



ImmunoScience Academy

Partnering for Education & Optimizing Treatment in ImmunoScience

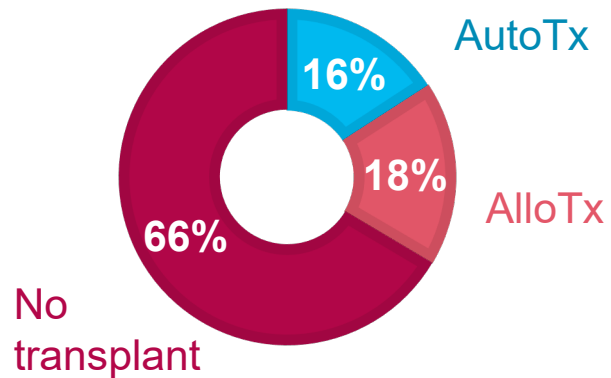
COVID-19 and COVID vaccination in patients
with hematological malignancies

Prof. Dr. R. Schots
UZ Brussel - VUB

COVID-19 in hematological malignancies

Spanish experience

Retrospective analysis (N=367)



Symptoms



- Fever
- Fatigue
- Cough
- Diarrhea (22%)

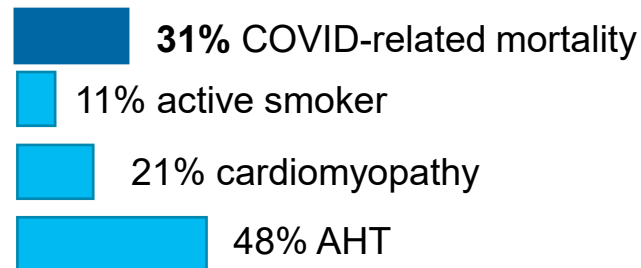
71-82% had abnormal radiological findings

Transplant patients



- COVID-related mortality: **17%** (auto) and **18%** (allo)
- Median time from transplant: 790 days (auto) & 441 days (allo)
- Median age: 61 yrs (auto) & 48 yrs (allo)

No-transplant patients



Older (median age 71 years), more comorbidities

Risk factors for COVID-related mortality



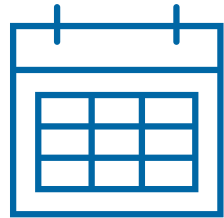
- Multivariate analysis:
- CRP > 20 (x 3.3)
 - Uncontrolled hematological malignancy (x 2.9)
 - ANC < 500/mm³ (x 2.8)
 - ECOG 3-4 (x 2.6)
 - Age > 70 yrs (x 2.1)



COVID-19 in MM patients

Czech experience

MM patients with COVID-19 (N=371)



