



PAXLOVID & THE COMMUNITY PHARMACIST

Kristen Watt BScPhm RPh
Community Pharmacist

Me & My Conflicts

- Community Pharmacist
- UofT 1T0
- Palliative Care specialty
- Owner of Kristen's Pharmacy
- Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, UWaterloo School of Pharmacy
- Boards of Directors:
 - Ontario Pharmacists Association
 - PharmaChoice Canada
 - Grey Bruce Hospice
- Honoraria, payments and other affiliations from:
 - Pfizer
 - MedEssist
 - MD BriefCase
 - OPA
 - CPhA
 - PharmacyU



Me & My Conflicts

- Hospital Pharmacist
- Viral specialty
- Clinical Professor, uOttawa School of Pharmacy
- CHAP
- Editorial board of hivclinic.ca
- Organizing committee of HIV Education Day
- Honoraria, payments and other affiliations from:
 - Pfizer
 - ViiV
 - Gilead
 - Merck

The “Post Pandemic” Era



Focus on reduction of severe illness



Moving to annual vaccination
(away from boosters)



Using Paxlovid to prevent
severe illness in those who
would benefit

How Does Paxlovid (Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir) Work?

Nirmatrelvir prevents the long protein chains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus being cleaved into the shorter, non-structural proteins that are vital for viral replication.¹

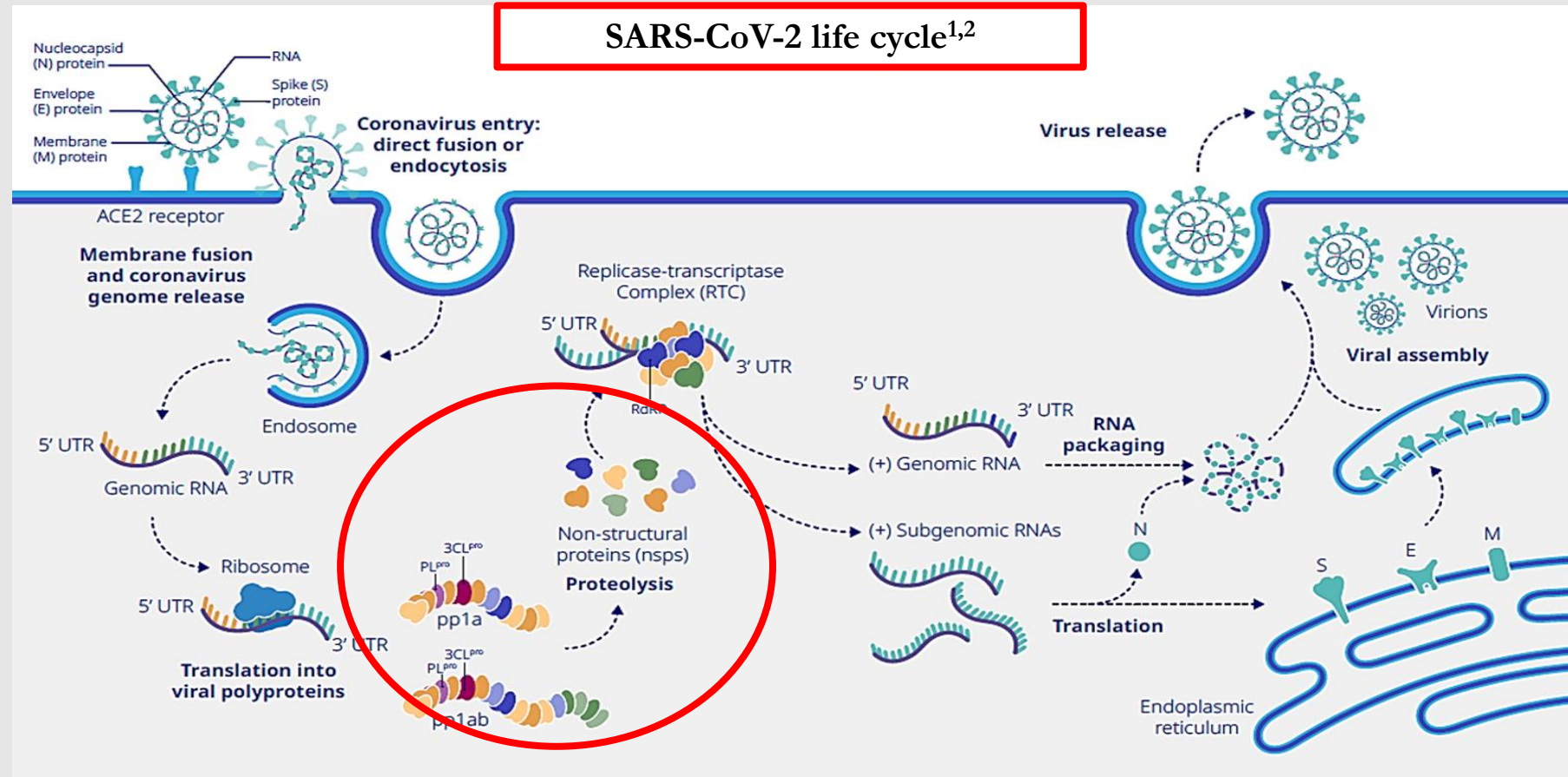


Image adapted from V'kovski P, et al., *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2021, and Owen DR, et al., *Science* 2021.

References: 1. V'kovski P, Kratzel A, Steiner S, et al. Coronavirus biology and replication: Implications for SARS-CoV-2. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2021;19(3):155–170. 2. Owen DR, Allerton CMN, Anderson AS, et al. An oral SARS-CoV-2 M^{pro} inhibitor clinical candidate for the treatment of COVID-19. *Science* 2021;374(6575):1586–1593.

Paxlovid: Real World Evidence



What	Population based cohort study
When	Apr 4 – Aug 31, 2022
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All residents of Ontario aged >17 years with a positive PCR test for SARS-CoV-2• PAXLOVID-treated patients (n=8,876) and patients who were not treated (n=168,669)• 84.8% of PAXLOVID-treated patients had received ≥ 3 vaccine doses
Outcomes	<p>Hospital admission from COVID-19 or all-cause death at 1–30 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occurrence of hospital admission or death was lower in the PAXLOVID group than the not-treated group (2.1% vs. 3.7%; wOR 0.56; 95% CI 0.47–0.67; $p < 0.001$)• Occurrence of death was lower in the PAXLOVID group than the not-treated group (1.6% vs. 3.3%; wOR 0.49; 95% CI 0.40–0.60; $p < 0.001$)• NNT for prevention of severe COVID-19 (hospitalisation or death): 62 (95% CI 43–80)

Paxlovid: Real World Evidence



What	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospital Authority database
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 February 2022–26 June 2022 (Omicron BA2.2 wave)
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-hospitalised adult patients with COVID-19 (N=1,074,856)• Molnupiravir (n=4,983) versus antiviral non-users (n=49,234)*• PAXLOVID (n=5,542) versus antiviral non-users (n=54,672)*• Molnupiravir: 88.7% aged >60 years, 16.1% fully vaccinated• PAXLOVID: 85.9% aged >60 years, 33.4% vaccinated
Outcomes	<p>All-cause mortality and COVID-19–related hospitalisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compared with no antiviral treatment, molnupiravir and PAXLOVID significantly reduced mortality:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ PAXLOVID: HR: 0.34 (95% CI: 0.22–0.52)○ Molnupiravir: HR: 0.76 (95% CI: 0.61–0.95)• PAXLOVID was associated with a significantly lower risk of COVID-19–related hospitalisation versus no treatment; molnupiravir was not

Real-world effectiveness of molnupiravir and nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir against mortality, hospitalisation, and in-hospital outcomes among community-dwelling, ambulatory patients with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection during the omicron wave in Hong Kong: an observational study

Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir: Meta-analysis (Feb 2023)

(C) Hospitalization or death

The findings of the meta-analysis showed a significant difference between the Paxlovid and no-Paxlovid groups in terms of mortality rate (odds ratio [OR] = 0.25; 95% [CI]: 0.14–0.45), hospitalization rate (OR = 0.40; 95% CI: 0.24–0.69), polymerase chain reaction negative conversion time (mean difference [MD] = -2.46; 95% CI: -4.31 to -0.61), and hospitalization or death rate (OR = 0.17; 95% CI: 0.06–0.46).

