

PRESS RELEASE

First local study shows microbiota-derived health supplement may safely reduce COVID-19 vaccination side-effects in children and adolescents

(Hong Kong, 1 December 2023) – **During the fifth wave of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Hong Kong parents are still reluctant to allow their children to receive vaccination due to worries of safety and side-effects. A study conducted by a local biotechnology company and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) shows that microbiota-derived health supplement SIM01 may safely reduce adverse reactions from COVID-19 vaccination in children and adolescents. The results have been recently published in the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*.**

The study led by Dr Chow Chung-mo, Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in Paediatrics of CUHK, has evaluated the G-NiiB Immunity formula health supplement (SIM01) in alleviating adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination in 95 children aged 5 to 17 years, who received at least one vaccine dose and underwent adverse events assessments.

‘Our key findings were that SIM01 supplementation was safe for children aged 5 to 17 years before COVID-19 vaccination, and the rates of adverse events after vaccination appeared to be lower in children undergoing SIM01 supplementation than in a historical control group who did not use SIM01. These findings provided valuable foundations to support future studies, as well as evidence that may reduce vaccine hesitancy among parents and children,’ said Dr Chow.

Children receiving SIM01 in the study had fewer adverse events when receiving BNT162b2 vaccine (BioNTech/Pfizer) compared with those without taking a microbiota-derived health supplement as reported in the BNT162b2 Product Monograph, particularly regarding injection pain or local reaction (71% vs 84.3%-90.5% in Product Monograph data), tiredness (29% vs 51%-77%), headache (10% vs 38.2%-78.5%), chills (3% vs 12.4%-42.9%), and myalgia (0% vs 17.5%-42.2%).

Ms Rachel Fan, Chief Executive Officer of GenieBiome Limited which conducted the research with CUHK, mentioned, ‘We are delighted to see the encouraging results of SIM01 that can potentially reduce COVID-19 vaccination side-effects in children and adolescents, and we hope to reassure parents that taking SIM01 improves gut health and immunity, and is safe to be taken by children.’

‘Vaccination is effective in reducing the risk and severity of COVID-19, and recent evidence suggests that gut microbiota have important effects on immune responses to vaccination. This local pilot study shows the correction of gut dysbiosis through microbiota-derived health supplement

might offer a new solution for the management of COVID-19 vaccine–related adverse reaction,’ Dr Chow added.

The article “Can a microbiota-derived health supplement mitigate adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination in children?” was published in the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2210590>

新聞稿

首項本地研究顯示微生態配方補充劑可能有助安全減少兒童及青少年接種新冠疫苗後副作用

（香港，2023年12月1日）—在第五波疫情期間，由於擔心安全和副作用，香港很多家長仍不願意讓孩子接種新冠疫苗防疫。本地一間生物科技有限公司和香港中文大學進行的研究證實，服用微生態配方補充劑 **SIM01** 可能有助安全地減少兒童及青少年因接種新冠疫苗而產生的不良反應。研究結果最近在《香港醫學雜誌》發表。

由香港中文大學名譽臨床副教授（兒科）周中武醫生領導的研究，評估了 **G-NiiB** 免疫力配方保健品（**SIM01**）在緩解 95 名 5 至 17 歲兒童及青少年接種新冠疫苗後不良反應方面的作用，這些參加者均最少接種一劑疫苗，並接受了不良反應評估。

周醫生指出：「我們的主要發現是，在接種新冠疫苗之前，補充 **SIM01** 對於 5 至 17 歲的兒童是安全的。此外，與疫苗廠商公布的不良反應歷史數據相比，接受 **SIM01** 補充的兒童在接種疫苗後不良反應的發生率，相對低於沒有使用 **SIM01** 的疫苗廠商歷史數據。這些發現為未來的研究提供了寶貴基礎，並提供了可能減少父母和兒童對疫苗猶豫不決的證據。」

研究中，有接受 **SIM01** 補充的兒童在接種 BNT162b2 疫苗（BioNTech/Pfizer）時，與沒有服用 **SIM01** 的接種兒童（BNT162b2 產品專論數據）相比，不良反應報告相對較少，特別是在針口疼痛或局部不適（71% vs 84.3%-90.5% [產品專論數據]）、疲勞（29% vs 51%-77%）、頭痛（10% vs 38.2%-78.5%）、發冷（3% vs 12.4%-42.9%）和肌肉痛（0% vs 17.5%-42.2%）方面。

與中大共同進行研究的精進生物科技有限公司行政總裁范思亮女士表示：「我們很高興看到研究取得令人鼓舞的結果——補充 **SIM01** 的兒童及青少年在接種新冠疫苗後的副作用是有可能減少的。我們希望家長放心，讓兒童服用 **SIM01** 不單可以改善腸道健康及免疫力，而且是安全的。」

周醫生補充：「接種疫苗有效降低新冠病毒的感染風險和嚴重程度。最近的證據顯示腸道微生物菌群對接種疫苗的免疫反應具有重要影響。這項本地先導研究表明，通過微生態配方改善腸道微生態失衡，可能為管理與新冠疫苗相關的不良反應提供新的解決方案。」

詳細內容可參閱原文《微生態配方補充劑能否減輕兒童接種新冠疫苗後的不佳反應？》。



Source: CM Chow, PK Cheong, J Hu, et al. Can a microbiota-derived health supplement mitigate adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination in children? Hong Kong Med J 2023;29:Epub 1 Dec 2023. <https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2210590>.

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