Dose-specific effectiveness of 7- and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccines against vaccineserotype *Streptococcus pneumoniae* colonization in children

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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Text S1: Modified case-control sampling and inference method

In this section we describe bias arising under standard case-control analysis methods for the estimation of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) effectiveness against vaccine-serotype *Streptococcus pneumoniae* colonization. We then describe an alternative approach we have formulated in the present study to avoid such bias.

Standard case-control analysis

Take *Zi*=1 to indicate that a child *i* is vaccinated, for *i* in 1, 2, 3, …, *N* children, and take *Zi*=0 to indicate child *i* is unvaccinated. Define $V = \sum_i \mathbb{I}(Z_i = 1) / N$ as the proportion of children vaccinated. Take $Y_i = 1$ to indicate a child carries vaccine-serotype *S. pneumoniae*, and let *Yi*=0 indicate the child does not carry vaccine-serotype *S. pneumoniae* (due to the absence of colonization or carriage of another serotype). Define $P = Pr(Y_i = 1|Z_i = 0)$ as the prevalence of vaccine-serotype colonization among the unvaccinated, and define θ as the relative prevalence of vaccine-serotype colonization among the vaccinated versus unvaccinated, due only to receipt of the vaccine.

Thus, $Pr(Y_i = 1 | Z_i = 1) = \theta P$, and the vaccine effectiveness (VE) is equal to $1 - \theta$. A two-by-two table constructed from these inputs is:

Under traditional case-control designs, the odds of vaccination among controls is assumed to provide a "null" measure against which the odds of vaccination among persons who experience the outcome can be compared. However, in this instance,

$$
1 - P = \Pr(Y_i = 0 | Z_i = 0) \neq \Pr(Y_i = 0 | Z_i = 1) = 1 - \theta P
$$

in contrast to the typical assumption. Thus, the odds ratio of vaccination given case status (ORz_{|Y}), assembled from inputs as defined above, does not reduce to the estimand (θ) and $1 - OR_{Z|Y}$ cannot be interpreted as an estimate of vaccine effectiveness:

$$
OR_{Z|Y} = \frac{[Pr(Y_i = 1 \cap Z_i = 1)N][Pr(Y_i = 0 \cap Z_i = 0)N]}{[Pr(Y_i = 1 \cap Z_i = 0)N][Pr(Y_i = 0 \cap Z_i = 1)N]} = \frac{[\theta P V N][(1 - P)(1 - V)N]}{[P(1 - V)N][(1 - \theta P)VN]} = \frac{\theta(1 - P)}{1 - \theta P}
$$

We therefore require an alternative definition of controls under which the relative odds of prior vaccination among cases and controls would reduce to θ .

Modified approach

In our analysis, we define controls as individuals sampled at random, irrespective of carriage status or vaccination; and cases as those not sampled as controls, who are also found to carry vaccine-serotype pneumococci. Defining $S_i=1$ as an indicator that an individual was sampled as a control, with $C =$ \sum_{i} $\mathbb{I}(S_i = 1)$ /N, we may construct a two-by-two table for the modified analysis approach as follows:

From this two-by-two table, we construct an odds ratio as follows:

$$
VE = \frac{\left[\Pr(Y_i = 1 \cap Z_i = 1 \cap S_i = 0) N\right] \left[\Pr(Z_i = 0 \cap S_i = 1) N\right]}{\left[\Pr(Y_i = 1 \cap Z_i = 0 \cap S_i = 0) N\right] \left[\Pr(Z_i = 1 \cap S_i = 1) N\right]} = \frac{\left[\theta P V (1 - C) N\right] \left[(1 - V) C N\right]}{\left[P (1 - V) (1 - C) N\right] \left[V C N\right]} = \theta
$$

Thus, the modified approach provides a strategy to recover unbiased estimates of the vaccine direct effect against pneumococcal carriage from the relative odds of vaccination among cases and controls, as defined.

