

Abstract

cord antibody functions

INTRODUCTION

effector functions in the non-pregnant (26-29) and pregnant populations (30-35). With Fc-Fc receptor

 engagement on innate and adaptive immune cells (36, 37), induced effector functions can prevent disease even after infection has occurred by eliminating infected cells and blocking spread (25, 38-44). Diversity of the Fc domain through differential subclass and post-translational glycosylation modulates binding to Fc receptors and the spectrum of effector functions (45-52). Moreover, antibody functional potency, breadth and coordination between neutralizing and Fc effector responses likely contribute to protection (26, 53-57). Some data demonstrate that maternal immune adaptation to pregnancy alters antibody subclass and glycosylation (30, 58-65), but the implications for antibody functions and what exists for the fetus are only just beginning to be appreciated (66-70). To understand how SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination in pregnancy impacts the newborn, we collected paired maternal-infant cord blood samples at delivery. We evaluated neutralization against live SARS-CoV-2 and the Fc effector functions of natural killer cell activation that leads to antibody- dependent cellular cytotoxicity, antibody-dependent monocyte phagocytosis, antibody-dependent complement deposition, and Fcg receptor binding specific for the Spike glycoprotein receptor binding domain (RBD). We determined relative levels of RBD-specific antibody subclass, isotype and post- translational glycosylation to assess how these different features contribute to function. The data show that compared to SARS-CoV-2 infection, vaccination in pregnancy enhances some but not all neutralizing and Fc effector functions, with preferential transport of Fc functions and not neutralization. All functions are primarily driven by IgG1 which is enhanced by vaccination. However, vaccination in pregnancy changes glycosylation of cord and not maternal RBD IgG and the impact of glycosylation on antibody functional potency is observed more in cord compared to maternal responses. Thus, while vaccination compared to infection in pregnancy boosts antibody functions, the maternal and fetal paths begin to diverge.

RESULTS

Study subjects

 We collected paired maternal-umbilical cord blood at deliveries from individuals who during 89 pregnancy received mRNA vaccination targeting WA1 RBD (n=19 vaccine only) and or infected with SARS-CoV-2 (n=22 infection only and n=28 both vaccine and infection) at Parkland Health, the Dallas County's public hospital in Texas (Table and Supplemental Table 1). Clinical groups were defined by clinical history, documented vaccination in pregnancy, SARS-CoV-2 nasal swab PCR and SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid IgG (Supplemental Figure 1). Of the 47 vaccinated, four received mRNA-1273 and 43 BNT162b2 with no significant difference between the two (Supplemental Table 2). The mean age of individuals with only infection was lower compared to those who received vaccination in pregnancy (p=0.005). Body mass index (BMI), gestational age at delivery (75% full term), infant sex and an additional 21 clinical outcomes were not significantly different (Table and Supplemental Table 1). Of the infected, 20% were asymptomatic, 40% mild, 10% moderate, 14% severe and 16% critical. Of the vaccinated, the majority received two doses (68%) before delivery with their last dose in the third trimester (Supplemental Figure 1). With 94% of participants Hispanic, this study population represents a subset of the 11,170 deliveries at Parkland Health in 2021 and a patient population from social-economic communities disproportionately impacted by SARS-CoV-2 (Supplemental Table 3) (71-73). **Infant-cord SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing and Fc effector functions** Infants of individuals with monovalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccination in pregnancy have decreased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection, hospitalization, and mortality up to 6 months after birth (15, 19). This is irrespective of whether SARS-CoV-2 infection occurred. To begin to investigate the antibody functions induced by vaccination, we measured neutralizing activity that prevents viral entry and infection (74-77). Through focus reduction neutralization tests (FRNT) using live SARS-CoV-2 (WA1/2020) and variants Delta (B.1.617.2) and Omicron (BA.2) (Supplemental Figure 2), we observed higher cord neutralizing activities against WA1 in those with mRNA vaccination compared to SARS-CoV-2 infection and non-significant changes against Delta and Omicron (Figure 1A, F). Subanalyses showed that while

 neutralizing activity from the combination of vaccine and infection compared to vaccine alone trended higher, this was not statistically significant (Figure 1F). Thus, vaccination compared to infection alone in pregnancy induces higher cord neutralizing activity for protection against subsequent challenges by the same viral strain.

