

# Efficacy and Effectiveness of High-Dose Influenza Vaccine in Older Adults by Age and Seasonal Characteristics: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Jason K.H. Lee<sup>1,2</sup>, Gary K.L. Lam<sup>1,2</sup>, Rolan Vaisman<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Kevin Yin<sup>4,5</sup>, Bruce T. Seet<sup>4,5</sup>, Matthew M Loiacono<sup>4,5</sup>, Sandrine I. Samson<sup>4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Leslie Dan School of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Sanofi, Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>3</sup>University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW, Australia; <sup>4</sup>Sanofi, Singapore; <sup>5</sup>Sanofi, Swiftwater, PA, USA; <sup>6</sup>Sanofi, Lyon, France

## Introduction

- Seasonal influenza epidemics continue to represent a substantial public health burden, especially in older adults.
- High-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV) has been used in older adults in 31 countries since its initial approval in 2009.
- Studies comparing HD-IIV to standard-dose influenza vaccines (SD-IIV) have demonstrated continued protection against influenza-associated respiratory illness, cardio-vascular disease, and all-cause hospitalizations.
- Understanding the efficacy and effectiveness of influenza vaccines in preventing clinical outcomes is critical to designing optimal vaccination programs that control the burden of influenza in older adults
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses can help guide evidence-based decisions by providing the best available data on influenza vaccine effectiveness

## Objective

Synthesize evidence update of previously-conducted reviews of the relative vaccine efficacy/effectiveness (rVE) of HD-IIV compared to SD-IIV in adults  $\geq 65$  years, with additional sub-analyses by both seasons and recipient characteristics.

## Methods

### Search Objective:

- Randomized or observational studies that evaluate the efficacy or effectiveness of HD-IIV3 against clinical outcomes in adults aged 65 and older

### Inclusion Criteria:

- Studies of HD-IIV3-
- Population aged 65+
- English, human studies

### Exclusion Criteria:

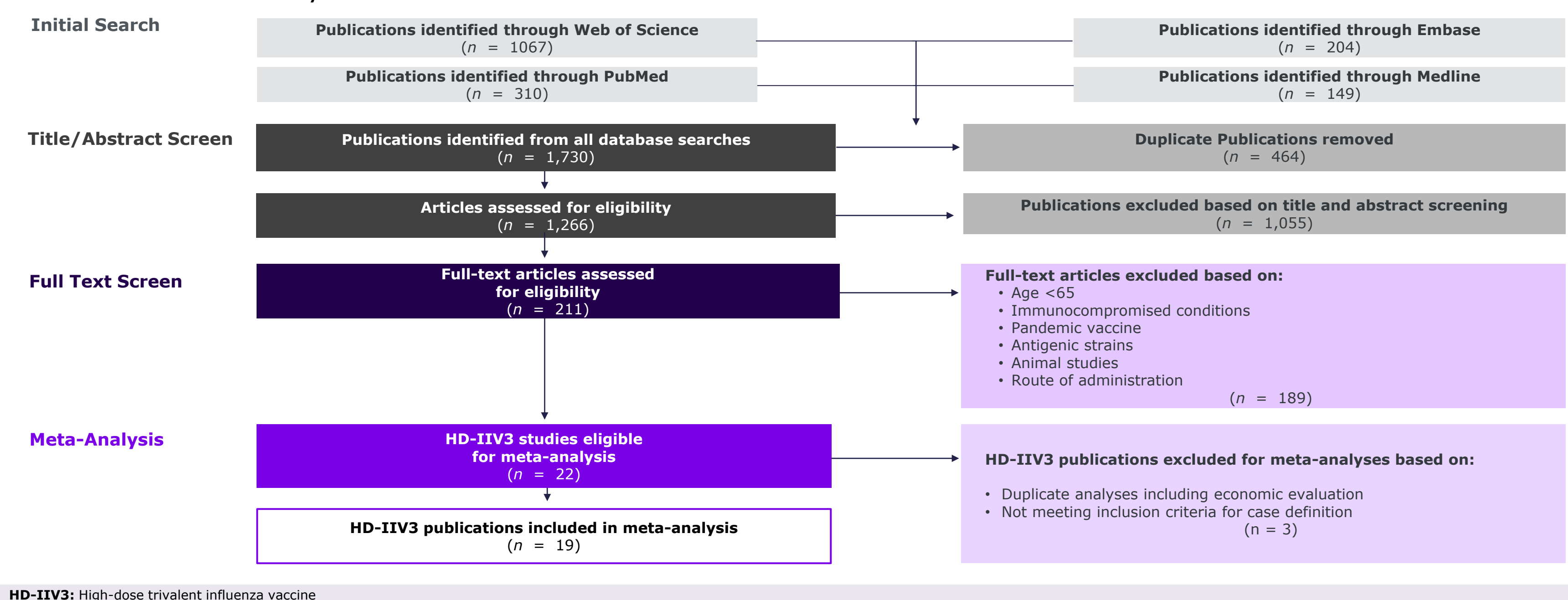
- Pandemic/avian/swine influenza vaccines
- Experimental vaccines (monovalent/bivalent seasonal vaccines)
- Immunogenicity studies
- Studies of specialized populations (e.g. HIV, immunocompromised, transplant patients, etc.)

