

Systematic Literature Review of PCV13 Effectiveness Against Invasive Pneumococcal Disease in Children Globally

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INTRODUCTION

- Streptococcus pneumoniae* is a gram-positive bacterium that can cause a variety of pneumococcal syndromes including invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), which has declined worldwide from introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCVs), such as PCV7 in 2000 and PCV13 in 2010
- No recent systematic literature review (SLR) of PCV13 vaccine effectiveness (VE) studies has been conducted to evaluate the direct effect of a complete series of PCV13 vaccination across various epidemiologic and geographic settings

OBJECTIVE

- To identify and assess evidence of PCV13 VE against IPD in children worldwide

METHODS

- An SLR was conducted in accordance with methodologies recommended by the Cochrane Collaboration and reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) checklist [1,2]
- MEDLINE (In-Process), Embase, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews were searched via Ovid up to November 2021 for observational studies evaluating PCV13 VE against vaccine-type (VT) IPD in children
- PCV13 VE was defined as 1 minus the risk ratio (RR, OR, HR) of VT-IPD among vaccinated versus unvaccinated children using an observational study design
- Two reviewers independently used predefined criteria to select observational studies reporting on VE against VT-type IPD events* (primary outcome: PCV13-type** IPD, secondary outcomes: PCV13 non-PCV7-type IPD, PCV7-type IPD) in children (<18 years) after receiving >1 dose of PCV13 vaccine. No geographical limits or publication date restrictions were applied. Only studies published in English were included
- 1,494 titles/abstracts were screened from which 16 eligible studies [3–16] were included in the SLR

*IPD includes meningitis, septicemia, bacteremia, and bacteremic pneumonia (invasion of the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacterium into normally sterile sites of the body [e.g., blood, meninges])

**PCV13 serotypes include 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, and 23F. PCV7 serotypes include 4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F, and 23F. PCV13-unique serotypes include 1, 3, 5, 6A, 7F, and 19A

RESULTS

Study characteristics

- Most studies conducted in Europe (n=8), followed by North America (n=3), Australasia (n=2), Africa (n=2), and Asia (n=1)
- Median age across the included study populations ranged from 8.4 (Inter Quartile Range [IQR]: 5.3–18.9) months–37 (IQR: 17–106) months with the proportion of males ranging from 54%–71%
- Eleven studies reported VE in children who completed a full schedule; of these 11 studies, eight reported PCV13-type VE [4,5,9,11,12,14,15,17], three reported PCV7-type VE [3,11,17], and six reported PCV13 non-PCV7 VE [3,6,9,11,17,18] (Table 1)

PCV13 effectiveness for full schedule and after ≥1 dose received

- Eleven studies reported VE in patients who received ≥1 dose of PCV13; of these 11 studies, nine reported PCV13-type VE [3,7,8,11,13,14,16–18], three reported PCV7-type VE [11,17,18], and eight reported PCV13 non-PCV7 VE for children who received at least one dose of PCV13 [3,4,8,10,11,14,17,18]
- PCV13-type, PCV13 non-PCV7-type, and PCV7-type VE estimates were directionally consistent across all studies for fully vaccinated children, and in general had a lower 95% confidence interval >0 except for PCV7-type estimates where few cases were identified, and study power was low. Point estimates of PCV13-type VE were generally higher for fully vaccinated children than those receiving >1 dose (Table 2) but definitive conclusions on differences in VE by number of doses could not be assessed due to insufficient study power

PCV13 VE for children aged <13 months

- Six studies reported PCV13-type VE or PCV13 non-PCV7 VE in children aged <13 months (data not shown, available online in Table 3) [3,4,11,13,14,18]
- Among children <13 months of age, VE of 1 PCV13 dose was significant for 3 outcomes and non-significant for 5 outcomes. VT-IPD VE point estimates were generally higher after 2 or 3 doses compared with 1 dose, but small sample size limited precision of estimates