 Decay studies show that antibody Fc effector functions are more durable than neutralization (23, 29, 78) and data from animal models show that Fc-Fc receptor engagement impacts viral load and disease (25, 38-42, 44, 57). We examined RBD-specific Fc effector functions induced by vaccination and SARS- CoV-2 infection (26-28, 30, 32, 43, 46): antibody-dependent natural killer cell activation (ADNKA) which leads to antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) (Figure 1B), antibody-dependent complement deposition (ADCD) (Figure 1C) and antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP) (Figure 1D). We found that vaccination in pregnancy compared to infection alone is linked to higher RBD 123 ADNKA including CD107a degranulation and intracellular IFN γ and TNF α production (Figure 1B) and ADCD (Figure 1C), not ADCP (Figure 1D). Antibody Fc domain engagement of low affinity Fc receptors is the first step in the signaling and initiation of effector functions while the high affinity FcRN is responsible for transport across the placenta and recycling (37, 79-81). We found that binding to the low 127 affinity activating FcyRIIIa/CD16a and FcyRIIa/CD32a, the inhibitory FcyRIIb/CD32b and high affinity FcRN were elevated after vaccination compared to infection in pregnancy (Figure 1E). Again, the combination of vaccine and infection compared to vaccine alone was not statistically different (Figure 1F). Thus, the magnitude of some but not all cord RBD Fc effector functions and Fc receptor binding are enhanced with vaccination.

 Sex (82, 83), infant prematurity (69), trimester of vaccination (31, 33), mRNA vaccine platform (27, 33) and disease severity (45, 46, 84) impact antibody responses. Though limited by power, no significant differences were observed in these data. Consistent with findings in the general population (85), there were no significant differences with respect to the order of vaccination and infection in the combination group (Supplemental Figure 1).

In addition to magnitude, greater polyfunctional antibody breadth is associated with increased

protection (26). For each cord sample, we categorized the proportion of detectable SARS-CoV-2

neutralizing and Fc effector responses as high (>90%), medium (80-90%) or low (<80%) responder

(Supplemental Figure3). We observed more high responders with greater functional breadth in the

vaccinated compared to infected (Figure 1G).

Maternal SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing and Fc effector functions

To understand how infant cord antibody responses are shaped, we next measured neutralizing

activities and Fc effector functions in paired maternal samples obtained at delivery. Like cord samples,

maternal blood from those vaccinated compared to infected enhanced the magnitude of neutralization

against SARS-CoV-2 WA1 and not Delta or Omicron (Figure 2A). RBD ADNKA (Figure 2B), ADCD

(Figure 2C), and not ADCP (Figure 2D) were increased. Relative binding of RBD IgG to

FcgRIIIa/CD16a, FcgRIIa/CD32a, FcgRIIb/CD32b and FcRN were higher (Figure 2E). There was a non-

statistically significant trend towards increased antibody functions with combination vaccine and

infection compared to vaccine alone (Figure 2F) and greater polyfunctional breadth with vaccination

(Figure 2G). Thus, vaccination in pregnancy enhances the magnitude and breadth of neutralizing and Fc

effector functions across the maternal-fetal dyad.

Maternal-fetal transfer of antibody functions

 The maternal response to an immune exposure and transfer of that response across the placenta determine fetal antibody functions. In examining transfer, we found that neutralizing activities did not differ between paired maternal and cord samples irrespective of immune exposure (Figure 3A). However, levels of RBD Fc effector functions of ADNKA were lower in maternal compared to cord blood (Figure 3B). This was not observed for RBD ADCD (Figure 3C) but was for ADCP (Figure 3D). Consistent with 159 the low affinity activating and inhibitory FcyRs modulating ADNKA and ADCP, relative binding for FcgRIIIa/CD16a, FcgRIIa/CD32a and FcgRIIb/CD32b were all lower in maternal compared to cord blood (Figure 3E). In contrast, no difference was observed for the high affinity FcRN that mediates IgG

162 transport across the placenta (Figure 3E). These data show preferential transfer of a subset of Fcy effector functions compared to viral neutralization and C1q mediated C3 complement deposition that leads to 164 ADCD. In the case of Fcy receptor binding the transfer ratio was inversely related to the magnitude of the maternal response (Figure 3F). Highest transfer was observed after infection with the lowest maternal response and lowest transfer after vaccination and infection inducing the highest maternal response (Figure 3F). Overall transport of antibody functions across the placenta was based on the nature of the antibody function and maternal levels.