However, no significant difference was observed between the two groups in terms of COVID-19 rebound (OR = 0.84; 95% CI: 0.67–1.04), emergency department visit (OR = 0.75; 95% CI: 0.45–1.24), intensive care unit admission (OR = 0.37; 95% CI: 0.13–1.01), and adverse events (OR = 2.20; 95% CI: 0.42–11.47)

0.01	0.1	1	10	100
Paxlovid		No Paxlovid		

Ontario Paxlovid Eligibility Criteria

Only age

- 60 and older

Comorbidities

- 18-59
- Immunocompromised
- 1 or more comorbidities that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19

Vaccination status

- Unvaccinated or incomplete primary series
- Completed primary series AND last COVID-19 vaccine dose was more than 6 months ago AND last SARS-CoV-2 infection was more than 6 months ago

Meet John

- 88 year old male
- Atrial fibrillation
- Cataracts
- BPH
- Hypertension
- Active well elderly man



April 2022: COVID+

Medication	Paxlovid Action Plan
Tamsulosin 0.4mg	HELD x 7 days
Xarelto 20mg	HALF DOSE x 7 days
Metoprolol 25mg BID	No change
Lansoprazole 30mg	No change
Candesartan 8mg	No change
MgOx 420mg	No change



PCR positive



RPh recommended Paxlovid to MD,
MD authorized and collaborated
directly on changes

October 2022: COVID+

Medication	Paxlovid Action Plan
Tamsulosin 0.4mg	HELD x 7 days
Xarelto 20mg	HELD x 7 days
Edoxaban 30mg	STARTED x 7 days
Metoprolol 25mg BID	No change
Candesartan 8mg	No change
MgOx 420mg	No change



RAT positive



Physician prescribed Paxlovid and managed all drug interactions without input

August 2023: COVID+

Medication	Paxlovid Action Plan
Tamsulosin 0.4mg	HELD x 7 days
Xarelto 20mg	HALF DOSE x 7 days
Diltiazem 180mg	Changed to Q2D x 7 days
Metoprolol 100mg BID	No change
Candesartan 4mg	No change
MgOx 500mg	No change
Lansoprazole 30mg	No change



RAT positive



Pharmacist prescribed Paxlovid and managed all drug interactions without input

Leveraging the Community Pharmacist



Comprehensive medication list



Managing drug drug interactions



Adapting, adjusting and managing where
needed



Follow up

Editorial
Comments

Data on Calcium
Channel Blockers

Management
DOAC Interaction

Calcium Channel Blockers

ACC.23
TOGETHER WITH
WCC

2472
JACC March 7, 2023
Volume 81, Issue 8, suppl A

☆ **Complex Clinical Cases**

CARDIOGENIC SHOCK DUE TO PAXLOVID INTERACTION

Restricted access | Letter | First published online December 22, 2022


A CYP3A4 Drug-Drug Interaction Between Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir and Nifedipine Leading to Edema, Oliguria, and Acute Kidney Injury: A Case Report

[Madison S. Rauser, PharmD](#) and [Jan R. McGrane, PharmD](#)  [View all authors and affiliations](#)

[Volume 57, Issue 8](#) | <https://doi.org/10.1177/10600280221143131>

Case report

Pharmacokinetic interaction between verapamil and ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir: implications for the management of COVID-19 in patients with hypertension

Obaid Imtiyazul Haque ,^{1,2} Samantha Mahar,¹ Shahzad Hussain,¹ Peter Sloane¹

BMJ Case Rep 2023;16:e252677.

Calcium Channel Blockers



Plasma concentrations of these drugs are expected to increase by co-administration with ritonavir. Therefore, PAXLOVID should be used with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
(PM)



Closely monitor blood pressure; if hypotension occurs, reduce calcium channel blocker dose by 50% while taking Paxlovid® and for 3 days after treatment (NIH)



Caution is warranted and clinical monitoring of patients is recommended. A dose decrease may be needed for these drugs when co-administered with PAXLOVID. (FDA)

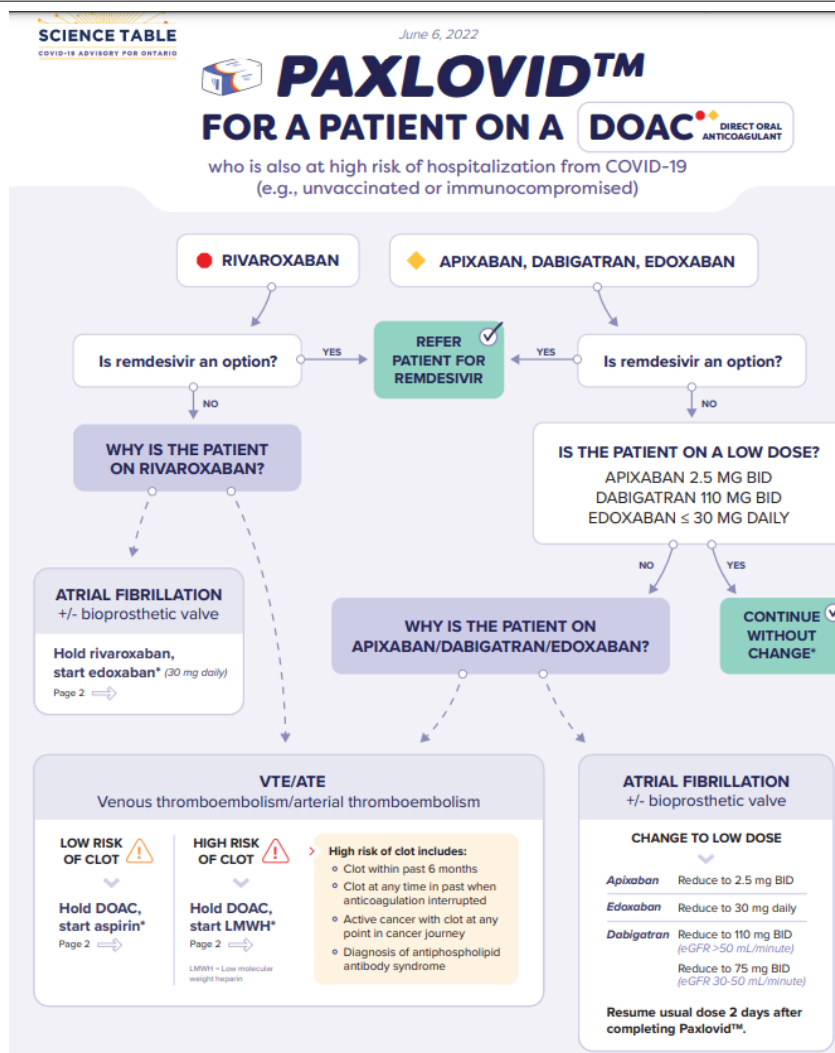
PBPK simulation study

- 50% dose reduction of amlodipine results in equivalent PK and PD effect
- Post Ritonavir inhibition gradually weans off within 5 days (SBP increases 6mmHg)
- Higher amlodipine baseline dose is associated with greater changes (SBP 11 mmHg)

All CCB are not the same

DOAC

- OST algorithm
 - By agents
 - By indication
- Alternatives
 - Rivaroxaban 20mg + NRM/RTV (PBPK data)
 - Increased AUC, more profound in geriatrics & CKD
 - Dose reduction to 10mg mitigates AUC changes
 - And bleeding risk by 50% in all cohorts
- Cohorts @ TOH
 - Validates safe management using OST table recommendations





QUESTIONS?