Table 1. Vaccine Effectiveness by PCV Serotype Group in Fully Vaccinated Children

Author, year	PCV schedule (country)	Cases vaccinated/unvaccinated	Controls vaccinated/unvaccinated	Age group*	Vaccine Effectiveness by PCV Serotype Group, Fully Vaccinated (95% CI)		
					PCV13-type IPD	PCV13 non-PCV7-type IPD	PCV7-type IPD
Latasa 2017 ^a	3+1 or 2+1 (Spain)	0/15	4/16	≤10y	100 (NR)	NR	NR
Moore 2016 ^a	3+1 (US)	259 ^f	1150 ^f	≤59m	90.4 (7.6–99)	NR	NR
Van der Linden 2016 ^b	3+1 (Germany)	2/13 ¹ ; 2/12 ² ; 0/1 ³	33/16 ¹ ; 33/16 ² ; 33/16 ³	<24m	91 (61–99)	90 (54–98)	83 (240–100)
Weinberger 2016 ^c	3+1 (Germany)	5/3	29/7	13 to ≤56m	NR	60 (-109–92) ^k	NR
Andrews 2019 ^d	2+1 (England)	72/6 ^{2,j} ; 76/8 ^{2,k} ; 40/8 ^{2,l} ; 36/6 ^{2,m} ; NR ³	508/15 ^{2,j,k,l,m} ; NR ³	13m to ≤9y	NR	63.1 (-6.3–87.1) ^j ; 73.7 (31.1–89.9) ^k ; 84.8 (58.7–94.4) ^l ; 79.1 (37.0–93.1) ^m	81.2 (-6.7–96.7)
Andrews 2014 ^d	2+1 (England)	13/112	71/56	13 to ≤56m	79 (25–94) ^{c,n}	NR	NR
Cohen 2017 ^b	2+1 (South Africa)	73 ⁱ	403 ⁱ	10 to 59m	NR	100 (91–100) ^j	NR
Su 2016 ^e	2+1 (Taiwan)	30 ^f	267 ^f	2 to 70m	76 (61–85)	NR	NR
Bar-Zeev 2021 ^a	3+0 (Malawi)	17 ^g	85 ^g	<24m	80.7 (-73.7–97.9)	NR	NR
Gidding 2018 ^d	3+0 (Australia)	4 ^{1,2}	NR	<7 to 12m	86.0 (61.6–94.9)	85.6 (60.5–94.8) ^a	NR
Jayasinghe 2018 ^a	3+0 (Australia)	84 ^{h,e,f}	832 ^h ; 123 ^h	≥2m	77.9 (56.4–88.8) ^e ; 59.0 (16.2–88.0) ^f	NR	NR
		17 ^{h,e,f}	114 ^h ; 37 ^h	<12m	86.5 (11.7–97.9) ^e ; 94.4 (71.1–98.9) ^f	NR	NR
		47 ^{h1,e1,f} ; 39 ^{h2} ; 9 ^{h3c}	500 ^{h1,e} ; 65 ^{h1,f} ; 396 ^{h2} ; 64 ^{h3c}	12 to 24m	61.8 (-3.3–85.8) ^e ; 87.1 (-15.7–98.6) ^f	88.7 (72.9–95.3) ^j	75.3 (-10.4–97.0) ^e