RBD-specific isotype and subclass

 Differential isotypes and subclass drive diversity in antibody functions (36, 86). To determine which are induced by vaccination we measured RBD IgG, IgA and IgM and IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4. In cord samples, we observed that the magnitude of RBD IgG, specifically IgG1 and not IgG2-4, was enhanced (Figure 4A), with no differences in control influenza-specific IgG (Supplemental Figure 4). RBD IgM and IgA were minimally detected (Figure 4A and Supplemental Figure 4 and 5A). Similarly, in maternal samples vaccination linked to enhanced RBD IgG, specifically IgG1 (Figure 4B). While RBD IgA and IgM were detectable and trended higher with vaccination, no differences were significant (Supplemental Figure 5B). Thus, vaccination in pregnancy enhances the magnitude of RBD IgG, specifically IgG1, in both maternal and fetal responses. **IgG subclasses and antibody functions** With the increased magnitude of RBD IgG1 after vaccination, we expected this subclass to drive

 antibody functions targeting SARS-CoV-2. Using linear regression to assess the dependency of each neutralizing and Fc effector function on RBD-specific subclasses we found that this was the general case 183 for maternal and cord responses across immune exposures (Figure 4C, D). A greater breadth of subclasses (RBD IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4) was linked to antibody functions in maternal blood, which focused on IgG1 with vaccination (Figure 4D).

RBD-specific IgG glycosylation

vaccine and infection group, highlighting the negative effect of fucose and positive of di-sialic acid, the

only RBD IgG glycans that changed significantly with vaccination compared to infection (Supplemental

Figure 7A).

Vaccine mediated polyfunctional antibody coordination

DISCUSSION

Neutralizing and antibody Fc effector functions transfer to the fetus

 Observational studies show that two doses of monovalent mRNA vaccines in pregnancy protect infants up to 6 months after birth from complications and morbidity associated with COVID-19 but what mediates protection is less clear (15, 19). The data here shows that in cord blood vaccination compared to infection enhances overall magnitude, polyfunctional breadth (Figure 1 and 2) and antibody potency (Figure 6) against SARS-CoV-2 through RBD IgG (Figure 4 and Supplemental Figure 5), specifically IgG1 (Figure 4) and differential antibody glycosylation (Figure 5-7) that drives coordinated (Figure 7A). These include neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 WA1 (Figure 1A, F) and binding of RBD-specific antibodies to Fcg receptors (Figure 1E, F) involved in the induction of natural killer cell activation and concomitant cellular cytotoxicity (Figure 1B, F). Complementary to Fc receptor binding, C1q engagement of the antibody Fc domain to induce C3 mediated complement activation is enhanced, offering protection 243 via a separate mechanism from neutralizing and other Fcy effector functions (Figure 1C, 7A). Not all functions are enriched in vaccination compared to infection as in the case of cord antibody-dependent 245 cellular phagocytosis (Figure 1D, 7). However, Fcy receptor mediated functions compared to neutralizing 246 and complement activities are preferentially transported to the fetus regardless of whether the immune exposure is infection or vaccination (Figure 3). Thus, a subset of vaccine-induced maternal antibody neutralizing and Fc effector functions is transferred to the fetus. Accumulating data suggest that immune responses beyond direct neutralization likely shape protection in subsequent viral challenge (20-25, 55). In animal models testing monoclonal antibodies and 251 vaccination, the absence of Fc domain-Fcy receptor engagement leads to increased viral load and pathology (25, 38-42). As such, preserved Fc effector functions (25, 26, 43) likely do not prevent

acquisition of infection but rather limit disease in the absence of high neutralization as is observed with

the monovalent WA1-based mRNA vaccines against Delta and Omicron (90, 91).