### Analysis:

- Odds ratios (OR) of each clinical outcome were collected for individual influenza seasons from identified studies
- Meta-analyses performed using random effects models (DerSimonian and Laird) for each clinical outcome
- Study heterogeneity was assessed using  $I^2$
- Publication bias was assessed using funnel plots
- Quality of individual studies assessed by Downs and Black critical appraisal tool

## Results

**Figure 1:** Flowchart of studies included in the systematic review and meta-analysis



**Table 1:** Summary of HD-IIV Efficacy/Effectiveness Publications

Author (Year)	Study Design	Study Location	Influenza Seasons	Study Population	Study Outcomes
<b>Randomized Studies<sup>a</sup></b>					
<b>DiazGranados, 2013</b> (NCT00975027)	Phase IIIB, multi-center, double-blind, RCT	US	2009-10	Healthy adults $\geq 65$ • HD: 6,117; SD: 3,055	- Laboratory-confirmed influenza - Hospital admission for pneumonia <sup>b</sup>
<b>DiazGranados, 2014, 2015</b> (NCT01427309)	Phase IIIB-IV, multi-center, double-blind RCT	US + Canada	2011-12 to 2012-13	Healthy adults $\geq 65$ • HD: 15,991; SD: 15,998	- Laboratory-confirmed influenza - Influenza-related SAE <sup>c</sup>
<b>Gravenstein, 2017</b> (NCT01720277)	Pilot study for cluster RCT	US	2012-13	Residents $\geq 65$ in NHs • HD: 1,461; SD: 1,496	- All-cause hospitalizations - NH mortality - Functional decline
<b>Gravenstein, 2017</b> (NCT01815258)	Single-blind, pragmatic, comparative effectiveness, cluster RCT	US	2013-14	Residents $\geq 65$ in NHs • HD: 26,639; SD: 26,369	- Hospital admissions related to pulmonary and influenza-like conditions - Hospital admission by any cause
<b>Observational Studies</b>					
<b>Izurietta, 2015</b>	Retrospective Cohort Study	US	2012-13	Medicare beneficiaries $\geq 65$ • HD: 929,730; SD: 1,615,545	- Probable influenza infection - Post-influenza hospitalization or ED visit - Post-influenza death, hospitalization/ED visits - Influenza-related physician visits
<b>Shay, 2017</b>	Retrospective Cohort Study	US	2013-14	Medicare beneficiaries $\geq 65$ • HD: 2,547,821; SD: 3,560,591	- Influenza-related hospital encounters / inpatient stays / office visits
<b>Izurietta, 2018</b>	Retrospective cohort study	US	2017-18	Medicare beneficiaries $\geq 65$ • HD: 8,489,139; SD: 1,863,654	- Influenza-related hospital encounters / inpatient stays
<b>Lu, 2019</b>	Retrospective cohort study	US	2012-13 to 2017-18	Medicare beneficiaries $\geq 65$ • HD: 13,770,207; SD: 6,151,913	- Influenza-related hospital encounters / inpatient stays