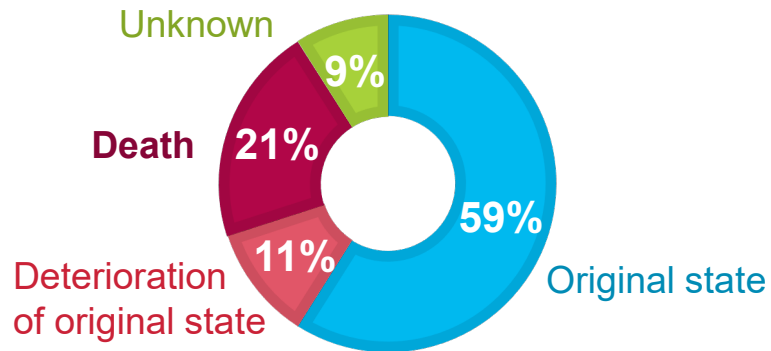
March 2020 – May 2021

Hospitalization



45% were hospitalized (median of 11 days)
→ 30% ICU

Final state after COVID-19



Associated with mortality



Older age
Prior transplant
Prior anti-CD38

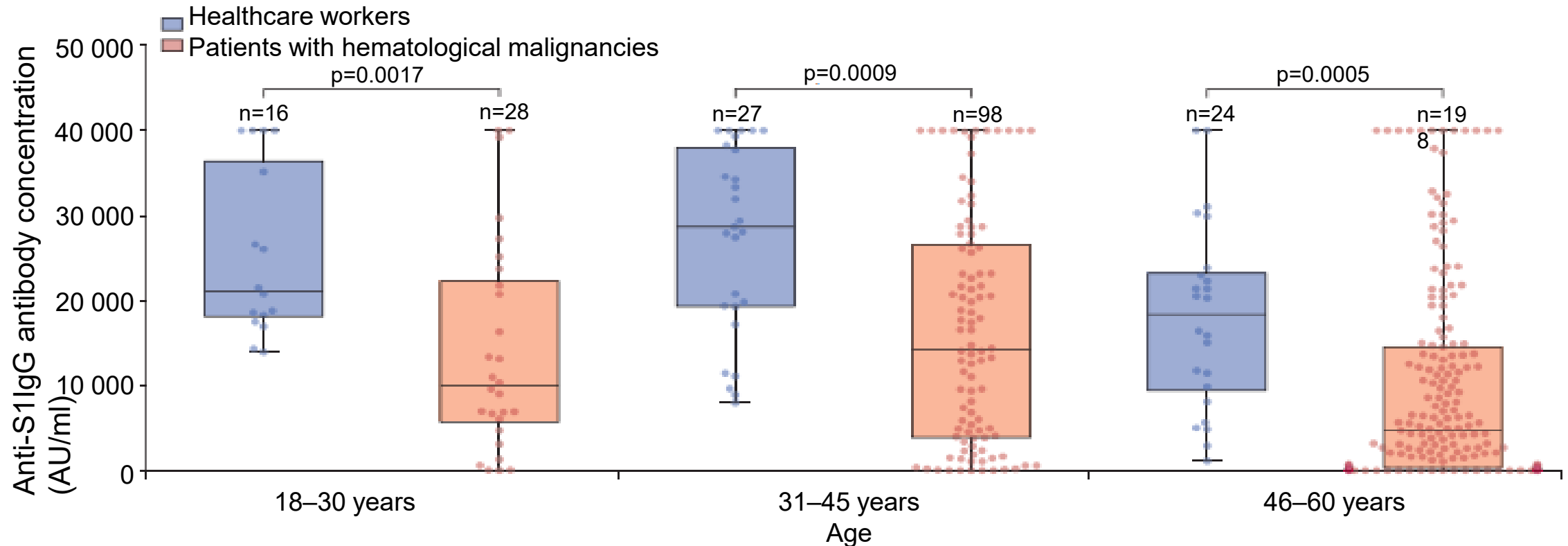


COVID mRNA vaccine in hemato malignancies

Lithuanian experience

857 patients included

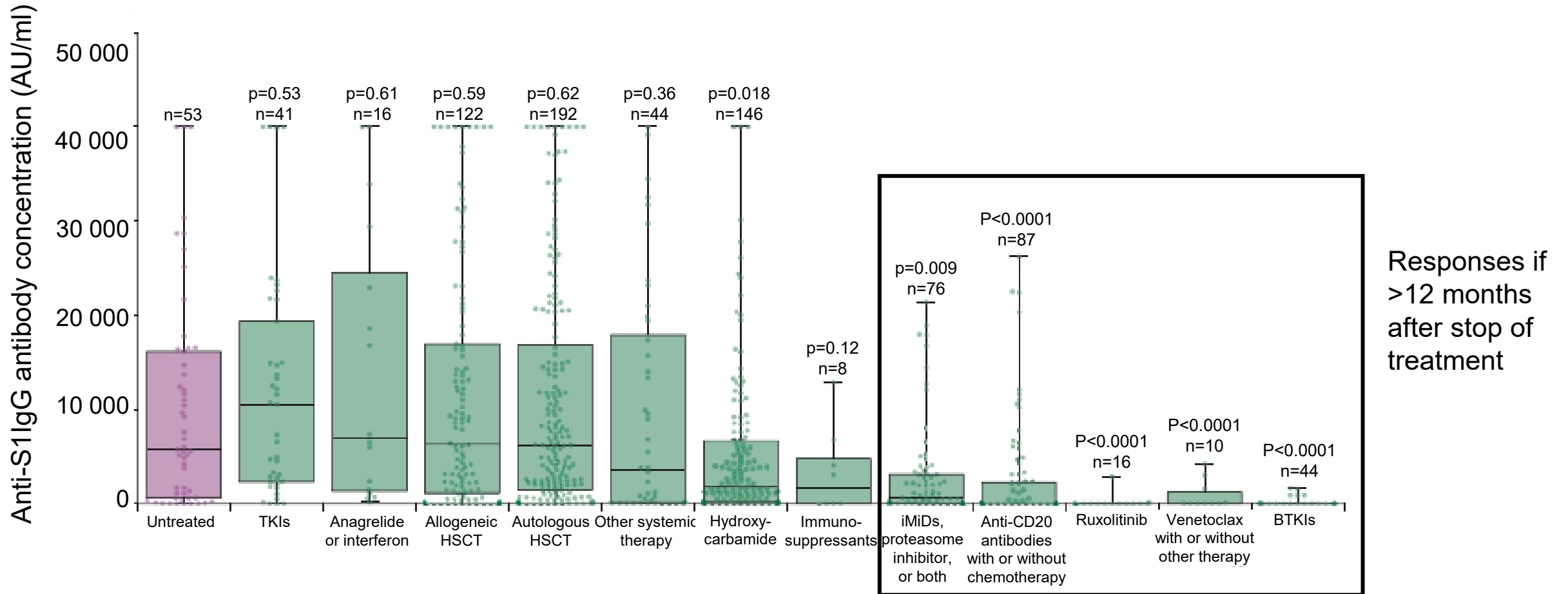
- 2 vaccinations with BNT162b2 COVID mRNA vaccine
- Anti-SARS-CoV-2-S1 IgG antibodies quantified with Abbott Architect assay