 Fc effector functions may be particularly relevant for the fetus. Similar to HIV, CMV and malaria 256 and some vaccines (67-69, 92), the data from this study show that Fcy receptor mediated functions are transferred along with IgG across the placenta (Figure 1, 3). Higher natural killer cell activation and cellular phagocytosis in cord compared to paired maternal samples (Figure 3B, D) irrespective of immune 259 exposure suggest preferential transport of Fcy functions that contrast equivalent levels of neutralizing (Figure 3A) and complement (Figure 3C) activities. Longitudinal studies show that Fc functions persist longer than neutralizing activities (23, 29, 78). Thus, Fc functions have the localization and durability to offer protection across the gestational and neonatal periods when the immune system is immature. **Vaccine-induced maternal antibody functions transfer to the fetus** The data from this study show that vaccination as compared to a spectrum of SARS-CoV-2 infection from asymptomatic to severe COVID-19 (Supplemental Figure 1) in pregnancy enhances maternal antibody neutralizing and Fc effector functions. Mirroring paired cord responses, neutralization 267 against WA1, Fcy receptor binding mediated natural killer cell activation and C1q-C3 driven complement activation are elevated in maternal responses to vaccination compared to infection alone (Figure 2, Figure 3A-C). This occurs even in the context of co-morbidities including pre-gestational diabetes and chronic hypertension (Supplemental Table 1). Thus, like the fetus, maternal vaccination likely also benefits the pregnant individual through enhanced neutralizing and Fc effector functions. Antibodies and their associated functions traffic across the placenta. The primary transporter of 273 IgG from the pregnant individual to the fetus is the neonatal FcRN $(80, 81)$, though Fc γ RIIIa/CD16a,

274 FcyRIIa/CD32a, FcyRIIb/CD32b and other Fcy receptors expressed in the placenta could be additional

factors (31, 67). Consistent with its high affinity nature, relative binding to FcRN is equivalent in cord

and maternal responses irrespective of immune exposure (Figure 3E). Yet with antibodies binding to the

- 277 low affinity Fcy receptors there is preferential fetal localization when the maternal magnitude is low
- 278 (Figure 3E, F). Upon vaccination, the difference in FcyRIIIa/CD16a but neither FcyRIIa/CD32a nor

FcgRIIb/CD32b disappears (Figure 3E), suggesting that when maternal antibodies are elevated,

280 FcyRIIIa/CD16a binding is saturated. This effect is more apparent when maternal antibodies are highest after the combination of infection and vaccination (Figure 3F). Altered placental IgG transfer has been described in chronic infections such as HIV (67) and SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy (31). Thus it is plausible that vaccination could similarly impact FcR levels and the transfer of distinctly glycosylated IgG. However, the data here shows that the large enhancement of the initial maternal response with vaccination compared to infection overshadows the smaller effects of differential transfer.

Differential glycosylation contributes to antibody functional potency in the fetus

 While vaccine-induced RBD IgG1 drives functions across the maternal-fetal dyad (Figure 4C, D), post-translational antibody glycosylation appears to contribute more to potency in the fetus than the pregnant individual (Figure 5, 6, 7B, 7C, Supplemental Figure 7 and 8). All polyclonal IgG have N-linked glycans on the Fc domain that drive Fcg receptors binding and effector functions (*38, 39, 54, 88)*and 20% of the population have additional modifications on the Fab domain (93, 94) that have the potential to impact stability, half-life and avidity to antigens (59, 61, 95). Subtle differences between maternal and cord IgG glycosylation have been reported (87, 96). In COVID-19 disease and upon mRNA vaccination, changes in fucose and sialic acid alter antibody-dependent natural killer cell activity that leads to cellular cytotoxicity and are associated with different clinical outcomes (45-48, 97, 98). Our data show that these same glycans are altered on cord and not maternal RBD IgG with vaccination (Figure 5 and Supplemental Figure 7) , impacting RBD ADNKA potency in the newborn (Figure 6). Recent data in a mouse model of Listeria infection show that vaccination during as compared to before pregnancy induces Fab domain sialylation that enhances protection for pups (61). Whether pregnancy-specific changes in antibody glycosylation could similarly improve infant protection against COVID-19 is not known. Beyond COVID-19, different vaccine adjuvants and platforms can modulate antibody glycosylation as well as subclass that could impact Fc effector functions (99, 100). Thus, what is learned in COVID-19 has implications for the design of vaccines across infections that disproportionately impact the maternal-fetal dyad (62, 68, 101, 102).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design and participant recruitment

 FBS, 12.5% horse serum, 1.5g/L sodium bicarbonate, 0.02mM folic acid, 0.2mM inositol, 0.1mM 2-β-mercaptoethanol, 100U/mL IL-2.

Viruses

 SARS-CoV-2 clinical isolates were passaged once before use: USA-WA1/2020 [original strain] (BEI Resources NR-52281); hCoV-19/USA/PHC658/2021 [B.1.617.2] (BEI Resources NR-55611), and hCoV-19/USA/CO-CDPHE-2102544747/2021 [B.1.1.529 - BA.2] (BEI Resources NR-56520). Isolates were propagated in Vero E6 cells for 24-72hours until cultures displayed at least 20% cytopathic effect (CPE) (97).