<b>Izurietta, 2020</b>	Retrospective Cohort Study	US	2018-19	Medicare beneficiaries $\geq 65$ • HD: 7,904,821; SD: 1,455,254	- Influenza-related hospital encounters / inpatient stays / office visits
<b>Pauzel, 2020</b>	Retrospective Cohort Study	US	2011-12 to 2014-15	Medicare beneficiaries $\geq 65$ (Outpatient) • HD: 2,976,994; SD: 2,976,994	- Probable Influenza (Inpatient Hospitalization or Outpatient medical encounter followed by antiviral Rx within 7 days) - Pneumonia/influenza, cardiorespiratory hospitalizations
<b>Izurietta, 2021</b>	Retrospective cohort study	US	2019-20	Medicare beneficiaries $\geq 65$ • HD: 2,760,882; SD: 2,760,882	- Influenza-related hospital encounters / inpatient stays
<b>Richardson, 2015</b>	Retrospective Cohort Study	US	2010-11	VHA adults $\geq 65$ • HD: 25,714; SD: 139,511	- Hospitalization for influenza or pneumonia - All-cause hospitalization and mortality
<b>Young-Xu, 2018</b>	Retrospective Cohort Study	US	2015-16	VHA adults $\geq 65$ • HD: 125,776; SD: 104,965	- Pneumonia/influenza or all-cause hospitalization / outpatient visits - Laboratory-confirmed influenza
<b>Young-Xu, 2019;</b> <b>Van Aalst, 2019</b>	Retrospective cohort study	US	2010-11 to 2014-15	VHA adults $\geq 65$ • HD: 158,636; SD: 3,480,288	- Pneumonia/influenza, cardiorespiratory, all-cause hospitalizations - Urinary tract infection
<b>Young-Xu, 2020</b>	Retrospective Cohort Study	US	2012-13 to 2014-15	VHA adults $\geq 65$ • HD: 361,978; SD: 207,574	- Influenza/pneumonia, cardiorespiratory mortality - All-cause hospitalization
<b>Van Aalst, 2021</b>	Retrospective cohort study	US	2010-11 to 2014-15	VHA adults $\geq 65$ • HD: 158,636; SD: 3,480,288	- Cardiovascular, respiratory, cardiorespiratory hospitalization
<b>Machado, 2021</b>	Retrospective cohort study	US	2012-13 to 2017-18	Adults $\geq 65$ from MarketScan® databases • HD: 728,223; SD: 1,633,093	- Influenza / Pneumonia hospital/ED visit
<b>Doyle, 2020</b>	Test-negative Case Control Study	US	2015-16 to 2016-17	HAIVEN patients $\geq 65$ • HD: 622; SD: 485	- Laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalization
<b>Robison, 2018</b>	Retrospective cohort study	US	2016-17	Portland, OR adults $\geq 65$ (ALERT IIS) • HD: 78,602; SD: 65,705 HAIVEN patients $\geq 65$	- Laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalization
<b>Balasubramani, 2020</b>	Test-negative Case Control Study	US	2018-19	HAIVEN patients $\geq 65$ • HD: 3,861; SD: 2,993	- influenza-confirmed acute respiratory illness