Back up slides

- CREDIT : Clinical care options

Key Trials of Outpatient Antivirals for High-Risk Patients

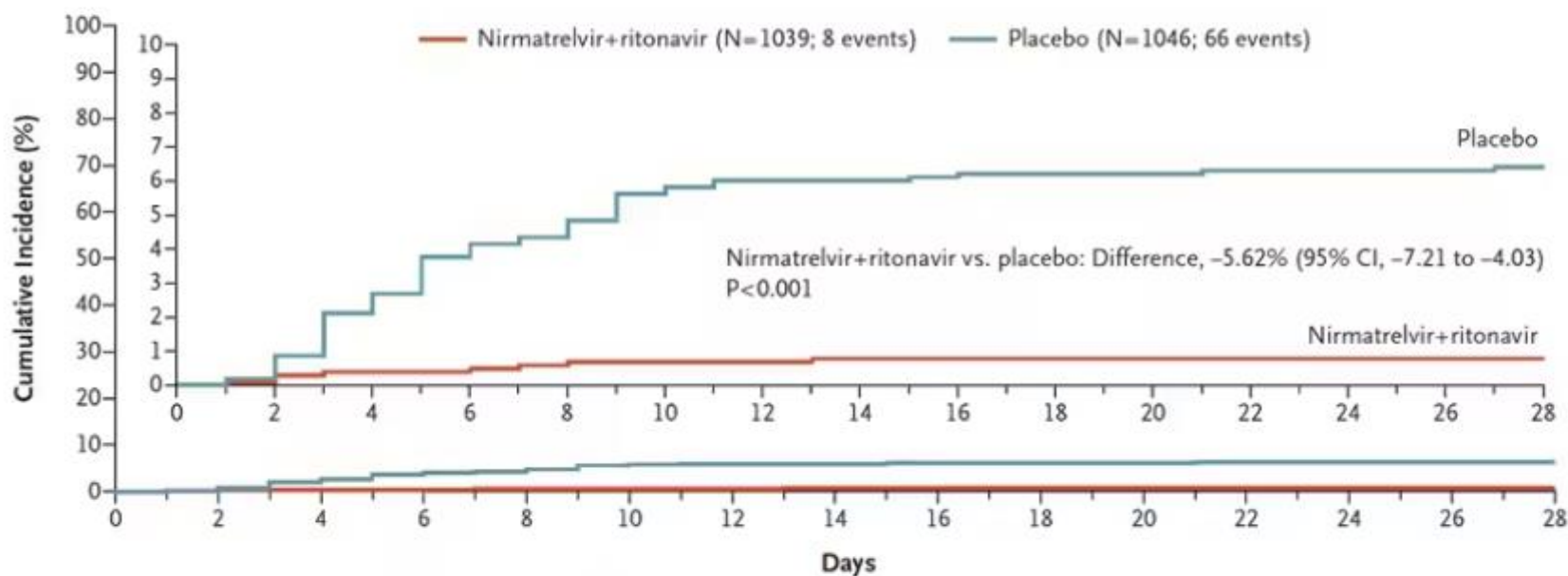
Study	Therapy	Drug Class	Participants
EPIC-HR^[1]	Nirmatrelvir + ritonavir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nirmatrelvir: a SARS-CoV-2 Mpro inhibitor Ritonavir: an HIV1 protease inhibitor and CYP3A inhibitor 	2246 participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1120 nirmatrelvir + ritonavir 1126 placebo
MOVE-OUT^[2]	Molnupiravir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RNA-polymerase inhibitor (cytidine nucleoside analogue) 	1433 participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 716 molnupiravir 717 placebo
PANORAMIC^[3]	Molnupiravir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RNA-polymerase inhibitor (cytidine nucleoside analogue) 	26,411 participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12,821 molnupiravir 12,962 placebo
PINETREE^[4]	Remdesivir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RNA-polymerase inhibitor (adenosine nucleoside analogue) 	562 participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 279 remdesivir 283 placebo

CYP3A, cytochrome P450 3A; Mpro, main protease.

1. Hammond J, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:1397-1408; 2. Jayk Bernal A, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:509-520; 3. Butler CC, et al. Lancet. 2023;401:281-293; 4. Gottlieb RL, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:305-315.

EPIC-HR: Phase 2/3 Oral Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir in High-Risk Nonhospitalized Adults With COVID-19

COVID-19-Related Hospitalization or Death From Any Cause Through Day 28^a



No. at Risk

NMV-r	1039	1034	1023	1013	1007	1004	1002	1000	997	995	993	993	993	992
Placebo	1046	1042	1015	990	977	963	959	959	955	953	951	948	948	945

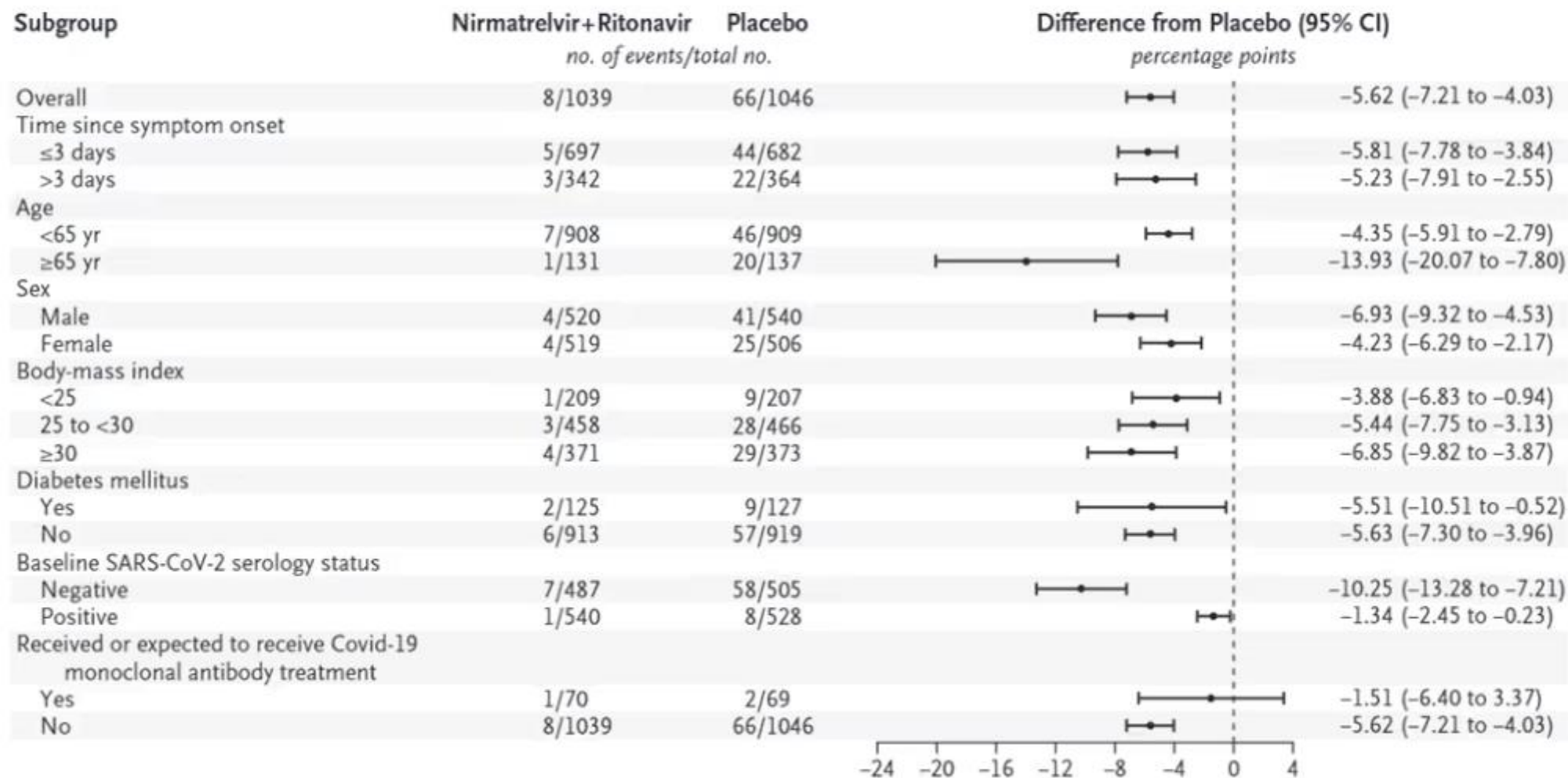
88.9% and 87.8% relative risk reductions in COVID-19-related hospitalization or death were observed in unvaccinated patients commencing treatment within 3 days and 5 days after symptom onset, respectively

^aAmong patients treated 5 days after symptom onset.
NMV-r, nirmatrelvir-ritonavir.
Hammond J, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:1397-1408.

EPIC-HR

Subgroup Analyses

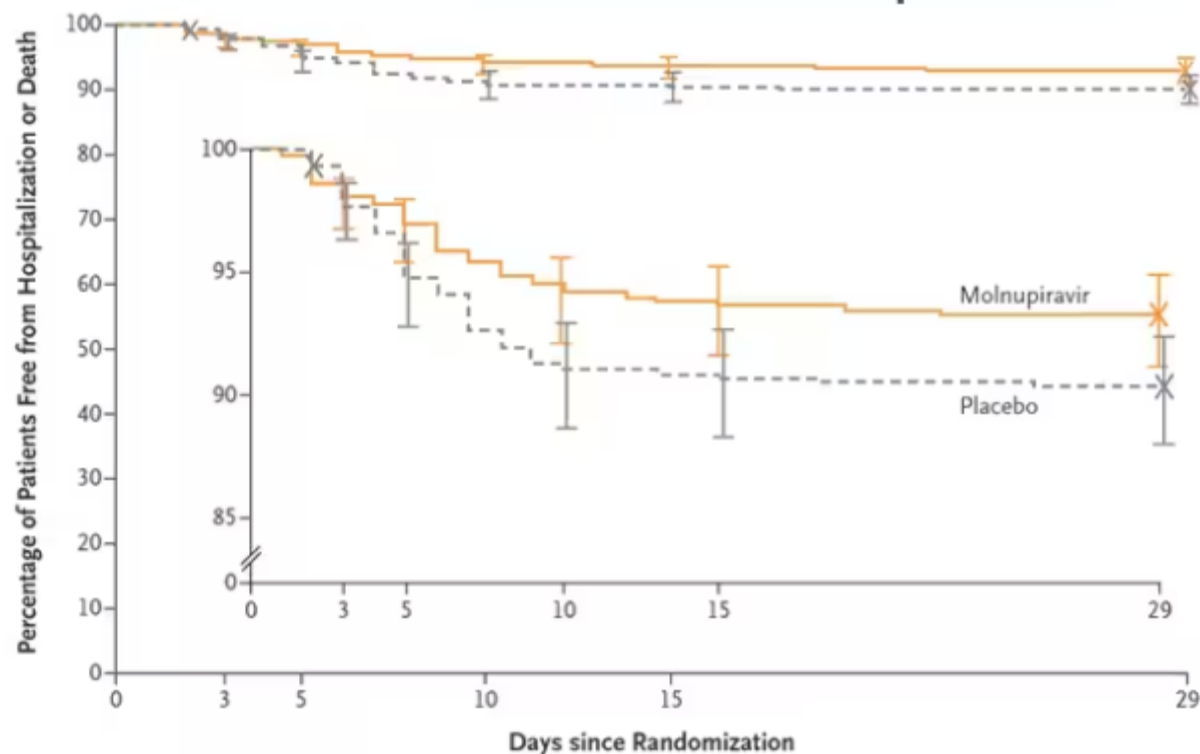
Treatment efficacy was consistent in the subgroup analyses of the primary endpoint