VE calculated as 1 – OR × 100% unless otherwise stated; *Minimum age was based on age-eligibility of vaccine schedule; †Only N of fully vaccinated cases and controls reported; 1=number of cases/controls for PCV13 type IPD; 2=number of cases/controls for PCV13 non-PCV7 type IPD; 3=number of cases/controls for PCV7 type IPD; ‡ Unadjusted; § Broome method; adjusted for age and season following the issue of the vaccination recommendation; ¶ Adjusted for age and year; ¶ VE=(1 – adjusted HR) × 100%; adjusted for comorbidities, maternal characteristics; gestational/delivery characteristics; baby characteristics; geographical characteristics; socio-economic characteristics; and paternal characteristics; ° Matched case control; † Indirect cohort; ‡ Adjusted for gender and for all infants and children < or ≥2 years of age within subgroups; diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis vaccination history and influenza vaccination history were put in conditional logistic regression model to estimate the adjusted odds ratio; † Adjusted for malnutrition, whether the patient had received 3 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine at 16 weeks of age and maternal education level; ‡ Broome method; adjusted for age (2.5–5 m, 6–12 m, 13–17 m, 18–23 m, 2 yrs, 3–4 yrs, ≥5 yrs) and period (years, or for some serotypes 2008–2011, 2012–18); † Full Schedule PCV13 non-PCV7; ‡ Full Schedule PCV13 non-PCV7 (including serotype 6C); † Full Schedule PCV13 non-PCV7 (including serotype 6C and excluding serotype 3); ‡ Full Schedule PCV13 non-PCV7 (excluding serotype 3); † Full Schedule PCV13 (including serotype 6C)

Table 2. Vaccine Effectiveness by PCV Serotype Group in Children Receiving ≥ 1 dose

Author, year	PCV schedule (country)	Cases vaccinated/unvaccinated	Controls vaccinated/unvaccinated	Age group*	Vaccine Effectiveness by PCV Serotype Group, ≥1 dose received (95% CI)		
					PCV13-type IPD	PCV13 non-PCV7-type IPD	PCV7-type IPD
Moore 2016 ^a	3+1 (US)	259 ^f	1150 ^f	Median: 21 (IQR: 11–37)m	86 (75.5–92.3)	87 (76.7–93.1)	NR
Van der Linden 2016 ^b	3+1 (Germany)	25/55 ¹ ; 23/43 ² ; 2/1 ³	194/43 ¹ ; 194/43 ² ; 33/16 ³	0–23m	86 (74–93)	82 (66–91)	94 (78–99)
Weinberger 2016 ^c	3+1 (Germany)	18/29 ¹ ; 15/23 ² ; 3/6 ³	99/18	2.5 to ≤5m	89 (76–95) ^d	88 (73–95) ^e	91 (60–98)
Guevara 2016 ^f	3+1 (Spain)	3/6 ¹ ; 3/5 ²	44/19 ¹ ; 44/14 ²	Up to 59m	94 (42–100)	92 (27–99)	NR
Andrews 2019 ^d	2+1 (England)	136/134 ^{2,h} ; 218/152 ^{2,e}	1262/136 ^{2,h,e}	2.5m to ≤9yrs	NR	74.2 (62.6–82.2) ^h ; 65.9 (52.3–75.7) ^e	NR
Andrews 2014 ^d	2+1 (England)	105/55	330/80	2.5 to ≤56m	NR	73 (57–83) ^h	NR
Deceuninck 2015 ^e	2+1 (Canada)	10 ^h	NR	2–48m	86 (62–95)	NR	NR
Domínguez 2017 ^j	2+1 (Spain)	29/85 ¹ ; 9/50 ^{1,d} ; 31/70 ² ; 9/33 ^{2k}	189/298 ¹ ; 112/175 ^{1,d} ; 165/253 ² ; 74/113 ^{2k}	7–59m	75.8 (54.1–87.2); 95.8 (84–98.9) ^d	64.2 (31.9–81.2); 95.7 (75.7–99.3) ^k	NR
		10/31 ¹ ; 6/22 ^{1,d} ; 9/22 ² ; 5/13 ^{2k}	82/121 ¹ ; 63/86 ^{1,d} ; 55/86 ² ; 36/51 ^{2k}	7–23m	80.7 (45.3–93.2); 95.5 (54.5–99.5) ^d	54.3 (-37.7–84.8); 90.1 (34.8–98.5) ^k	NR
		19/54 ¹ ; 3/28 ^{1,d} ; 22/48 ² ; 4/20 ^{2k}	107/177 ¹ ; 49/89 ^{1,d} ; 165/253 ² ; 38/62 ^{2k}	24–59m	75.3 (45.4–88.9); 97.1 (79.8–99.6) ^d	66.9 (28.6–84.7); 95.3 (64–99.4) ^k	NR
Miller 2011 ^a	2+1 (England & Wales)	35/35 ^{1,d}	72/22 ^{1,d}	2.5 to <24m	78 (40–92); 70 (30–87) ^{4,5}	NR	NR
Tomczyk 2018 ^l	2+1 (Dominican Republic)	NR	NR	4.8–17.4m	67.2 (2.3–90)	NR	NR
Jayasinghe 2018 ^a	3+0 (Australia)	107 ^{h1,m,n} ; 88 ^{h2} ; 49 ^{h2c} ; 19 ^{h3}	1070 ^{h1,m} ; 167 ^{h1n} ; 880 ^{h2} ; 432 ^{h2c} ; 190 ^{h3}	2–42m	71.3 (48.3–84.0) ^m ; 75.6 (46.4–88.9) ⁿ	71.5 (44.9–85.2); 69.4 (25.3–87.5) ^o	70.4 (-8.0–91.9)
		51 ^{h1,m,n}	510 ^{h1m} ; 71 ^{h1n}	12–24m	58.8 (-10.9–84.7) ^m ; 87.4 (-13.6–98.6) ⁿ	NR	NR
		34 ^{h1,m,n}	340 ^{h1m} ; 73 ^{h1n}	<12m	77.4 (47.3–90.3) ^m ; 82.2 (52.9–93.3) ⁿ	NR	NR
		NR	NR	0–24m	NR	72 (45–85)	NR