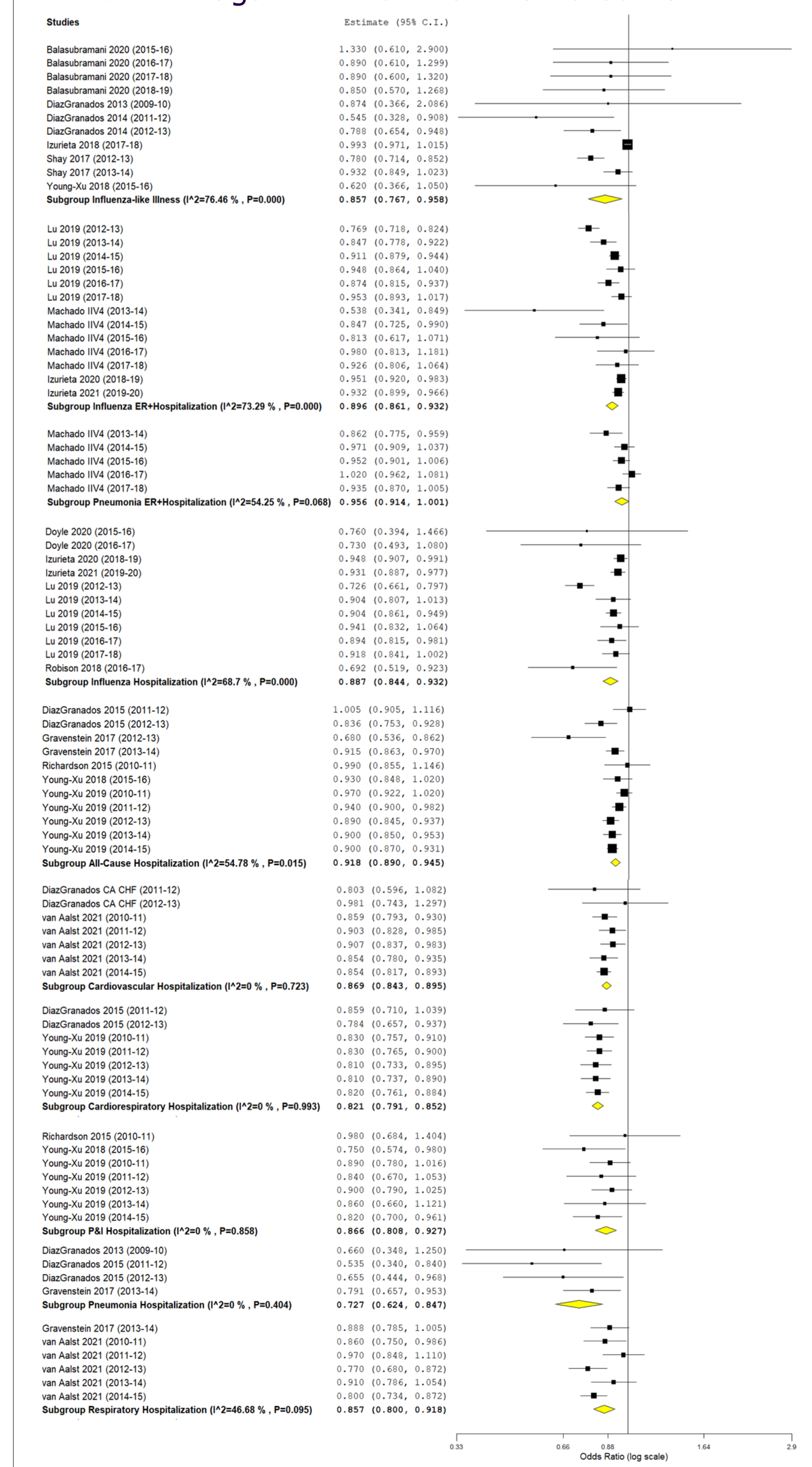
<sup>a</sup>Includes both individual-level randomized and cluster-randomized studies; <sup>b</sup>Data from personal communication from study authors  
<sup>c</sup>RCT, Randomized controlled trial; HD, High-dose trivalent influenza vaccine; SD, Standard-dose trivalent/quadrivalent influenza vaccine; SAE, Serious adverse event; NH, Nursing home; ED, Emergency department; HAIVEN, US Hospitalized Adult Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network; VHA, Veterans Health Administration

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**Figure 2:** Forest plots of the pooled OR of HD-IIV3 vs. SD-IIV against influenza-related outcomes