Assumptions and limitations

Our analysis requires several assumptions: (1) that excluding children diagnosed with otitis media, conjunctivitis, upper respiratory infection, influenza, pneumonia/lower respiratory infection, sepsis/bacteremia, or meningitis removes any potential effect of PCV7/13 against pneumococcal disease progression from our estimates (thereby isolating the vaccine effect against carriage of vaccine-targeted pneumococci); (2) that the reduction in vaccine-serotype carriage prevalence provides a valid causal measure of the biological effect of PCV7/13 on pneumococcal vaccine-serotype carriage (comparable to the effect of vaccination on rates of acquisition and/or clearance of vaccine-serotype pneumococci, as derived in previous analyses 3); and (3) that culture-positive pneumococcal carriage status with identification of a vaccine serotype provides a suitable measure for the vaccine-serotype pneumococcal carriage endpoint. Comparative studies have suggested that molecular detection methods may identify pneumococcal carriage in a greater proportion of children than traditional culture-based methods.4,5 This may arise through detection of serotypes at low abundance in children otherwise found not to carry pneumococcus, or through identification of multiple serotypes among co-colonized children; it is unclear whether under-detection may differ between these two groups.⁶

As our study samples "control" children at random, irrespective of carriage determination, it is advantageous that our analysis approach is not subject to bias that would result from diagnostic issues affecting the control definition (as may arise in studies that define controls as children with no pneumococci or non-vaccine serotype pneumococci identified). However, our study, like others using traditional microbiological methods, may under-detect "true" cases (defined as children carrying vaccineserotype pneumococci). This may lead to bias if likelihood of detection, given carriage, is associated with vaccination status, e.g. due to an effect of PCV7/13 on density of vaccine-serotype pneumococcal carriage in the nasopharynx.⁷ It remains of interest to determine how low-density carriage, at levels potentially undetectable by traditional culture methods, contributes to transmission and disease risk. 4

Statistical inference

To implement the analyses, we generated 5000 randomly-ordered lists of potential cases (carriers of vaccine-serotype pneumococci). For each independent iteration, we proceeded down the list matching 3 randomly-selected controls to each case, or more as allowed, without replacement. When vaccineserotype carriers were selected as controls under this procedure, they were excluded from the case list; thus the probability of case status and vaccination status *z* was equal to $Pr(Y_i = 1 | Z_i = z) Pr(Z_i = z)$ (z) Pr($S_i = 0$).

We obtained estimates of the matched odds ratio for each of the 5000 sampled match assignments via conditional logistic regression. The mean estimate across all 5000 iterations of the analysis provided our point estimate of protection; 95% confidence limits were generated from the 2.5%ile and 97.5%ile of estimates generated across all iterations.

Differential protection by serotype

We also sought to explore whether protection differed for serotypes targeted by PCV7, those targeted by PCV13, and for serotype 3, as previously suggested. Because analyses were underpowered for comparing age- and dose-specific effectiveness across strata, we used conditional logistic regression to assess protection via the continuous trend in the matched odds ratio for receipt of one to three doses, as compared to zero doses, among cases and controls. Matched sets were assembled according to the approach described above.

We quantified differences in protection according to two measures. First, we calculated the difference in the average per-dose reduction in odds of the various endpoints (here defined *i* and *j*) as

Difference in reductions =
$$
[(1 - OR_i) - (1 - OR_j)] = (1 - \theta_i) - (1 - \theta_j)
$$

for θ_k regression coefficients indicating the average reduction, per PCV dose received, in odds of carrying serotype(s) *k*.

We also estimated the average marginal increase in protection against each outcome, relative to other outcomes, suggested by the trends in slopes. For the added degree of protection against serotype(s*) i* versus protection against serotype(s) *j*, this measure was

$$
1 - \frac{OR_i}{OR_j} = 1 - \frac{\theta_i}{\theta_j}
$$

for θ_i as defined above.

Differential protection by ethnicity and time

We used the same approach to assess differences in protection conferred against various endpoints (carriage of PCV7 serotypes, PCV13 serotypes, +6PCV13 serotypes, serotypes 1, 5, 6A, 7F, and 19A, and serotype 3) in Bedouin and Jewish children. We estimated the difference in protection between the two populations via the difference in reductions (above), as

Difference in reductions =
$$
[(1 - OR_i^{\text{Bedouin}}) - (1 - OR_i^{\text{Jewish}})].
$$

Similarly, for analyses comparing protection in the period up to (and including) June 30, 2013, versus the period from July 1, 2013 onward, we defined

Difference in reductions =
$$
[(1 - OR_i^{\text{Late}}) - (1 - OR_i^{\text{Early}})].
$$

Text S2: Age of receipt for vaccine doses

While children in Israel are recommended to receive a booster dose at age 12m, real-world conditions of vaccine uptake are important to account for studies of vaccine effectiveness. We identified 10m as the nadir in the ages at which PCV7/13 doses were received between schedule-concordant peaks at the ages of 4m and 12m (**Figure S2**). Thus, 10m served as a natural transition between the ages at which children received "late" primary-series doses and "early" booster doses. Of all doses administered at ages ≥10 months in our study, 4.7% (210/4415) were given to children ages 10-11 months; for children receiving PCV13 exclusively, only 2.7% (68/2478) of doses were given at age 10-11 months (**Table S8**).