BNT162b2 COVID mRNA vaccine in hemato malignancies

Very low/absent responses in patients treated with:

- Anti-CD20



COVID-19 vaccine response trial in MM and MW

Massachusetts General Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute experience

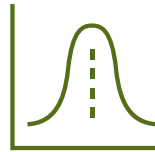
Prospective clinical trial



3 types of vaccines:

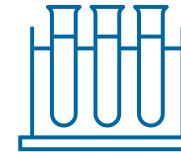
- BNT162b2 (Pfizer)
- mRNA-1273 (Moderna)
- JNJ-78436735 (Johnson&Johnson)

Measuring immune response



Samples 1 month after first and second vaccination (if done)

SARS-CoV-2 spike protein antibody detection



Elecsys assay titers **>250 U/mL** are associated with **clinical protection**

Patient population

Any Ab response

Median Ab response

Ab titers > 250

Better responses

(expected in 50–65% of cases)

89 Patients with MM

91% Patients with MM

178 U/mL Patients with MM

58% Patients with MM

MM: First line CR/VGPR

45 Patients with (MW)

46% Patients with MW

3 U/mL Patients with MW

24% Patients with MW

MW: Treatment-naive



COVID-19 vaccine response evaluation in MM

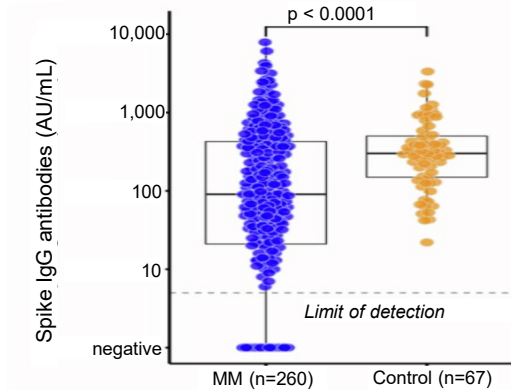
Mount Sinai experience

Retrospective analysis (N=320)



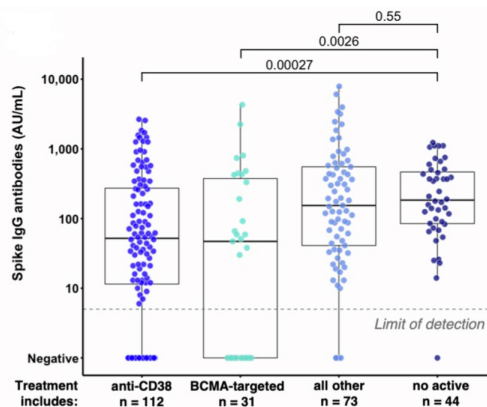
- Patients with MM
- 2 doses of mRNA vaccine
- 70% BNT162b2 (Pfizer)
- 30% mRNA-1273 (Moderna)