MOVE-OUT

Phase 3 Oral Molnupiravir in Nonhospitalized At-Risk Adults With COVID-19

Time-to-Event Analysis of Hospitalization or Death Through Day 29 in the Modified Intention-to-Treat Population



Molnupiravir, initiated within 5 days after the onset of symptoms, reduced the risk of hospitalization for any cause or death in at-risk, unvaccinated adults with COVID-19

No. at Risk

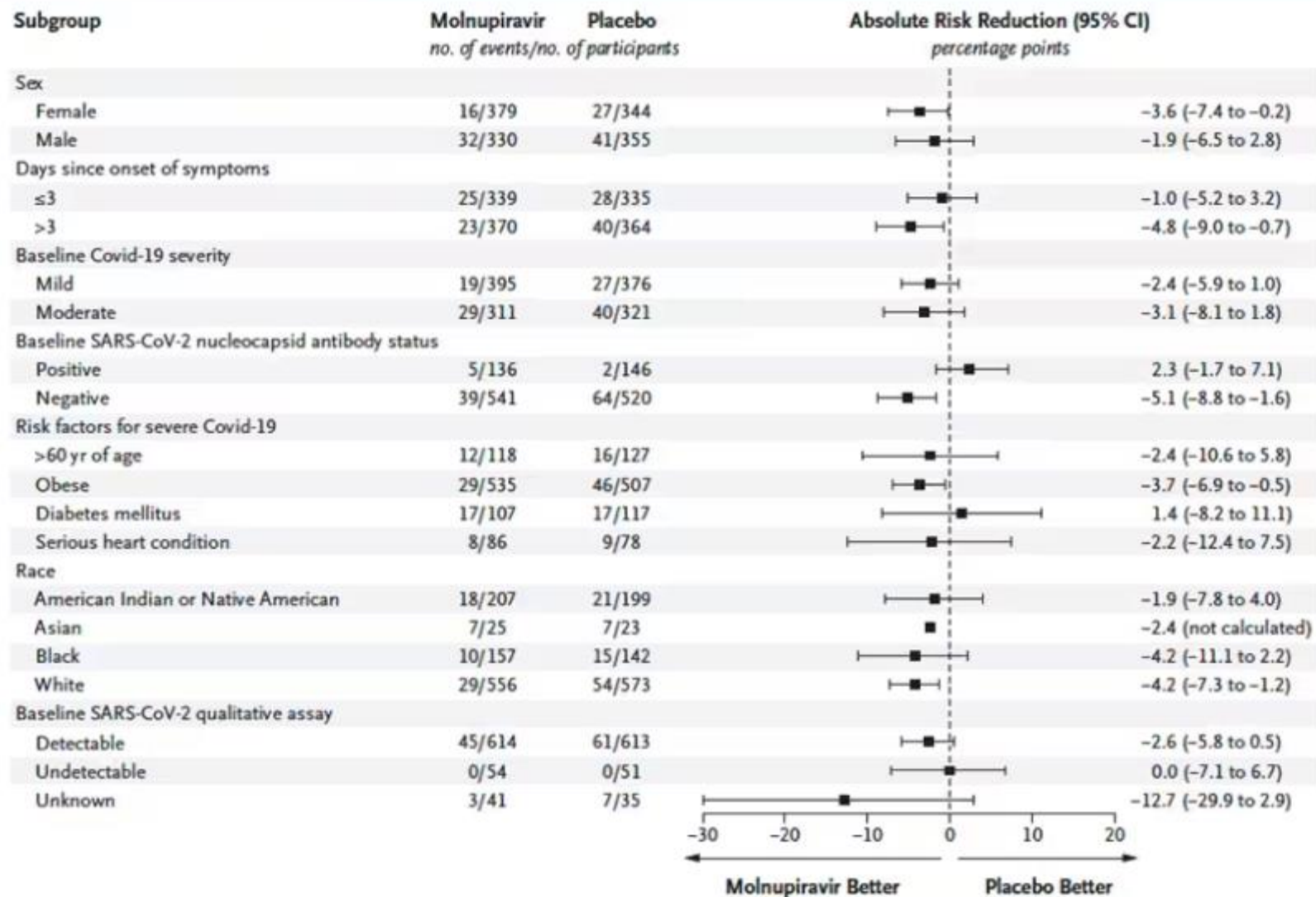
Molnupiravir	709	699	693	670	665	661
Placebo	699	693	674	637	634	631

No. of Events

Molnupiravir	10	6	23	5	4	0
Placebo	5	19	37	3	3	0

MOVE-OUT

Subgroup Analyses



In patients with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, low baseline viral load, or diabetes, the difference in point estimate favored placebo

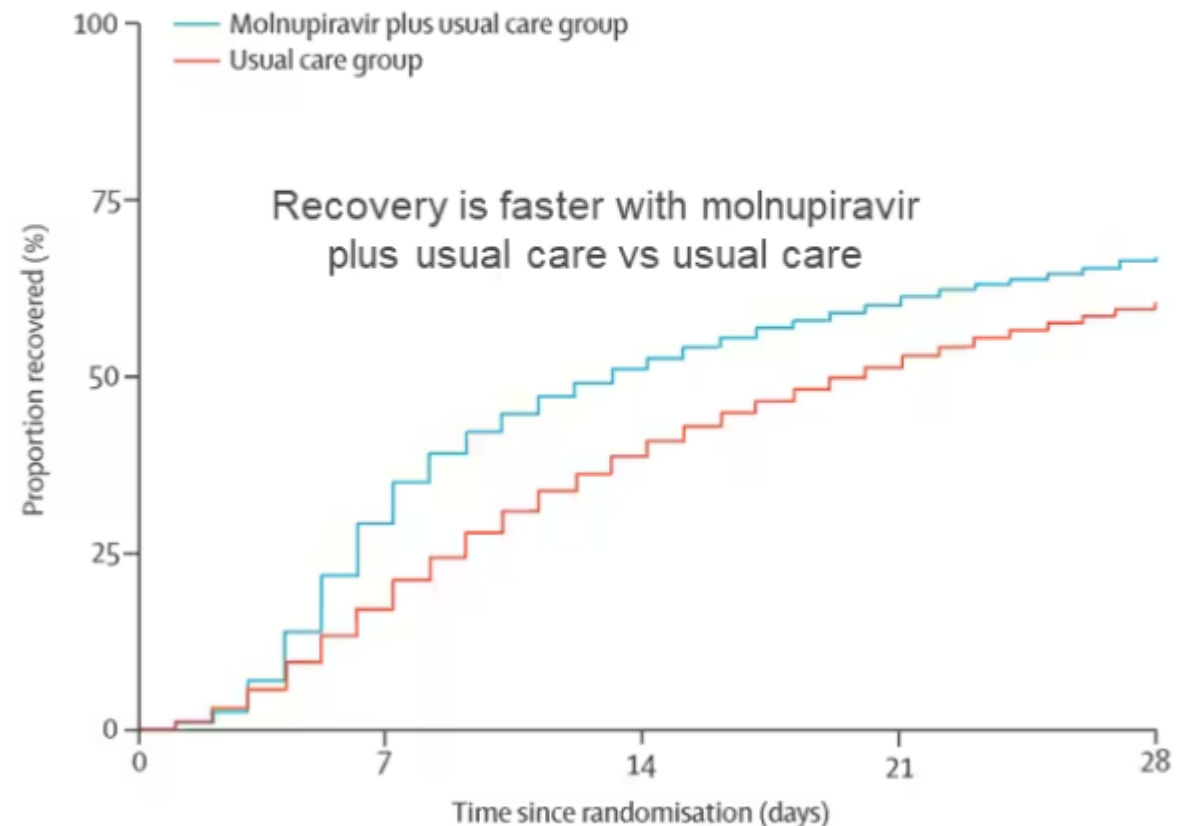
PANORAMIC

Molnupiravir in Adults With COVID-19 at Increased Risk of Adverse Outcomes

26,411 patients were randomized to receive molnupiravir plus usual care or usual care only

