

- Virus**Immunity may last a year after infection 'DELTA COVID-19 VARIANT DOUBLES THE RISK OF HOSPITALISATION'**

People who have had Covid get even better protection when vaccinated, according to an antibody study The key findings

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Antibodies and immune memory among people who contract Covid-19 remains stable up from six months to a year, and they get even better protection when vaccinated, according to a study published on Monday, which also found the body's defences to have evolved over time to offer protection from mutations.

The findings, from researchers led by a team from Rockefeller University and Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, were published in Nature as an accelerated article on Monday, and offer among the first concrete clues that immunity to the Sarscov-2 may be long-lasting. The researchers followed up with 63 people who were infected with Covid-19 1.3 months, 6 months and 12 months after they got infected. Of these, 26 (41%) received one dose of either the Pfizer-biontech or the Moderna vaccine.

"In the absence of vaccination, antibody reactivity to the receptor binding domain (RBD) of Sars-cov-2, neutralising activity and the number of Rbdspecific memory B cells remain relatively stable from 6 to 12 months," said the paper.

It added that in the case of those who got the vaccine, all components "of the humoral response" – or the antibodies that bind to and neutralise the virus – increased and even neutralised variants of concern (VOC) in a manner that was similar or better than how people fought off the original virus that first emerged from Wuhan in 2020.

The study's findings could provide important clues about the future of the pandemic and, The Delta variant of coronavirus, first identified in India, doubles the risk of hospitalisation compared with the Alpha variant first found in the UK, but Pfizer and Astrazeneca vaccines provide good protection against the strain, says a study published in The Lancet journal.

Researchers at Public Health Scotland and the University of Edinburgh, UK, found that the Pfizer-biontech vaccine offered better protection against the Delta variant compared to the Oxford-astrazeneca preventive, known as Covishield in India.

The study found that the Pfizer vaccine offered 92% protection against the Alpha variant and 79% against the Delta strain two weeks after the second dose.

For Astrazeneca's vaccine, there was 60% protection against Delta compared with 73% for Alpha variant, the researchers said.

They also found that two doses of vaccine provide much better protection against the Delta variant compared to a single dose.

Both vaccines were effective in reducing the risk of infection and hospitalisation in people with the Delta variant.