Highly variable responses



- Median titer 100 U/mL
- 16% had no response
- Limited durability as compared to healthy controls

Associated with lower and less durable responses



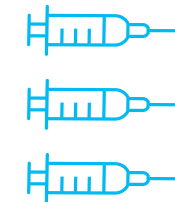
- No CR
- Lymphopenia
- BCMA-targeted treatment
- Anti-CD38 antibody treatment

CD4 T cell responses



CD4 T cell responses diminished in anti-spike IgG non-responders (correlation?)

Third dose mRNA vaccine



Anecdotally effective in heavily treated MM patient



COVID-19 vaccine response evaluation in MM patients

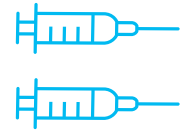
US experience¹

Observational trial (N=103)



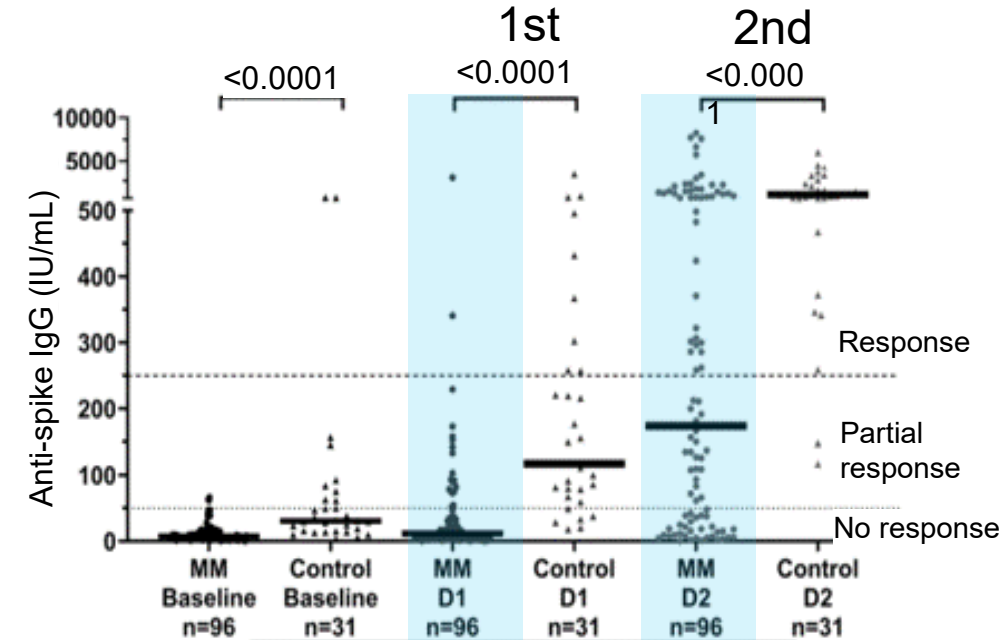
- Patients with MM
 - BNT162b2 (Pfizer)
 - mRNA-1273 (Moderna)

Responders after 2 injections



- 33% <50 IU/mL
- 22% 50-250 IU/mL
- **45% >250 IU/mL**

Anti-SARS-CoV-2 spike IgG levels



Associated with inferior responses

- Older age (> 68 yrs)
- Low lymphocyte counts
 - Cfr Hamburg study (IMW Vienna 2021): < 30 circulating CD19+ cells²
- Reduced levels of uninvolved immunoglobulins
 - UCLH study (IMW Vienna 2021): IgM < 400 mg/L³
- Steroid use
- More advanced disease state
- No CR

Inferior responses in multivariate analysis:



Low uninvolved IgM
Vaccination with Pfizer (27%)
vs Moderna (63%) vaccine



COVID-19 vaccine response evaluation in MM patients

Greek experience

Observational trial (N=213)