- Largely vaccinated or naturally exposed to COVID-19
- Hospitalizations or deaths were recorded in 1% of patients in each arm

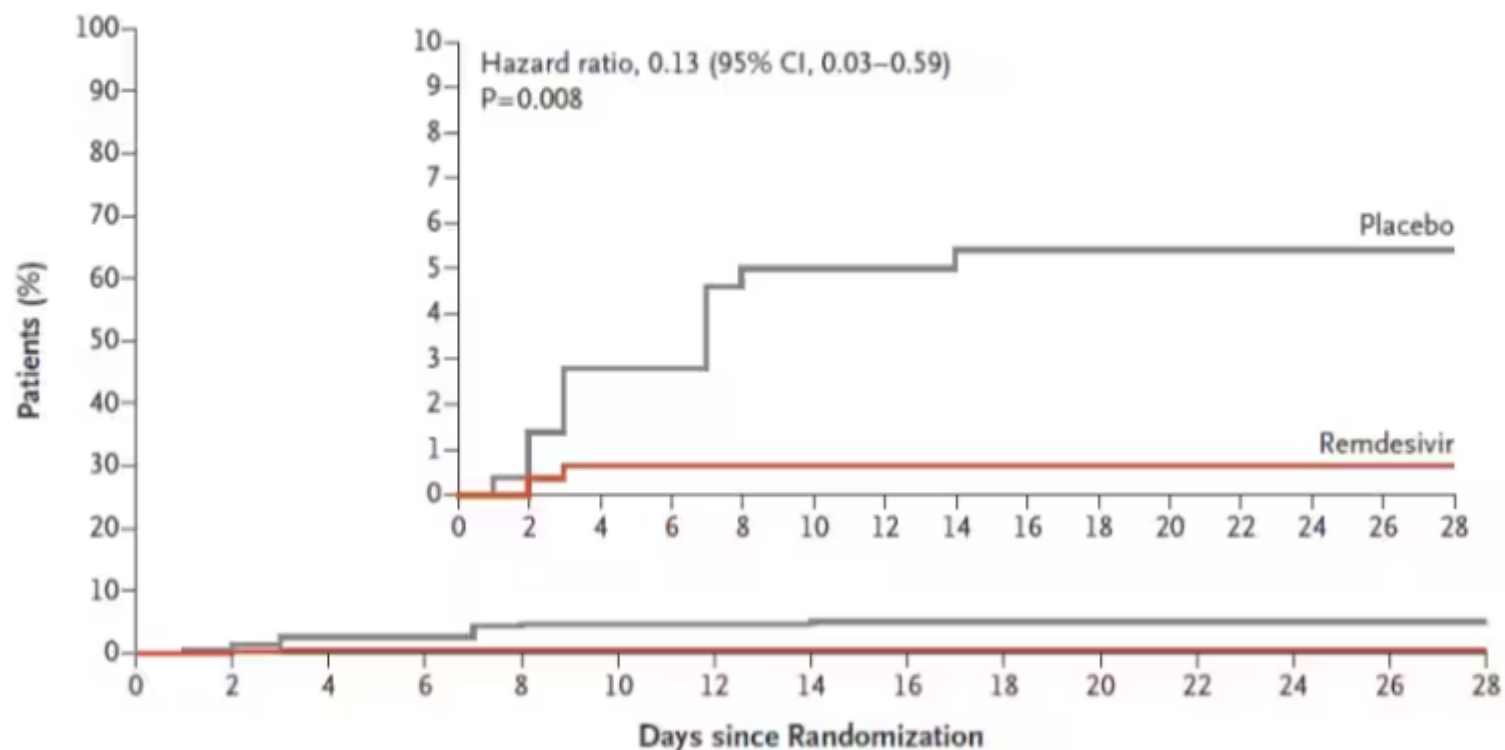
Time From Randomization to First Reported Recovery From COVID-19



PINETREE

Early IV Remdesivir to Prevent Progression to Severe COVID-19 in Outpatients

COVID-19-Related Hospitalization or Death From Any Cause



No. at Risk

Placebo	283	280	272	271	265	264	264	263	262	261	261	260	256	250	227
Remdesivir	279	276	272	272	271	268	268	268	264	264	264	264	260	252	226

562 nonhospitalized patients (symptom onset ≤ 7 days and ≥ 1 risk factor for disease progression)

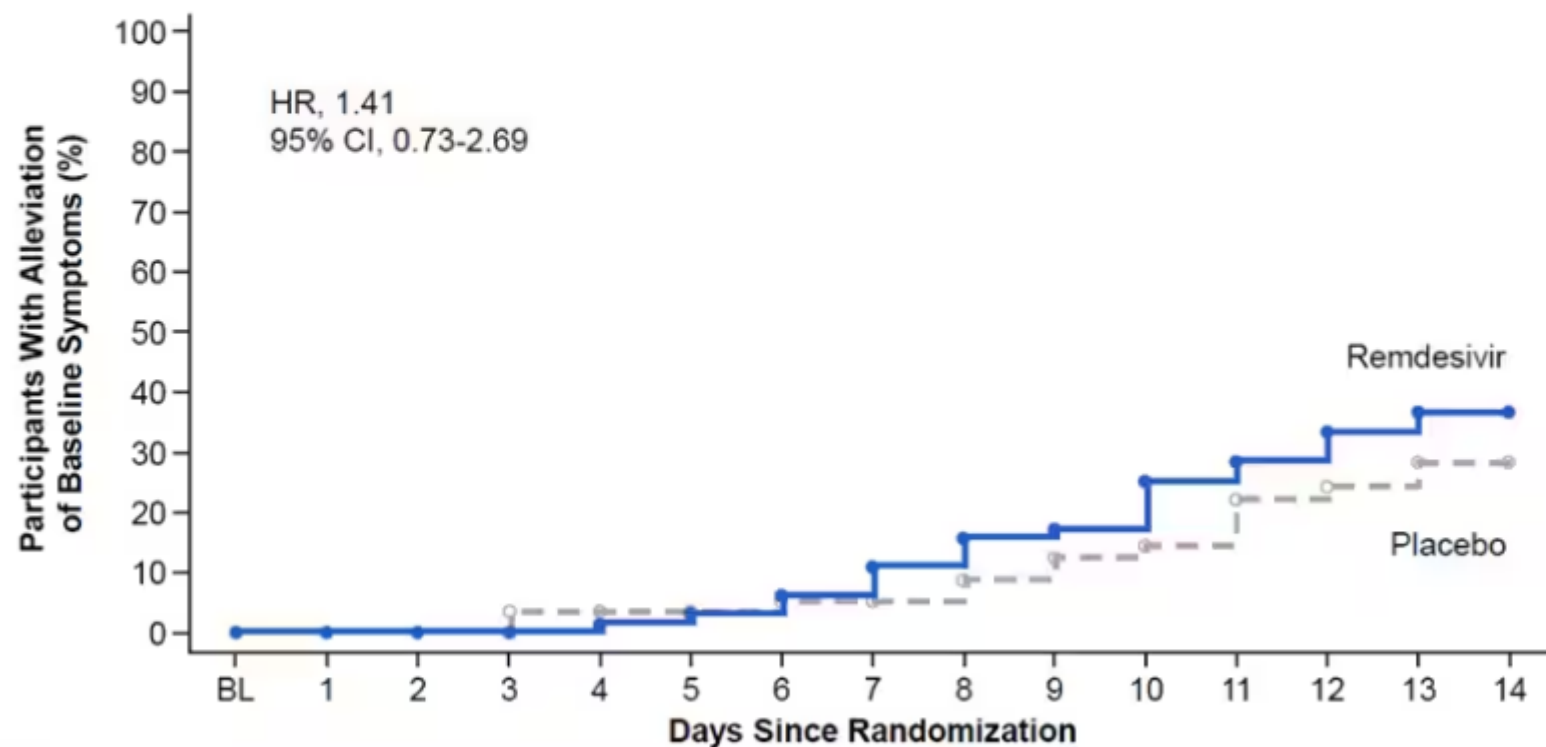
Early remdesivir resulted in 87% lower risk of hospitalization or death vs placebo; no patients died by day 28

Acceptable safety profile with a 3-day course of remdesivir

PINETREE

Time to Alleviation of Symptoms

Time to Symptom Alleviation as Reported by COVID-19-Adapted FLU-PRO Questionnaire



No. at risk

Remdesivir IV for 3 days	66	66	66	66	64	63	62	60	57	53	52	46	44	41	36
Placebo	60	60	60	59	57	57	56	55	52	49	47	44	38	37	32

34.8% remdesivir patients and 25.0% placebo patients reported alleviation of symptoms by day 14

Limitations of the Antiviral Clinical Trials

EPIC-HR^[1]

- **Restricted to unvaccinated patients** and those at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19

MOVe-OUT^[2]

- **Restricted to unvaccinated patients**, and the potential benefit of molnupiravir for the treatment of breakthrough infections was not evaluated