VE calculated as 1 – OR × 100% unless otherwise stated; * Minimum age was based on age-eligibility of vaccine schedule; † Only N of cases and controls who received ≥1 dose reported; 1 = number of cases/controls for PCV13 type IPD; 2 = number of cases/controls for PCV13 non-PCV7 type IPD; 3 = number of cases/controls for PCV7 type IPD; ‡ Unadjusted; § Broome method; adjusted for age and season following the issue of the vaccination recommendation; ¶ Adjusted for age and year; ¶ ≥1 dose PCV13 (including serotype 6C); ¶ ≥1 dose PCV13 non-PCV7 (including serotype 6C); † Adjusted for sex and parental income level; ‡ Adjusted for age (2.5–4.49, 4.5–7.99, 8–12.99, 13–17.99, 18–23.99 months) and period (2010, 2011); † ≥1 dose PCV13 non-PCV7 (including serotype 6C and excluding serotype 3); ‡ Adjusted for age, year, season and underlying medical conditions including asthma and severe prematurity; † Adjusted for all demographic, clinical and epidemiological variables; † ≥1 dose PCV13 non-PCV7 (excluding serotype 3); † Adjusted for low weight-for-age Z score (i.e. malnutrition) and home built of wood (i.e. socioeconomic proxy); † Case Control; † Indirect Cohort; † ≥1 dose PCV13 non-PCV7 (excluding serotype 19A)

DISCUSSION

- Children fully vaccinated with PCV13 (3+1, 2+1, or 3+0) have a high level of direct protection against vaccine-type IPD with limited variability attributable to geography
- Although PCV13 VE tended to be higher for fully vaccinated children and in a 3+1 schedule, data were insufficient to make definitive conclusions
- VE of a single PCV13 dose for children <13 months of age varied substantially
- Limitations included the observational nature of included studies, possibility of unmeasured confounding, and variability in VE methods. Heterogeneity between studies including the presentation of data prevented more formal meta-analyses

CONCLUSIONS

- Substantial VE against vaccine-type IPD was observed for children receiving the full PCV13 vaccination schedule
- As higher-valent PCVs are licensed based on immunogenicity endpoints, estimating real world VE under different dosing schedules and age groups will be important

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DISCLOSURE

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