Focus Reduction Neutralization Test (FRNT)

 Focus forming assays were performed as described (26, 126). Sub-confluent Vero E6 cells were incubated for 1hour with 30µL of diluted sera (5x4-fold starting at 1:20) which was pre-incubated for 1hour with 100 infectious viral particles per well. Samples were tested in duplicate. Wells were covered with 150µL of overlay media containing 1% methylcellulose and incubated for 24hours. Plates were fixed by soaking in 4% formaldehyde in PBS for 1hour at RT. After permeabilization with 0.1% BSA, 0.1% saponin in PBS, plates were incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibody (1:5,000 anti-SARS-CoV- 2 alpaca serum) (Capralogics Inc) (126). Plates were then washed and incubated for 2hours at RT with secondary antibody (1:20,000 anti-alpaca-HRP) (NB7242 Novus) and developed with TrueBlue (SeraCare) for 30minutes. Foci were imaged with a CTL Immunospot Analyzer, enumerated using the viridot package (127) and %neutralization calculated relative to the average of virus-only wells for each plate. FRNT50 values were determined by fitting %neutralization to a 3-parameter logistic model as described previously (126). The limit of detection (LOD) was defined by the lowest dilution tested, values below the LOD were set to LOD – 1. Duplicate FRNT50 values were first calculated separately to confirm values were within 4-fold. When true, a final FRNT50 was calculated by fitting to combined replicates.

Antigen-specific antibody isotype and subclass

microspheres were coupled with antigens as described for antigen subclass and isotype above. Antigen-

coupled microspheres (1000/well) were incubated with serially diluted samples (1:100, 1:1000, 1:10,000)

411 in replicates in Bioplex plates (Bio-Rad) at 4°C for 16 hours. Recombinant Fc receptors (FcyRIIIa/CD16a,

FcgRIIa/CD32a H167, FcgRIIb/CD32b, Neonatal Fc receptor/FcRN) (R&D Systems) were labeled with

- PE (Abcam) per manufacturer's instructions, added (1µg/mL) to bead bound antigen-specific immune
- complexes. After 2hours of incubation at RT, the beads were washed and antigen-specific antibody bound
- Fc receptors were measured on MAGPIX (Luminex). The background signal (PBS) was subtracted.

Experiments were conducted two independent times. Representative data from one dilution was chosen

- by the highest signal-to-noise ratio.
- **Antigen-specific antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP)**

The THP-1 (TIB-202, ATCC) ADCP with antigen-coated beads was conducted as described (26).

- SARS-CoV-2 RBD (BEI Resources NR-52309) was biotinylated with Sulfo-NHS-LC Biotin (Thermo
- 421 Fisher), then incubated with 1 um fluorescent neutravidin beads (Invitrogen) at 4 °C for 16 hours. Excess
- antigen was washed away and RBD-coupled neutravidin beads were resuspended in PBS-0.1% bovine
- serum albumin (BSA). RBD-coupled beads were incubated with serially diluted samples (1:100, 1:500,
- 1:2500) in duplicate for 2hours at 37°C. THP1 cells $(1\times10^5$ per well) were then added. Serum opsonized
- RBD-coupled beads and THP1 cells were incubated at 37°C for 16hours, washed and fixed with 4% PFA.
- Bead uptake was measured on a BD LSRFortessa and analyzed by FlowJo10. Phagocytic scores were
- calculated as the integrated median fluorescence intensity (MFI) (%bead-positive frequency×MFI/10,000)
- (131). The background signal (PBS) was subtracted. Experiments were conducted two independent times.
- Representative data from one dilution was chosen by the highest signal-to-noise ratio.
- **Antibody-dependent complement deposition (ADCD)**
- The ADCD assay was performed as described (26, 132). Luminex carboxylated microspheres
- were coupled with antigens as described for antigen subclass and isotype above. Antigen-coated
- microspheres (2500/well) were incubated with serially diluted heat inactivated samples (1:10, 1:50,
- 1:250) at 37°C for 2hours. Guinea pig complement (Cedarlane) freshly diluted 1:60 in PBS was added for
- 20minutes at 37°C. After washing off excess with PBS 15mM EDTA, anti-C3 PE-conjugated goat
- polyclonal IgG (MP Biomedicals) (1µg/mL) was added. The beads were then washed and C3 deposition
- quantified on a MAGPIX (Luminex). The background signal (PBS) was subtracted. Experiments were
- conducted two independent times. Representative data from one dilution was chosen by the highest
- signal-to-noise ratio.
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Antibody-dependent NK cell activation (ADNKA)