PANORAMIC^[3]

- **Open-label design** of PANORAMIC means it is not possible to estimate the proportion of the effect of molnupiravir on symptoms that might result from any placebo effect

PINETREE^[4]

- **Excluded vaccinated patients** who had received SARS-CoV-2 vaccines
- Black or Asian race, chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease, immunocompromised status, and cancer were underrepresented

Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir in Reducing Severe COVID-19 and Mortality in High-Risk Patients

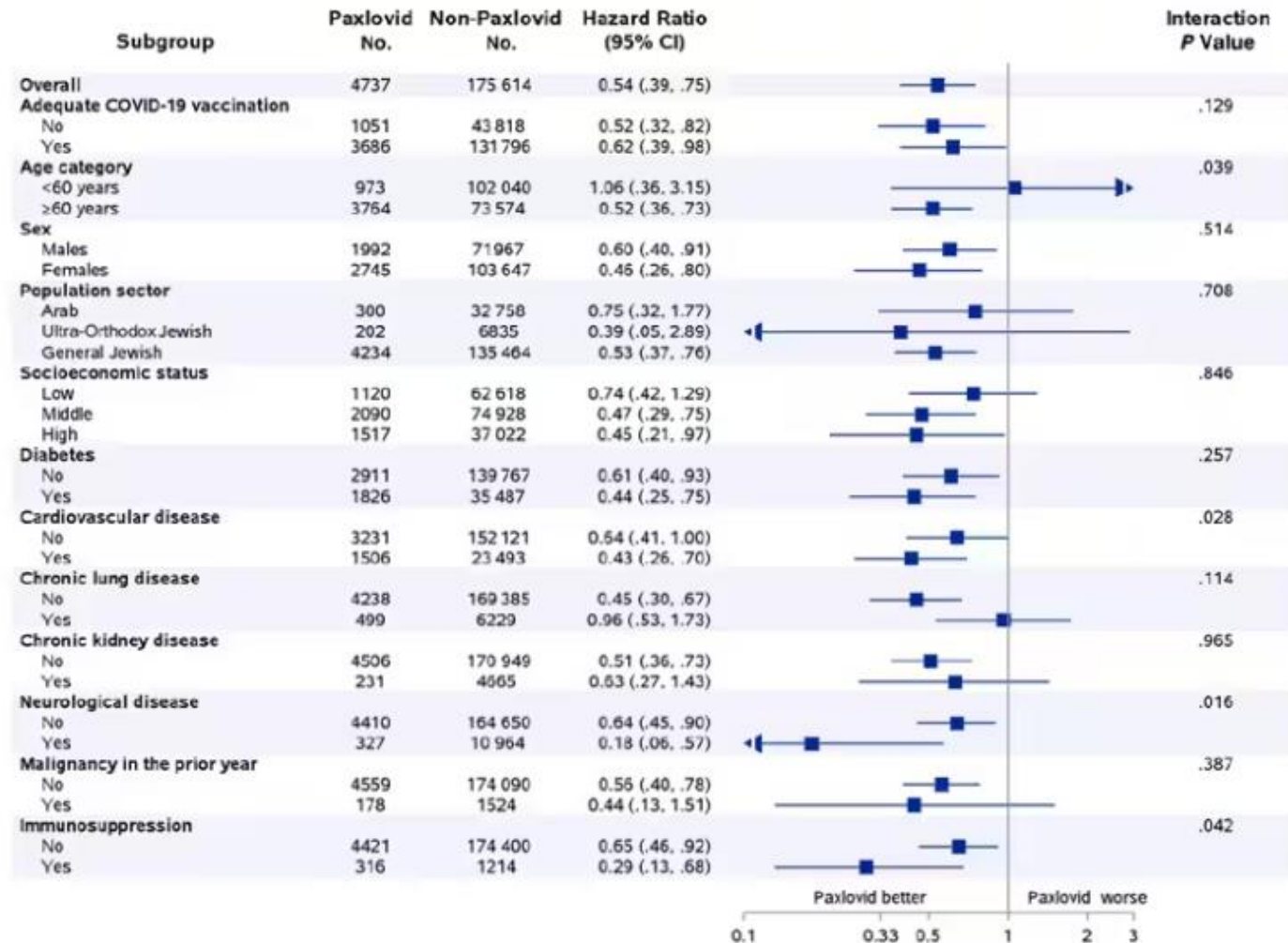
Israeli database: 180,351 patients were eligible to receive nirmatrelvir-ritonavir

- 4737 (2.6%) were treated; 135,482 (75.1%) had received COVID-19 vaccines

Greater efficacy was seen in older patients, those with cardiovascular or neurological disease, and those who were immunosuppressed

Magnitude of treatment effectiveness appeared to be unrelated to COVID-19 vaccination status

Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir in Reducing Severe COVID-19 and Mortality in High-Risk Patients: Subgroup Analyses



Treatment effects of nirmatrelvir-ritonavir were consistent across the different subgroups

Early Molnupiravir or Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir in Hospitalized Patients With COVID-19

Retrospective cohort of 40,776 patients with COVID-19 not requiring supplemental oxygen on hospitalization in Hong Kong

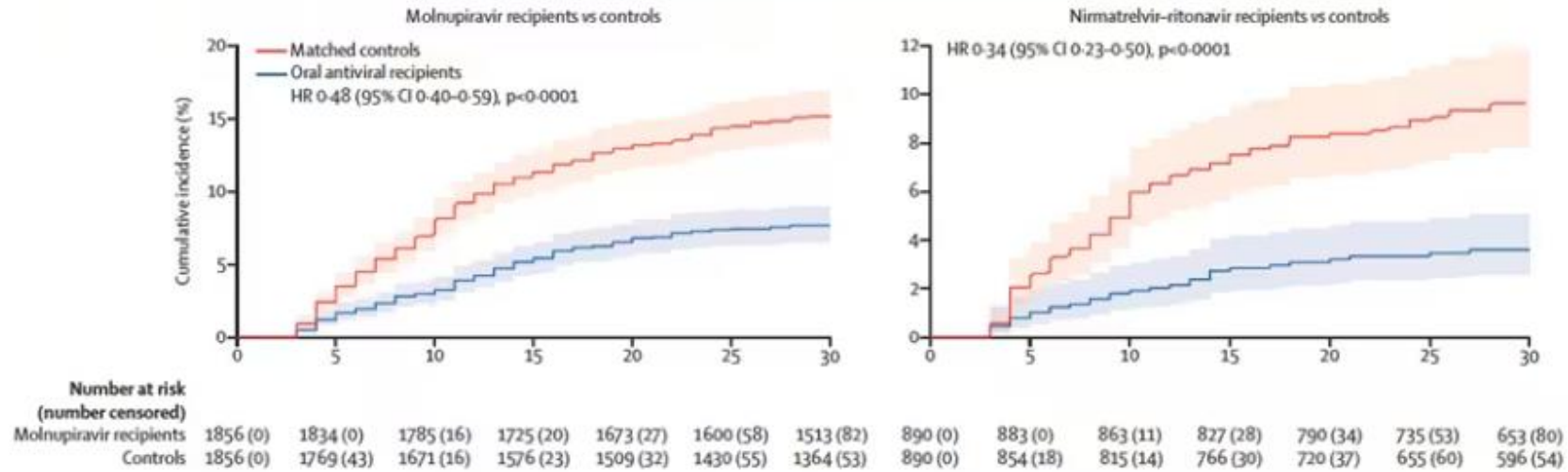
Time to achieving low viral burden (RT-PCR cycle threshold value ≥ 30) was significantly shorter among oral antiviral recipients than matched controls

Length of hospital stay among molnupiravir recipients was slightly shorter than among their matched controls

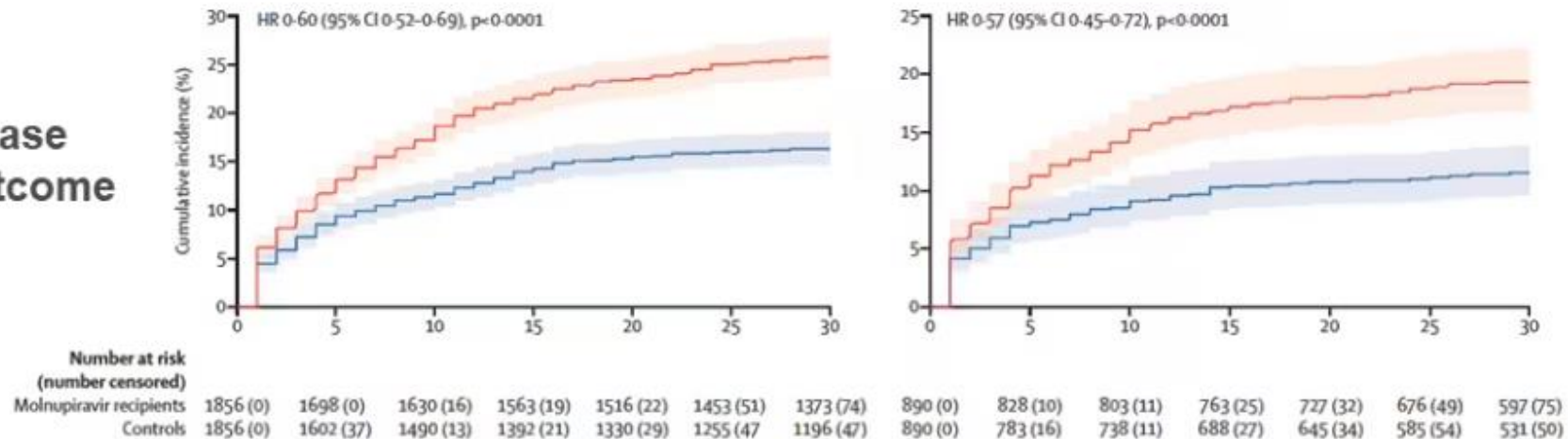
Molnupiravir or nirmatrelvir-ritonavir therapy was associated with significantly lower risks of all-cause mortality and disease progression