- Patients with MM
 - BNT162b2 (Pfizer) 2 doses
 - AZD1222 (AstraZeneca) 1 dose

Protective Ab titers

57%

Patients with MM

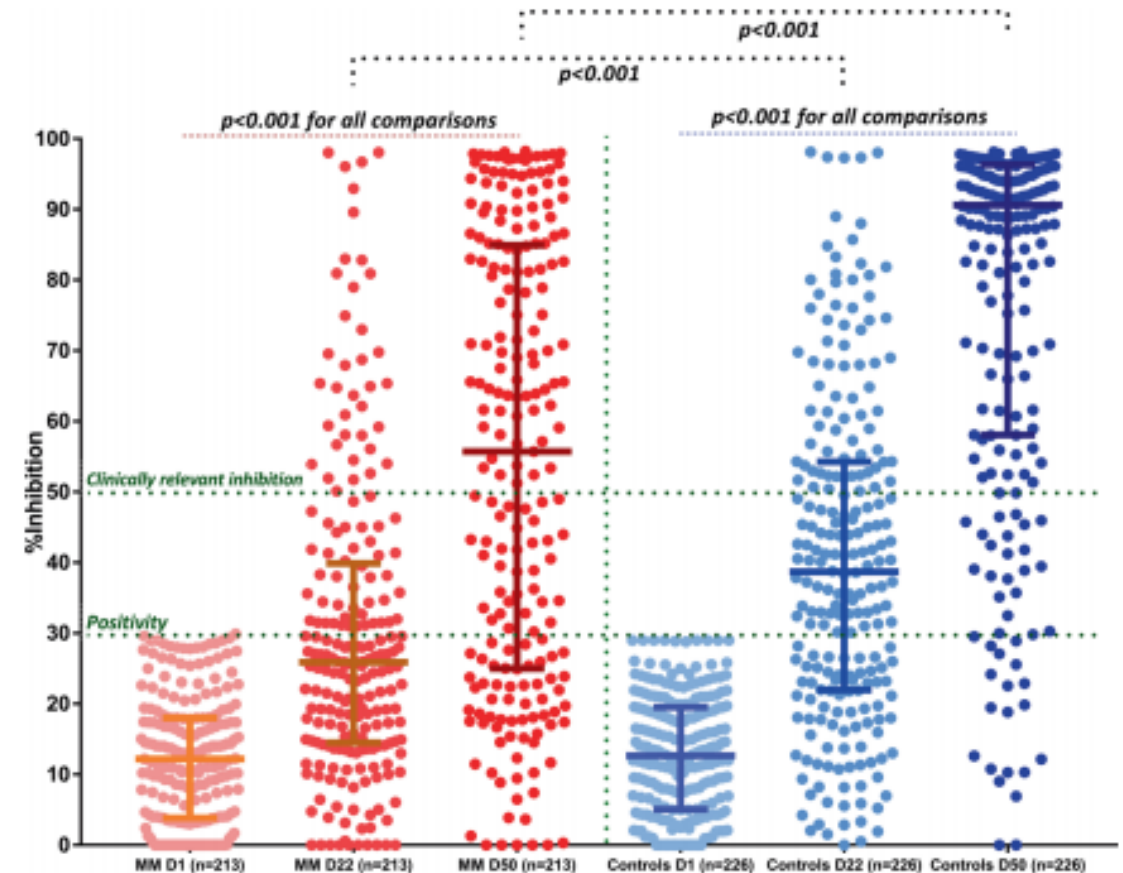
81%

Controls

Associated with low responses



- Lymphopenia ($<1000/\text{mm}^3$)
- Anti-BCMA therapy
- Anti-CD38 therapy



Response determinants to COVID vaccination in hemato malignancies

Patient factors

- Age (>70 years)
- Immune paresis
 - Lymphopenia
 - Low polyclonal Ig

Treatment-related factors

- Early vs late post-Tx
- Immunosuppressive therapy
 - Steroids (high-dose)
 - Anti-CD20
 - Anti-BCMA targeting
 - Anti-CD38 targeting
 - Venetoclax
 - BTK inhibitors
 - Ruxolitinib

Disease-related factors

- Type of disease
 - MW < MM < other
- Active disease
 - No CR/VGPR (MM)
 - Active disease (other)
- Late disease
 - > 1st line

