

1 From 2021, several countries started paediatric COVID-19 vaccination programmes in response to the  
2 coronavirus pandemic, which was officially declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in early  
3 2020. However, only five out of the ten COVID-19 vaccines that received WHO Emergency Use Listing  
4 in adults are approved for use in children under the age of 18. ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 (AZD1222) was  
5 approved for use in adults in a two-dose series at the end of 2020. We studied whether the vaccine might  
6 also be used safely in children and whether the immune responses in children would be similar to those  
7 observed in adults.

8 In four centres across the UK, we enrolled 261 children and adolescents aged 6-17 years of age into a  
9 clinical study of the vaccine. Participants were randomly allocated to receive either two doses of the  
10 Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, or a group B meningococcal vaccine (Bexsero). The  
11 children and young people were followed up for 365 days after the date of the first vaccination. We  
12 studied both the vaccine safety and the immune responses to the vaccine.

13 Between February and April 2021, 261 healthy children received two doses of ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 or  
14 Bexsero. A total of five children had a medically significant event, such as being admitted to hospital  
15 and some others had some symptoms that had been listed as of special interest over subsequent 12-  
16 month period, but none were deemed related to the study vaccines.

17 The study showed that two doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, were  
18 immunogenic and safe in the trial population. The strong immune responses were still detected at 12  
19 months after vaccination, even in those who didn't have infection in the meantime. The study was an  
20 important contributor to our knowledge about COVID19 vaccines.

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