 ADNKA was performed as described (26, 133). ELISA plates were coated with recombinant RBD (300 ng/well) (BEI Resources NR-52309). Wells were washed, blocked, and incubated with serially 445 diluted samples (1:10, 1:100, 1:1000) in duplicate for 2hours at 37°C prior to adding CD16a.NK-92 cells 446 (PTA-6967, ATCC) $(5 \times 10^4 \text{ cells/well})$ for 5hours with brefeldin A (Biolegend), Golgi Stop (BDBiosciences) and anti-CD107a (clone H4A3, BDBiosciences). Cells were stained with anti-CD56 (clone 5.1H11, BDBiosciences) and anti-CD16 (clone 3G8, BDBiosciences) and fixed with 4%PFA. 449 Intracellular cytokine staining to detect IFN γ (clone B27, BDBiosciences) and TNF α (clone Mab11, BDBiosciences) was performed in permeabilization buffer (Biolegend). Markers were measured using a BD LSRFortessa and analyzed by FlowJo10. CD16 expression was confirmed. NK cell degranulation and 452 activation were calculated as %CD56+CD107a+, IFN γ + or TNF α +. Representative data from one dilution was chosen by the highest signal-to-noise ratio. Experiments were conducted two independent times. **Non-antigen and RBD-specific IgG glycosylation** Non-antigen and RBD-specific IgG glycans were purified and relative levels were quantified as described with modifications (26, 94, 134). RBD (BEI Resources NR-52309) was biotinylated with sulfosuccinimidyl-6-[biotinamido]-6-hexanamido hexanoate (sulfo-NHS-LC-LC biotin; ThermoScientific) and coupled to streptavidin beads (New England Biolabs). Patient samples were incubated with RBD-coupled beads and excess sera washed off with PBS (Sigma). RBD-specific antibodies were eluted from beads using 100mM citric acid (pH 3.0) and neutralized with 0.5M potassium phosphate (pH 9.0). Non-antigen specific IgG and RBD-specific IgG were isolated from serum and eluted RBD-specific antibodies respectively by protein G beads (Millipore). Purified IgG was denatured and treated with PNGase enzyme (New England Biolabs) for 12hours at 37°C to release glycans. To isolate bulk IgG glycans, proteins were removed by precipitation using ice cold 100% ethanol at -20°C for 10minutes. To isolated RBD-specific IgG glycans, Agencourt CleanSEQ beads (Beckman Coulter) were used to bind glycans in 87.5% acetonitrile (Fisher Scientific). The supernatant was

 removed, glycans were eluted from beads with HPLC grade water (FisherScientific) and dried by centrifugal force and vacuum (CentriVap). Glycans were fluorescently labeled with a 1.5:1 ratio of 50mM APTS (8-aminoinopyrene-1,3,6-trisulfonic acid, ThermoFisher) in 1.2M citric acid and 1M sodium cyanoborohydride in tetrahydrofuran (FisherScientific) at 55°C for 3hours. Labeled glycans were dissolved in HPLC grade water (FisherScientific) and excess unbound APTS removed using Agencourt CleanSEQ beads (non-antigen specific glycans) and Bio-Gel P-2 (Bio-rad) size exclusion resin (RBD- specific glycans). Glycan samples were run with a LIZ 600 DNA ladder in Hi-Di formamide (ThermoFisher) on an ABI 3500xL DNA sequencer and analyzed with GlycanAssure Data Acquisition Software v.1.0. Each glycoform was identified by standard libraries (GKSP-520, Agilent). The relative abundance of each glycan was determined as the proportion of each individual peak with respect to all captured. **Statistical analyses** Statistical analyses were performed using R4.1.2, Stata17 and GraphPad 9.0. Data are 480 summarized using median (Q1-Q3), mean \pm standard deviation, percent (%). Data were evaluated for normality and independence of the residuals, heteroscedasticity and linear relationships between dependent and independent variables and log transformed as needed to meet these assumptions. Linear regression models were used to adjust for the effect of maternal age and BMI (Figure 1-2, 4,