**Table 2:** Pooled relative vaccine efficacy/effectiveness of HD-IIV3 vs. SD-IIV against influenza-related outcomes

A: All seasons and sub-analyses by season type					
Outcome	All Seasons	A/H3N2-dominant Seasons <sup>a</sup>	A/H1N1-dominant Seasons <sup>a</sup>	Matched Seasons <sup>b</sup>	Mismatched Seasons <sup>b</sup>
rVE (95% CI); n; p-value					
<b>Influenza-like Illness<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>14.3%</b> (4.2 – 23.3%) n=11; p=0.007	<b>16.3%</b> (-3.7 – 28.2%) n=7; p=0.022	<b>8.0%</b> (-3.7 – 18.4%) n=4; p=0.170	20.4% (-10.7 – 42.7%) n=4; p=0.175	<b>13.7%</b> (0.0 – 25.5%) n=7; p=0.050
<b>Hospitalization+ER Visit</b>					
<b>Influenza<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>10.4%</b> (6.8 – 13.9%) n=13; p<0.001	<b>10.3%</b> (5.4 – 15.0%) n=8; p<0.001	<b>11.0%</b> (3.8 – 17.6%) n=5; p=0.003	<b>11.0%</b> (3.8 – 17.6%) n=5; p=0.003	<b>10.3%</b> (5.4 – 15.0%) n=8; p<0.001
<b>Pneumonia<sup>d</sup></b>	4.4% (-0.1 – 8.6%) n=5; p=0.053	2.2% (-2.8 – 6.9%) n=3; p=0.384	<b>8.4%</b> (-0.7 – 16.7%) n=2; p=0.069	<b>8.4%</b> (-0.7 – 16.7%) n=2; p=0.069	2.2% (-2.8 – 6.9%) n=3; p=0.384
<b>Hospitalization</b>					
<b>Influenza<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>11.2%</b> (7.4 – 14.8%) n=11; p<0.001	<b>13.7%</b> (7.0 – 20.0%) n=7; p<0.001	<b>7.2%</b> (3.3 – 11.0%) n=4; p<0.001	<b>7.2%</b> (3.3 – 11.0%) n=4; p<0.001	<b>13.7%</b> (7.0 – 20.0%) n=7; p<0.001
<b>Pneumonia<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>27.3%</b> (15.3 – 37.6%) n=4; p<0.001	<b>39.9%</b> (19.3 – 55.3%) n=2; p<0.001	<b>22.0%</b> (6.7 – 34.8%) n=2; p<0.001	<b>28.9%</b> (10.1 – 43.8%) n=3; p=0.004	-
<b>Pneumonia/Influenza<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>13.4%</b> (7.3 – 19.2%) n=7; p<0.001	<b>12.4%</b> (5.7 – 18.7%) n=7; p<0.001	<b>19.6%</b> (3.0 – 33.4%) n=5; p=0.002	<b>13.5%</b> (5.0 – 21.3%) n=5; p=0.002	<b>13.3%</b> (4.1 – 21.6%) n=2; p=0.005
<b>Respiratory</b>	<b>14.3%</b> (8.2 – 20.0%) n=6; p<0.001	<b>15.9%</b> (7.6 – 23.4%) n=6; p<0.001	<b>10.3%</b> (1.4 – 18.4%) n=2; p=0.027	<b>9.4%</b> (3.1 – 15.3%) n=4; p=0.004	<b>21.0%</b> (15.2 – 26.4%) n=2; p=0.004
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	<b>13.1%</b> (10.5 – 15.7%) n=7; p<0.001	<b>12.9%</b> (10.1 – 15.7%) n=6; p<0.001	-	<b>13.0%</b> (8.7 – 17.2%) n=4; p<0.001	<b>12.7%</b> (8.3 – 16.9%) n=3; p<0.001
<b>Cardiorespiratory</b>	<b>17.9%</b> (15.0 – 20.8%) n=7; p<0.001	<b>17.7%</b> (14.5 – 20.8%) n=6; p<0.001	-	<b>17.4%</b> (13.5 – 21.1%) n=4; p<0.001	<b>18.6%</b> (14.1 – 22.9%) n=3; p<0.001
<b>All-cause</b>	<b>8.4%</b> (5.7 – 11.0%) n=11; p<0.001	<b>8.3%</b> (4.5 – 12.0%) n=8; p<0.001	<b>8.9%</b> (5.4 – 12.2%) n=3; p<0.001	<b>6.4%</b> (4.1 – 8.6%) n=7; p<0.001	<b>12.6%</b> (7.8 – 17.2%) n=4; p<0.001