Because previous analyses have identified equal effectiveness of booster doses received during or after the second year of life,¹ we did not define an upper bound on the age of receipt of booster doses. Within our study, 90.0% (3977/4415) of all doses administered at ages ≥10 months were received by age 18 months, and 97.2% (4291/4415) were received by age 24 months (**Table S8**); most of this spread in ages was accounted for by the PCV7 catch-up campaign. Among children who received PCV13 only, 95.4% (2367/2480) of booster doses were received by age 18 months and 98.1% (2433/2480) were received by age 24 months.

Consistent with prior studies,² we defined primary-series doses as those received at ages ≤7 months, thus allowing an interval of up to one month for late doses. We restricted this period for primary-series doses due to the fact that certain low-income countries administer a booster dose at ages as early as 9m. While we do not define a lower-bound age for inclusion in the study, the use of matched odds ratios implicitly restricts the sample to children who were age-eligible for vaccination; the odds ratio is computed from discordant sets in which cases are unexposed while controls are exposed, versus sets in which cases are exposed while controls are unexposed.

Text S3: Supplemental references

- 1. Whitney CG, Pilishvili T, Farley MM, et al. Effectiveness of seven-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine against invasive pneumococcal disease: a matched case-control study. Lancet. **2006**;368:1495-502.
- 2. Whitney CG, Goldblatt D, O'Brien KL. Dosing schedules for pneumococcal conjugate vaccine: considerations for policy makers. Pediatr Infect Dis J. **2014**;33:S172-181.
- 3. Rinta-Kokko H, Dagan R, Givon-Lavi N, Auranen K. Estimation of vaccine efficacy against acquisition of pneumococcal carriage. Vaccine. **2009**;27:3831-7.
- 4. Wyllie AL, Wijmenga-Monsuur AJ, van Houten MA, et al. Molecular surveillance of nasopharyngeal carriage of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in children vaccinated with conjugated polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccines. Sci Rep. **2016**;6:23809.
- 5. Carvalho M, Pimeta FC, Jackson D, et al. Revisiting pneumococcal carriage by use of broth enrichment and PCR techniques for enhanced detection of carriage and serotypes. J Clin Microbiol. **2010**;48:1611-8.
- 6. Turner P, Hinds J, Turner C, et al. Improved detection of nasopharyngeal co-colonization by multiple pneumococcal serotypes by use of latex agglutination or molecular serotyping by microarray. J Clin Microbiol **2011**.49;1784-9.
- 7. Auranen K, Rinta-Kokko H, Goldblatt D, et al. Colonisation endpoints in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* vaccine trials. Vaccine **2013**. 32;153-8.

Analyses were limited to children with complete information available (as defined in this table) and in whom no diagnoses potentially related to *S. pneumoniae* were identified (**Table S2**).

Analyses excluded children from whom data were incomplete (as enumerated in **Table S1**). Eligibility was defined by absence of diagnoses of otitis media, conjunctivitis, upper respiratory infection, influenza, pneumonia/lower respiratory infection, bacteremia/sepsis, and meningitis, due to the possible role of *S. pneumoniae* in these diagnoses.

Table S3. Clinical observations and risk factors among eligible children, according to pneumococcal carriage.

PCV: pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; NVT: nonvaccine-type (serotypes not included in PCV13); SD: standard deviation

Table S4: Vaccine schedules received by age, ethnicity, and carriage status.

Numbers of children for whom matches existed, and who were thus eligible for inclusion in analyses estimating vaccine effectiveness, are presented in **Table 2** of the main text.