Supplemental Figure 4-5, 7) and determine the effects of fetal sex and disease severity. Wilcoxon-

matched pair signed rank tests were used to compare between maternal-cord pairs (Figure 3). For

antibody function radar plots (Figure 1F, 2F, 4), Z-scored data for each feature were calculated and the

median values for each group plotted. For the antibody glycan radar plots (Figure 5, C and D), Z scores of

individual RBD-specific relative to non-antigen specific IgG glycoforms were calculated and the medians

for each group plotted. Simple linear regression was used to examine the relationships between IgG

subclass as the independent and antibody functions as the dependent variables (Figure 4, C and D) and

- IgG glycoforms as the independent and antibody functional potencies as the dependent variables (Figure
- 6). Spearman rank correlations were used to examine bivariate associations between antibody functions

(Figure 7A). Principal component analysis (135) was used to reduce variable dimensions (Figure 7B-C,

Supplemental Figure 8). For clinical data in Tables, analysis of variance was used for age as it was

normally distributed, Kruskal-Wallis test was used for all other continuous variables and Chi-square and

- Fisher's exact tests for categorical variables. All p-values are two-sided, and <0.05 considered significant.
- In Figures, asterisks denote statistical significance (∗ p≤0.05; ∗∗ p≤0.01; ∗∗∗ p≤0.001; ∗∗∗ p≤0.0001).
- **Author contributions**

EA obtained patient samples, collected clinical data, and prepared the manuscript. PL designed

and conducted experiments, analyzed data, and prepared the manuscript. YJK assisted in conducting

experiments, analyzing data, and preparing the manuscript. AM and JP analyzed the data. TAB, MGT,

and SKM conducted the neutralization assays and analyzed data. FGT supervised neutralization assays,

analyzed data, and provided critical revisions to the manuscript. LLL conceived, designed, coordinated,

and supervised the work, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript.

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Figure 1: A subset of infant cord SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing and RBD Fc effector antibody functions is enhanced with vaccination compared to infection in pregnancy. The medians (bars) for cord sample (**A**) neutralization (FRNT50) against SARS-CoV-2 WA1 (infection n=14, vaccine n=13, vaccine+infection n=19), Delta and Omicron viruses (infection n=12, vaccine n=8, vaccine+infection n=14), (**B**) RBD antibody-dependent natural killer cell activation (ADNKA) by CD107a, IFN_Y, and TNF α , (C) RBD antibody-dependent complement deposition (ADCD), (D) RBD antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP), and (**E**) relative binding of RBD-specific antibodies to FcyRIIIa/CD16a, FcyRIIa/CD32a, FcyRIIb/CD32b and FcRN are shown. For B-E, sample sizes are infection n=20, vaccine n=18, vaccine+infection n=27. P-values for A-E are adjusted for maternal age and body mass index using linear regression. (**F**) The magnitude of cord functions are summarized in the radar plot. Each line represents the median Z-scored data for each clinical group. (**G**) The proportion of detectable functions was used to categorize individuals as a high, medium or low responder. The percentages of each type of responder within each clinical group depict the polyfunctional antibody breadth.

Figure 2: A subset of maternal SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing and RBD Fc effector antibody functions is enhanced with vaccination compared to infection in pregnancy. The medians (bars) of the maternal pair of the cord samples in Figure 1 in (**A**) neutralization (FRNT50) against SARS-CoV-2 WA1 (infection n=14, vaccine n=13, vaccine+infection n=19), Delta and Omicron viruses (infection n=12, vaccine n=8, vaccine+infection n=14), (**B**) RBD antibody-dependent natural killer cell activation (ADNKA) as measured by CD107a, IFN_Y, and TNF α , (C) RBD antibody-dependent complement deposition (ADCD), (**D**) RBD antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP), and (E) relative binding of RBD-specific antibodies to FcyRIIIa/CD16a, FcyRIIa/CD32a, FcgRIIb/CD32b and FcRN. For B-E, sample sizes are infection n=22, vaccine n=19, vaccine+infection n=28. P-values for A-E are adjusted for maternal age and body mass index using linear regression. (**F**) The magnitude of maternal functions are summarized in the radar plot. Each line represents the median Z-scored data for each clinical group. (**G**) The proportion of detectable functions was used to categorize individuals as a high, medium or low responder. The percentages of each type of responder within each clinical group depict the polyfunctional antibody breadth.

