerging variants being a cause of global concern. Defects in T-cell function and trafficking have been described among those with severe illness, and immunodeficiency is a risk factor for persistent viral shedding and prolonged symptoms. Because of our prior clinical data demonstrating that allogeneic, off-the-shelf virus-specific T cells (VSTs) can safely and effectively treat viral infections, we investigated the feasibility of targeting COVID-19 using banked, SARS-CoV-2-specific VSTs.

Methods. We first screened PBMCs from convalescent individuals against 18 structural and non-structural/accessory (NSPs/APs) SARS-CoV-2 proteins and identified 5 [Spike (S), Membrane (M), Nucleoprotein (N), NSP4, and AP7a] as immunodominant which were then advanced to our VST production process.

Results. Using overlapping peptide libraries spanning these antigens as a stimulus, we achieved a mean 7.6±0.9 fold expansion (n=13) of VSTs (96±0.5%), with a mixture of cytotoxic (CD8+) and helper (CD4+) T cells that expressed activation and central/effector memory markers. These VSTs were potent, Th1-polarized and polyfunctional, producing IFN γ , TNF α , GM-CSF and Granzyme B. Moreover, the VSTs were able to kill pepmix-loaded autologous targets with no evidence of auto- or alloreactivity, attesting to their virus selectivity and safety for clinical use (Figure 1). Finally, though initially generated against the reference strain NC_045512.2 (Wuhan), these VSTs were able to recognize other clinically important variants including B1.1.7 (UK), B1.351 (South Africa) and P1 (Brazil). This demonstrates the cross-reactive potential of these polyclonal and diverse VSTs, which were developed to provide potent antiviral effects and minimize the risk of immune escape due to sequence variation.

Figure 1: SARS-CoV-2 Specific T cells Have Demonstrated Selective Cytolytic Activity against SARS-CoV-2 While Leaving Non-Virus Infected Targets Intact.



Conclusion. In conclusion, it is feasible to generate polyclonal SARS-CoV-2 VSTs that provide coverage against variant strains using GMP-compliant manufacturing methodologies. We have advanced this product to the bedside for administration in a

Phase I, randomized clinical trial [VSTs+ standard of care (SOC) vs SOC] in high-risk patients hospitalized with COVID-19 (NCT04401410).

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38. Remdesivir Treatment in Patients Hospitalized with COVID-19: A Comparative Analysis of In-Hospital All-Cause Mortality

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Background. Remdesivir (RDV) reduced time to recovery and mortality in some subgroups of hospitalized patients in the NIAID ACTT-1 RCT compared to placebo. Comparative effectiveness data in clinical practice are limited.

Methods. Using the Premier Healthcare Database, we compared survival for adult non-mechanically ventilated hospitalized COVID-19 patients between Aug-Nov 2020 and treated with RDV within 2 days of hospitalization vs. those who did not receive RDV. Preferential within-hospital propensity score matching with replacement was used. Patients were matched on baseline O₂ and 2-month admission period and were excluded if discharged within 3 days of RDV initiation (to exclude anticipated discharges/transfers within 72 hrs consistent with ACTT-1 study). Time to 14- and 28-day mortality was examined separately for patients on high-flow/non-invasive ventilation (NIV), low-flow, and no supplemental O₂ using Cox Proportional Hazards models.

Results. RDV patients (n=27,559) were matched to unique non-RDV patients (n=15,617) (Fig 1). The two groups were balanced; median age 66 yrs and 73% white (RDV); 68 yrs and 74% white (non-RDV), and 55% male. At baseline, 21% required high-flow O₂, 50% low-flow O₂, and 29% no O₂, overall.

Mortality in RDV patients was 9.6% and 13.8% on days 14 and 28, respectively. For non-RDV patients, mortality was 14.0% and 17.3% on days 14 and 28, respectively. Kaplan-Meier curves for time to mortality are shown in Fig 2. After adjusting for baseline and clinical covariates, RDV patients on no O₂ and low-flow O₂ had a significantly lower risk of death within 14 days (no O₂, HR: 0.69, 95% CI: 0.57–0.83; low-flow, HR: 0.67, 95% CI: 0.59–0.77) and 28 days (no O₂, HR: 0.80, 95% CI: 0.68–0.94; low-flow, HR: 0.76, 95% CI: 0.68–0.86). Additionally, RDV patients on high-flow O₂/NIV had a significantly lower risk of death within 14 days (HR: 0.81, 95% CI: 0.70–0.93); but not at 28 days (Fig 3).

Fig 1. Study Population