Age (m)	Exposure	Reference	PCV7/13		PCV13 only		PCV7 only
	assessed	exposure					
			PCV7 serotypes	All PCV13 serotypes	+6PCV13 serotypes	PCV7 serotypes	PCV7 serotypes
			VE (95% CI), %	VE (95% CI), %	VE (95% CI), %	VE (95% CI), %	VE (95% CI), %
≤12	2p						
		0 _p	35.1 (7.7 to 54.7)	52.9 (31.9 to 67.3)	41.6 (6.8 to 63.2)	63.6 (43.3 to 77.9)	0.4 (-71.9 to 41.4)
		1p	39.3 (13.9 to 57.4)	45.3 (21.9 to 61.8)	31.4 (2.8 to 53.8)	59.1 (33.2 to 75.3)	19.1 (-35.7 to 51.3)
$13 - 24$	$2p+1b$						
		$0p+0b$	62.4 (44.0 to 74.7)	39.7 (4.3 to 66.7)		70.8 (50.0 to 83.3)	
		$2p+0b$	64.6 (46.6 to 77.0)	69.9 (56.1 to 79.7)	73.2 (61.2 to 83.7)	68.3 (48.6 to 81.1)	14.3 $(-11.7 \text{ to } 43.4)$
		$1p+1b$	48.5 (5.2 to 77.3)	51.2 (10.3 to 80.0)		66.2 (40.0 to 80.0)	$32.5 (-37.4 \text{ to } 68.8)$
		$0p+2b$	4.7 (-109.6 to 56.2)	78.3 (57.3 to 83.3)			22.7 (-59.0 to 56.2)
25-59	$2p+1b$						
		$0p+0b$	64.2 (-90.7 to 84.2)	62.3 (33.3 to 83.3)			63.0 (59.2 to 75.1)
		$2p+0b$	44.0 (0.7 to 71.1)	-5.3 (-87.3 to 52.2)	49.7 (0.0 to 83.3)	68.3 (48.6 to 81.1)	28.0 (0.0 to 66.7)
		$1p+1b$	40.0 (0.0 to 66.7)				
		$0p+2b$					

Table S5: Relative vaccine effectiveness of 2p+1b dosing versus alternative series.

Information in this table recapitulates estimates presented in Tables 3 and 4 of the main text, but redefines the comparator group to assess the relative effectiveness of 2p+1b dosing, as compared to the alternative schedules.

Table S6: Differential protection by ethnicity.

Vaccine effectiveness estimates are calculated as $1 - m$, (matched odds ratio) times 100%. Matched odds ratios are calculated from the relative odds of receipt of vaccine doses (defined as a continuous variable) among case children versus matched controls. The difference in reduction, per dose received, estimated as $(1 - \theta_B) - (1 - \theta_I)$ for a comparison of the magnitude of protection among Bedouin and Jewish children.

Table S7: Protection in the periods before and after July 1, 2013.

Vaccine effectiveness estimates are calculated as $1 - m$, (matched odds ratio) times 100%. Matched odds ratios are calculated from the relative odds of receipt of vaccine doses (defined as a continuous variable) among case children versus matched controls. The difference in reduction, per dose received, is estimated as $(1-\theta_{Post})-(1-\theta_{Pre})$ for a
comparison of the magnitude of protection before and a

Table S8: Age of receipt for all booster doses administered, for children ages ≥12m who received exclusively PCV7 or PCV13.

Analyses present the number of doses administered at ages ≥10 months, by age, as well as the proportion of all doses administered at each age, calculated among all doses administered at ages ≥10 months. Footnotes denote comparisons highlighted for statistical tests. Data in the table are plotted in **Figure S2**.

NC: Test statistic not calculated due to insufficient counts.

1. Chi-squared test for difference in distributions: *p*<0.001.

- 2. Chi-squared test for difference in distributions: *p*<0.001.
- 3. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 4. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.1.
- 5. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 6. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.1.
- 7. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 8. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 9. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 10. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 11. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.5.
- 12. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.2.
- 13. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.3.

14. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.2.

15. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.

- 16. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 17. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 18. Test for difference in proportions: *p*<0.001.
- 19. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.2.
- 20. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.4.
- 21. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.3
- 22. Test for difference in proportions: *p*=0.2.
- 23. Test for difference in means: *p*<0.001.
- 24. Test for difference in means: *p*<0.001.
- 25. Test for difference in means: *p*<0.001.
- 26. Test for difference in means: *p*<0.001.

Figure S1: Serotype-specific carriage in the study population. We illustrate prevalence of individual serotypes by ethnicity, year, and vaccine type. The predominant PCV13-targeted serotypes persisting after vaccine introduction included 19F, 14, 19A, and 3. By the end of the study period, the most prevalent non-PCV13 replacement serotype was 15B/C.

Figure S2: Age at receipt of PCV doses. We illustrate the number of doses administered by single month of life, for (**A**) all PCV7/13 doses, including PCV7 doses administered as part of a catch-up campaign, and (**B**) PCV13 doses among children receiving PCV13 only. Three modes in the plots correspond to the scheduled ages of 2, 4, and 12 months for receipt of PCV doses. The 10-month cutoff for the timing of booster doses in the analysis is based on the observed nadir in receipt at this age, suggesting to a transition point between the ages at which doses are received as "late" primary-series doses and "early" booster doses.