Cumulative Incidence of Mortality and Disease Progression With Molnupiravir or Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir

All-cause death



Composite disease progression outcome



Clinical and Virological Outcomes for Molnupiravir Recipients Compared With Matched Controls

	Molnupiravir Recipients (n = 1856)	Controls (n = 1856)	Molnupiravir Recipients vs Controls	
	Crude Incidence Rate per 10,000 Person-Days or Mean (95% CI)	Crude Incidence Rate per 10,000 Person-Days or Mean (95% CI)	HR or Mean Difference (95% CI)	P Value
All-cause mortality	19.98 (16.91, 23.45)	38.07 (33.85, 42.67)	0.48 (0.40, 0.59)	< .0001
Invasive mechanical ventilation	0.93 (0.38, 1.92)	2.20 (1.28, 3.52)	0.42 (0.17, 1.01)	.052
Intensive care unit admission	0.13 (0.00, 0.74)	0.26 (0.03, 0.93)	NA	NA
Need for oxygen therapy	31.76 (27.43, 36.59)	44.35 (39.12, 50.08)	0.69 (0.57, 0.83)	.0001
Composite disease progression outcome	44.49 (39.64, 49.76)	69.87 (63.76, 76.40)	0.60 (0.52, 0.69)	< .0001
Low viral burden	145.79 (129.04, 164.12)	100.24 (87.11, 114.79)	1.38 (1.15, 1.64)	.0005
Length of hospital stay, days	10.82 (10.41, 11.23)	11.50 (11.03, 11.98)	-0.68 (-1.31, -0.06)	.033

EPICOVIDEHA

Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir in Patients With COVID-19 With Hematological Malignancies

1859 patients analyzed; 117 (6%) treated with nirmatrelvir-ritonavir

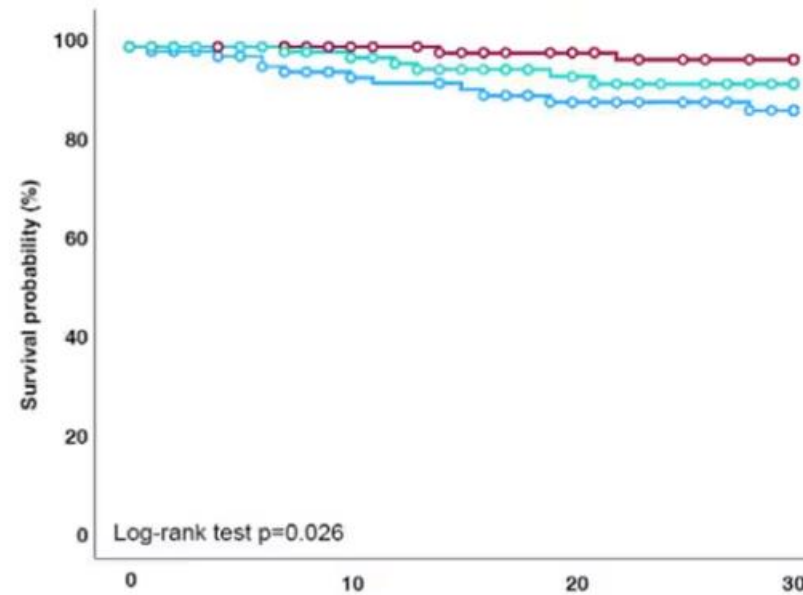
80% had received ≥ 1 anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccine dose before COVID-19 onset, 13% of which received a second vaccine booster

Patients with hematological malignancy were more likely to receive nirmatrelvir-ritonavir when reporting extrapulmonary symptoms or second vaccine booster at COVID-19 onset, vs CPD and obesity

The mortality rate in patients treated with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir was lower than in patients treated with other targeted drugs

EPICOVIDEHA

Survival Probability by COVID-19 Treatment Strategy

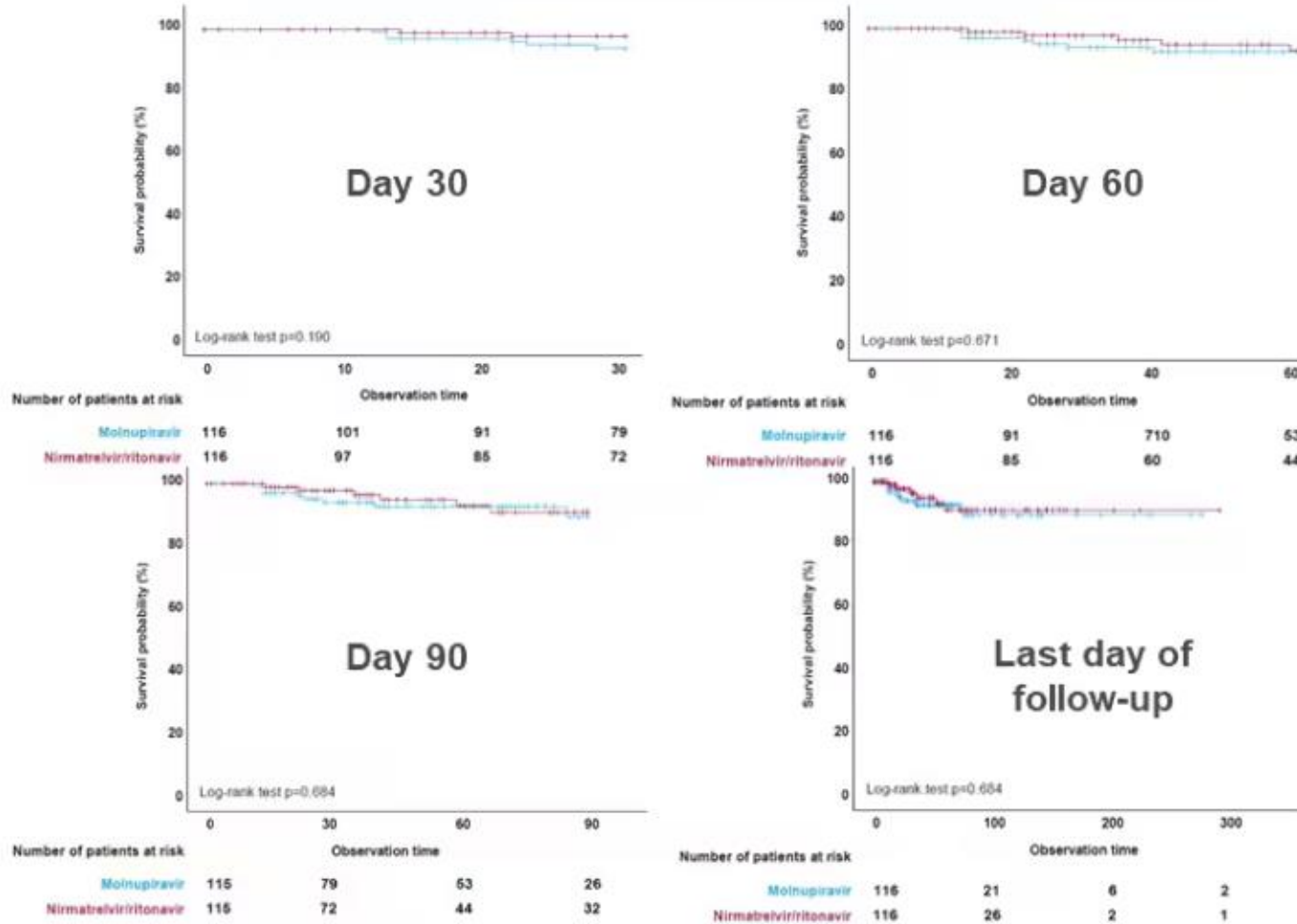


	Number of patients at risk	Days from COVID-19 diagnosis			
		0	10	20	30
Directed treatment other than nirmatrelvir/ritonavir	102	79	60	49	
No treatment/non-SARS-CoV-2 directed treatment	102	83	62	48	
Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir	102	85	73	61	