**B: Sub-analyses by study type**

Outcome	n	Randomized Studies <sup>a</sup>		Observational Studies		
		rVE <sup>c</sup> (95% CI)	p-value	n	rVE <sup>c</sup> (95% CI)	p-value
<b>Influenza-like Illness</b>	3	<b>24.1%</b> (10.0 – 36.1%)	0.002	8	11.1% (-0.1 – 21.0%)	0.051
<b>Hospitalization+ER Visit</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Influenza</b>	-	-	-	13	<b>10.4%</b> (6.8 – 13.9%)	<0.001
<b>Pneumonia</b>	-	-	-	5	4.4% (-0.1 – 8.6%)	0.053
<b>Hospitalization</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Influenza</b>	-	-	-	11	<b>11.2%</b> (7.4 – 14.8%)	<0.001
<b>Pneumonia</b>	4	<b>27.3%</b> (15.3 – 37.6%)	<0.001	-	-	-
<b>Pneumonia/Influenza</b>	-	-	-	7	<b>13.4%</b> (7.3 – 19.2%)	<0.001
<b>Respiratory</b>	-	-	-	5	<b>14.8%</b> (7.6 – 21.5%)	<0.001
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	2	10.6% (-9.6 – 27.1%)	0.279	5	<b>13.2%</b> (10.5 – 15.8%)	<0.001
<b>Cardiorespiratory</b>	2	<b>18.2%</b> (6.8 – 28.1%)	0.002	5	<b>17.9%</b> (14.7 – 21.0%)	<0.001
<b>All-cause</b>	4	<b>11.9%</b> (2.0 – 20.7%)	0.019	7	<b>7.8%</b> (5.3 – 10.3%)	<0.001

**C: Sub-analyses by subject age**

Outcome	rVE (95% CI); n; p-value	Subject Age			
		65-74	75-84 (incl. 75+)	75+	85+
<b>Influenza-like Illness</b>	<b>21.1%</b> (12.4 – 28.9%) n=2; p < 0.001	<b>21.9%</b> (7.8 – 33.9%) n=2; p=0.004	<b>24.8%</b> (12.3 – 35.6%) n=3; p < 0.001	-	-
<b>Hospitalization+ER Visit</b>					
<b>Influenza</b>	4.6% (-1.7 – 10.5%) n=6; p=0.146	<b>9.0%</b> (3.1 – 14.5%) n=6; p=0.003	<b>12.0%</b> (7.8 – 16.0%) n=12; p<0.001	<b>14.9%</b> (9.4 – 20.1%) n=6; p<0.001	-
<b>Hospitalization</b>					
<b>Influenza</b>	<b>8.7%</b> (1.5 – 15.2%) n=7; p=0.019	<b>8.3%</b> (1.4 – 14.7%) n=7; p=0.019	<b>12.2%</b> (7.3 – 16.9%) n=13; p<0.001	<b>16%</b> (9.8 – 21.8%) n=6; p<0.001	-

<sup>a</sup> Determined using national CDC viral surveillance data of circulating strains in adults 65 years of age and older; <sup>b</sup> Based on CDC data on viral antigenic characterization comparing reference vaccine strains to circulating viruses; mismatched seasons includes seasons of antigenic mismatch (2009-10, 2014-15, 2018-19) as well as seasons where egg-adapted vaccine strains may have affected vaccine effectiveness (2012-13, 2016-17, 2017-18); <sup>c</sup> A random-effects model with DerSimonian-Laird estimators was used to calculate the pooled OR across multiple studies and influenza seasons; <sup>d</sup> Probable/laboratory confirmed influenza-like illness; <sup>e</sup> ICD-9-CM 480-488 coded hospitalizations; <sup>f</sup> ICD-9-CM 480-488 coded hospitalizations; <sup>g</sup> Includes both individual-level randomized and cluster-randomized studies. CI, confidence interval; ER, emergency room; rVE, relative vaccine efficacy/effectiveness

## Discussion

### Study continues to highlight breadth of published literature on HD-IIV efficacy/effectiveness

- Studies in 11 consecutive influenza seasons
- Diversity in study design and outcomes
- Large sample size (>29 million HD recipients, >45 million total)

### Use of clinical outcomes that are relevant to clinicians and decision makers

## Conclusions

Study results suggest that irrespective of study type, study setting, age of vaccine recipients, circulating strains or antigenic match, HD-IIV is expected to be more effective than SD-IIV in preventing clinical outcomes associated with influenza



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