Figure 3: SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing and RBD Fc effector functions are differentially transferred across the placenta. (**A**) Neutralization against live SARS-CoV-2 WA1, variant Delta and Omicron, (**B**) RBD ADNKA, (**C**) RBD ADCD, (**D**) RBD ADCP, and (**E**) relative binding of RBDspecific IgG to FcyRIIIa/CD16a, FcyRIIa/CD32a, FcyRIIb/CD32b and FcRN are compared with the values of the medians for maternal (grey) and matched cord (blue) samples listed below. Statistical significance was calculated by Wilcoxon-matched pairs test. (**F**) Antibody function transfer ratios (the proportion of cord to maternal levels) are shown with medians (bars), interquartile ranges (boxes), and ranges (whiskers).

Figure 4: Vaccination in pregnancy enhances RBD IgG1. The magnitude of RBD-specific total IgG and subclasses in (**A**) cord and (**B**) maternal responses are shown. P-values are adjusted for maternal age and body mass index using linear regression. Radar plots summarize the magnitude of RBD-specific isotype and subclass. Each line represents the median Z-scored data for each clinical group (infection n=20, vaccine n=18, vaccine+infection n=27). Heatmaps of the regression coefficients (r^2) summarize the dependency of RBD-specific antibody functions on subclasses in cord (**C**) and maternal (**D**) samples by simple linear regression. * p≤0.05; ** p≤0.01; *** p≤0.001; **** p≤0.0001.

specific IgG. The relative abundance of (**A**) RBD and (**B**) non-antigen specific IgG individual glycoforms are depicted by the medians in each clinical group. Radar plots summarize (**C**) cord and (**D**) maternal glycoforms on RBD relative to non-antigen specific IgG for each sample with lines showing the medians for each clinical group.

Figure 6: Differential RBD IgG glycosylation impacts antibody functional potency more in infant cord compared to maternal responses. For every patient sample, potency was calculated for each antibody function. The medians (bars), interquartile ranges (boxes), and ranges (whiskers) of the Z-scored data for (**A**, left) cord and (**B**, left) maternal samples in each clinical group are shown. Heatmap of the regression coefficients (r²) summarizes the dependency of RBD-specific antibody functions on RBD-specific IgG glycans in (**A**, right) cord and (**B**, right) maternal samples by simple linear regression. Fucosylated (F), monogalactosylated (G1), digalactosylated (G2), monosialylated (S1), disialylated (S2) and bisecting n-acetyl-glucosamine (B) glycoforms are shown. * p≤0.05; ** p≤0.01; *** p≤0.001; **** p≤0.0001.

Figure 7: Antibody functions highlight the effect of differential immune exposure in pregnancy while glycosylation marks diverging maternal and infant cord responses. Bubble plots (**A**) show the correlation between neutralizing activities against SARS-CoV-2 WA1, Delta and Omicron and RBD-specific Fc effector functions of antibody-dependent natural killer cell activation (CD107a, IFN γ , TNF α), antibody-dependent complement deposition (ADCD), antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP) and relative binding to FcyR (FcyRIIIa/CD16a, FcyRIIa/CD32a, FcgRIIb/CD32b, FcRN). The Spearman's rank correlation coefficient is shown by color and significance (-log p) by size with those p<0.05 depicted. Principle-component analysis (PCA) using 38 SARS-CoV-2 antibody functions and features show separations between infection and vaccine clinical groups and maternal and cord responses. Each symbol in the (**B**) score plot represents a single maternal or cord sample. Each antibody feature is represented in the (**C**) loadings plot, where its location reflects the distribution of the individual samples in the (**B**) score plot.

Table. Clinical characteristics of study patients

Data shown as n (%), mean ± standard deviation (SD), or median (Q1-Q3) as appropriate. BMI= body mass index, EGA= estimated gestational age

Supplemental Table 1. Additional clinical characteristics of study patients

Data shown as n (%), mean ± standard deviation (SD), or median (Q1-Q3) as appropriate. BMI= body mass index, EGA= estimated gestational age, NICU= neonatal intensive care unit

Data shown as n (%), mean ± standard deviation (SD), or median (Q1-Q3) as appropriate. BMI= body mass index, EGA= estimated gestational age, NICU= neonatal intensive care unit

Supplemental Table 3. Characteristics of study cohort compared with deliveries at Parkland Health, 2021

Data shown as n (%), mean ± standard deviation (SD), or median (Q1-Q3) as appropriate. BMI= body mass index, EGA= estimated gestational age, NICU= neonatal intensive care unit