Day-30 mortality rate in patients treated with nirmatrelvir-ritonavir was 2%; in patients receiving treatments other than nirmatrelvir-ritonavir, the mortality rate was 11% ($P = .036$)

EPICOVIDEHA: Molnupiravir vs Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir in Patients With COVID-19 With Hematological Malignancies

Survival Probability Since SARS-CoV-2 Infection



No statistically significant differences in survival probability on days 30, 60, and 90 after diagnosis or at last day of follow-up between molnupiravir and nirmatrelvir-ritonavir

Considerations for the Emergence of Sub-Variants



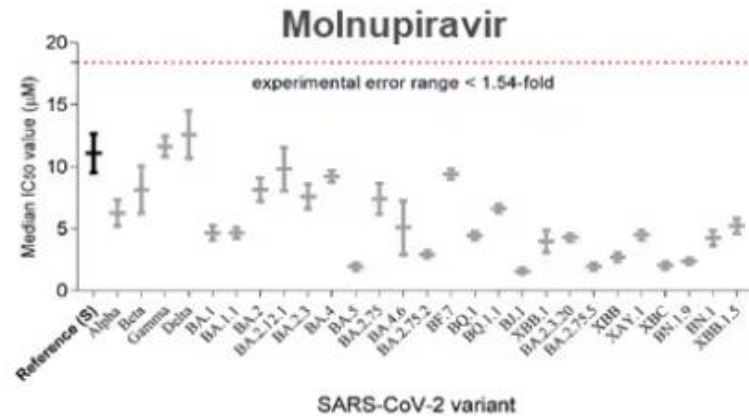
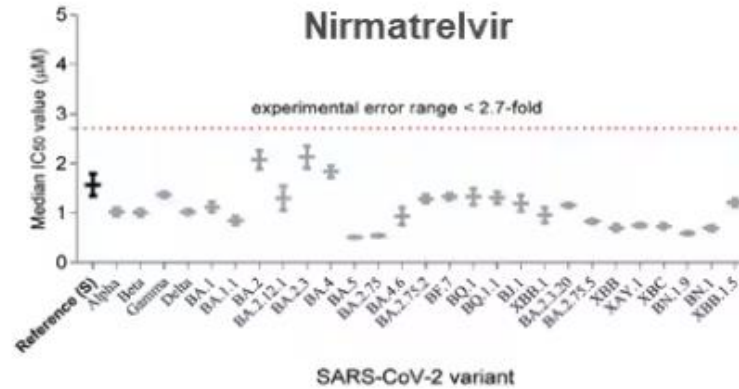
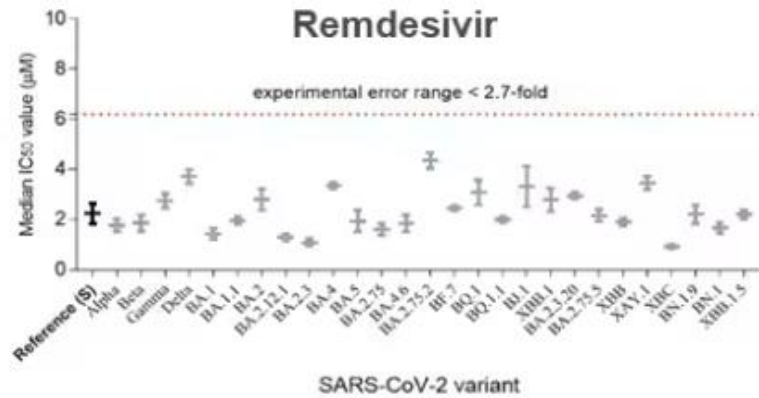
Immune pressure on the spike protein; real-world data on the impact of new variants on antivirals are needed^[1]



Rebound phenomenon among oral antiviral users and non-users^[2]

Efficacy of Antiviral Drugs Against Newly Emerged SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Subvariants

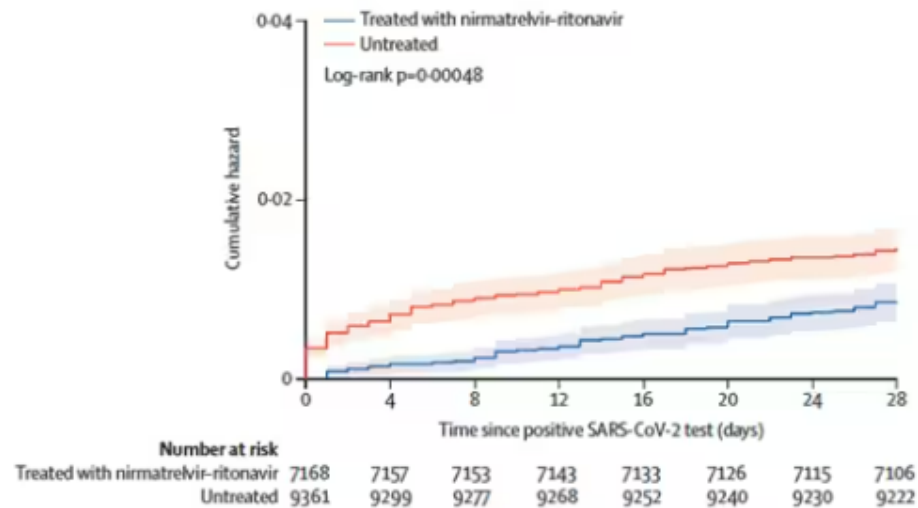
Median IC50 Value of the Drugs in Vero E6 Cells



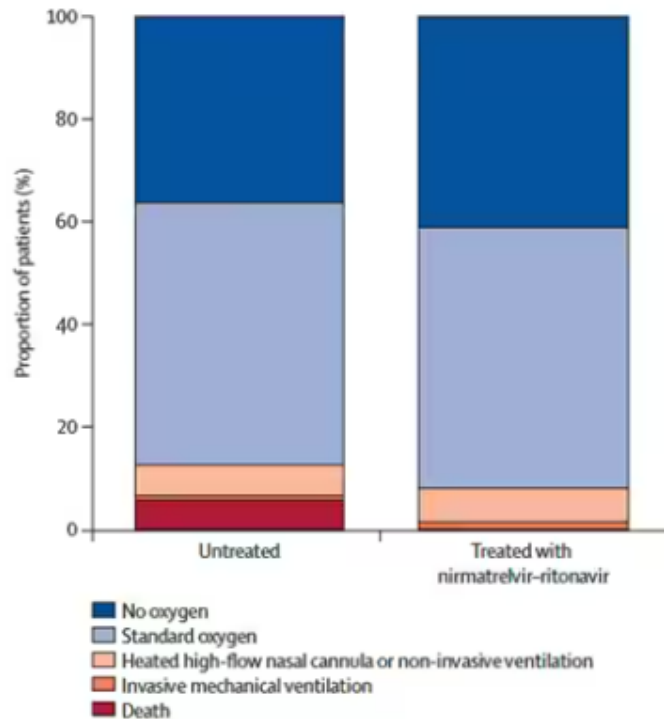
Antiviral efficacy of remdesivir, molnupiravir, and nirmatrelvir against SARS-CoV-2 variants is maintained

Real-World Use of Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir in Outpatients With COVID-19 During the Era of Omicron Variants

All-Cause Hospitalization to Day 28 by Treatment Status



Severity of All-Cause Hospitalization to Day 28



Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir showed significantly reduced odds of 28-day all-cause hospitalization and mortality

Clinical benefit was observed during both omicron BA.2/BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5 predominant periods

AEs of Antivirals in High-Risk Patients

Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir^[1]

- Fewer SAEs (1.6% vs 6.6%) and AEs leading to treatment discontinuation (2.1% vs 4.2%) occurred with nirmatrelvir-ritonavir vs placebo
- Most common AEs occurring with nirmatrelvir-ritonavir were **dysgeusia, diarrhea, and vomiting**

Molnupiravir

- MOVE-OUT: similar AE rate was seen between molnupiravir and placebo (30.40% vs 33.0%)^[2]
- Most common AEs related to treatment were **diarrhea, nausea, and dizziness**^[2]
- PANORAMIC: SAEs were recorded in 0.4% of molnupiravir vs 0.3% of usual care group^[3]

Remdesivir^[4]

- Fewer patients in the remdesivir group than in the placebo group had SAEs (1.8% vs 6.7%)
- Most common nonserious AEs at $\geq 5\%$ of patients in both groups were **nausea, headache, and cough**
- AEs related to treatment occurred in 12.2% of remdesivir vs 8.8% of placebo patients

AE, adverse event; SAE, serious AE.

1. Hammond J, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:1397-1408; 2. Jayk Bernal A, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:509-520; 3. Butler CC, et al. Lancet. 2023;401:281-293; 4. Gottlieb RL, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:305-315.

