

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**  
These highlights do not include all the information needed to use BIOTHRAX safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for BIOTHRAX.

**BIOTHRAX (Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed)**  
Suspension for Intramuscular Injection  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1970

**RECENT MAJOR CHANGES**

- Indications and Usage (1) December 2008
- Dosage and Administration (2.1, 2.2) December 2008

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

BioThrax is a vaccine indicated for the active immunization for the prevention of disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, in persons between 18 and 65 years of age at high risk of exposure. Since the risk of anthrax infection in the general population is low, routine immunization is not recommended. The safety and efficacy of BioThrax in a post-exposure setting have not been established.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

- Immunization consists of a series of five 0.5 mL intramuscular doses. Administer 1 dose at 0 and 4 weeks and 6, 12, and 18 months. Individuals are not considered protected until they have completed the full vaccination series.
- Subsequent booster injections of 0.5 mL of BioThrax at one-year intervals are recommended for those who remain at risk. (2,2)

**DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

- Suspension for injection in 5.0 mL multidose vials containing 10 doses each. (3.11)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of BioThrax. (4)

**FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION CONTENTS\***

**1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

2.1 Preparation for Administration

2.2 Dose and Schedule

**3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

**4 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

**5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

5.1 Latex

5.2 Hypersensitivity Reactions

5.3 Pregnancy

5.4 History of Anthrax Disease

5.5 Altered Immunocompetence

5.6 Limitations of Vaccine Effectiveness

**6 ADVERSE REACTIONS**

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

6.2 Post-Marketing Experience

**FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

**1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

BioThrax is a vaccine indicated for the active immunization for the prevention of disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, in persons between 18 and 65 years of age whose occupation or other activities place them at high risk of exposure. Since the risk of anthrax infection in the general population is low, routine immunization is not recommended. The safety and efficacy of BioThrax in a post-exposure setting have not been established.

**2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**2.1 Preparation for Administration**

Use a separate 1- or 1½-inch 23- or 25-gauge sterile needle and syringe for each patient to avoid transmission of viral hepatitis and other infectious agents. Shake the bottle thoroughly to ensure that the suspension is homogeneous during withdrawal. Inspect visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. If the product appears discolored or has visible particulate matter, DISCARD THE VIAL.

**2.2 Dose and Schedule**

Immunization consists of a series of 5 intramuscular doses administered at 0 and 4 weeks and 6, 12 and 18 months. Select a different injection site for each sequential injection of this vaccine. Do not mix with any other product in the syringe. Individuals should not be considered protected until they have received the full series of vaccinations. Do not inject BioThrax intravenously or intradermally. Yearly booster injections of 0.5 mL intramuscularly are recommended for those who remain at risk. When medically indicated, such as in persons with coagulation disorders or receiving medications that affect coagulation (e.g. warfarin), BioThrax may be administered by the subcutaneous route.

**3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

BioThrax is available as a sterile suspension in 5 mL multidose vials containing 10 doses each. See Description section (11) for the complete listing of ingredients.

**4 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

The use of BioThrax is contraindicated in persons with a history of anaphylactic or anaphylactoid-like reaction following a previous dose of BioThrax.

**5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

**5.1 Latex**

Administer with caution to patients with a possible history of latex sensitivity because the vial stopper contains dry natural rubber and may cause allergic reactions.

**5.2 Hypersensitivity Reactions**

Before administration, the patient's medical immunization history should be reviewed for possible vaccine sensitivities and/or previous vaccine-related adverse reactions, to determine the existence of any contraindications to immunization. [See Contraindications section (4)] Appropriate medical treatment and supervision must be available to manage possible anaphylactic reactions following administration of the vaccine. [See Contraindications section (4)]

**5.3 Pregnancy**

**Pregnancy Category D:**

Pregnant women should not be vaccinated against anthrax unless the potential benefits of vaccination have been determined to outweigh the potential risk to the fetus. Results of a large observational study that examined the rate of birth defects among 37,140 infants born to U.S. military service women who received anthrax vaccine in pregnancy between 1998 and 2004 showed that birth defects were slightly more common in first trimester-exposed infants (odds ratio = 1.18, 95% confidence interval 0.997, 1.41) when compared with infants of women vaccinated outside of the first trimester and compared to unvaccinated women.<sup>1</sup> While the increased birth defect rates were not statistically significant when compared with infants born to women vaccinated outside of pregnancy, pregnant women should not be vaccinated against anthrax unless the potential benefits of vaccination have been determined to outweigh the potential risk to the fetus.

