

"We will soon start manufacturing the Oxford vaccine in large volumes"- Adar Poonawalla

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Oxford University's COVID-19 vaccine producing strong immune response



Vaccitech Ltd, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing immunotherapies to treat and prevent infectious diseases and cancer, has announced that Oxford University's Jenner Institute and Oxford Vaccine Group have taken the next step towards the discovery of a safe, effective and accessible vaccine against coronavirus.

The vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, now known as AZN1222, was co-invented by Vaccitech and Oxford University's Jenner Institute.

The results of the Phase I/II trial published today in the scientific journal, [*The Lancet*](#), indicate no early safety concerns and the induction of strong immune responses in both parts of the immune system.

The vaccine provoked a T cell response within 14 days of vaccination (a cellular immune response, it could find and attack cells infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus), and an antibody response within 28 days (humoral immune response, it could find and attack the virus when it was circulating in the blood or lymphatic system).

The University of Oxford is working with the UK-based global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for the further development, large-scale manufacture and potential distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine, with plans for clinical development and production of the Oxford vaccine progressing globally. The project has been further spurred by £84 million of Government funding to help accelerate the vaccine's development.

AstraZeneca remain committed to fulfilling their commitment for broad and equitable access to the vaccine, should late-stage clinical trials prove successful. So far, commitments to supply more than 2 billion doses of the vaccine have been agreed with the UK, US, Europe's Inclusive Vaccines Alliance (IVA), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness (CEPI), Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and Serum Institute of India.

"The trials have shown promising results and we are extremely happy about it. We will be applying for the licensure trials to the Indian regulator in a week's time. As soon as they grant us permission, we will begin with the trials for the vaccine in India. In addition, we will soon start manufacturing the vaccine in large volumes", said Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India