The effect of BioThrax on embryo-fetal and pre-weaning development was evaluated in a developmental toxicity study using pregnant rabbits. One group of rabbits was administered BioThrax twice prior to gestation and during the period of organogenesis (gestation day 7). A second group of rabbits was administered BioThrax twice prior to gestation and on gestation day 17. BioThrax was administered at 0.5 mL/rabbit/occasion, by intramuscular injection. No adverse effects on mating, fertility, pregnancy, parturition, lactation, embryo-fetal or pre-weaning development were observed. There were no vaccine-related fetal malformations or other evidence of teratogenesis noted in this study. BioThrax can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. If this vaccine is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant during the immunization series, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to a fetus.

**5.4 History of Anthrax Disease**

History of anthrax disease may increase the potential for severe local adverse reactions.

**5.5 Altered Immunocompetence**

If BioThrax is administered to immunocompromised persons, including those receiving immunosuppressive therapy, the immune response may be diminished.

**5.6 Limitations of Vaccine Effectiveness**

Vaccination with BioThrax may not protect all individuals. The extent to which one is protected prior to completion of the full immunization schedule is unknown.

**6 ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The most common (≥10%) local (injection-site) adverse reactions observed in clinical studies were tenderness, pain, erythema and arm motion limitation. The most common (≥5%) systemic adverse reactions were muscle aches, headache, and fatigue. Serious allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock, have been observed during post-marketing surveillance in individuals receiving BioThrax.

**6.1 Clinical Trial Experience**

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a product cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another product and may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice. Local and systemic reactions were monitored in an open-label safety study of 15,907 doses of BioThrax administered by the subcutaneous route to approximately 7,000 textile employees, laboratory workers and other at risk individuals. Over the course of the 5-year study the following local reactions were reported: 24 (0.15% of doses administered) severe local reactions (defined as edema or induration measuring greater than 120 mm in diameter or accompanied by marked limitation of arm motion or marked axillary node tenderness), 150 (0.94% of doses administered) moderate local reactions (edema or induration greater than 30 mm but less than 120 mm in diameter), and 1,373 (8.63% of doses administered) mild local reactions (erythema only or induration measuring less than 30 mm in diameter). Four cases of systemic reactions were reported during the 5-year reporting period (<0.06% of doses administered). These reactions, which were reported to have been transient, included fever, chills, nausea and general body aches.

The CDC sponsored a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multi-center clinical study [NCT00119067] in which 1,564 healthy volunteers were enrolled [See Clinical Studies section (14)]. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of (1) changing the route of vaccine administration from subcutaneous (SQ) to intramuscular (IM), and (2) of reducing the number of doses on the safety and immunogenicity of BioThrax. A planned analysis of the first 1,005 subjects compared four treatment groups over a period of seven months in which subjects received a total of either three (3) or four (4) doses of BioThrax. Subjects were instructed to complete a 14-day post-vaccination diary card after the first 2 doses and a 28-day diary card after the subsequent doses to capture solicited and unsolicited adverse events. Adverse reaction data were also collected from in-clinic exams, which were performed prior to, and 15 to 60 minutes post each injection, at 1 to 3 days after each injection, and at 28 days after injections 3 and 4. Demographic characteristics for each respective treatment group in the analysis are provided in Table 1.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- Administer with caution to patients with a possible history of latex sensitivity because the vial stopper contains dry natural rubber and may cause allergic reactions. (5.1).
- Pregnant women should not be vaccinated against anthrax unless the potential benefits of vaccination have been determined to outweigh the potential risk to the fetus. If this drug is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this product, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus. (6.1)

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The most common (≥10%) local (injection-site) adverse reactions observed in clinical studies were tenderness, pain, erythema and arm motion limitation. The most common (≥5%) systemic adverse reactions were muscle aches, fatigue and headache. (6)

Serious allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock, have been observed during post-marketing surveillance in individuals receiving BioThrax.

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact: Emergent BioSolutions at productsafety@ebsi.com or at +1-877-246-8472; Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at +1-800-822-7967 or www.vaers.hhs.gov; Emergent BioSolutions in Singapore at +65 6822 8007; or HSA Vigilance Branch at +65 6666 3536, HSA Vaccine Adverse Event (VAE) online reporting form at www.hsa.gov.sg, or at HSA\_drugsafety@hsa.gov.sg.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**

- Immunosuppressive therapies may diminish the immune response to BioThrax. (7.2)

**USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

- Safety and effectiveness of BioThrax have not been established in pregnant women or nursing mothers, or in pediatric or geriatric populations. (5, 8.1, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5)

See Section 17 For PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.

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**7 DRUG INTERACTIONS**

7.1 Concomitant Administration with Other Vaccines

7.2 Immunosuppressive Therapies

**8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

8.1 Pregnancy and Fertility

8.3 Nursing Mothers

8.4 Pediatric Use

8.5 Geriatric Use

**11 DESCRIPTION**

**12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

12.1 Mechanism of Action

**13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY**

**14 CLINICAL STUDIES**

**15 REFERENCES**

**16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING**

**17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION**

\*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics: CDC Study						
Study Group (Total vaccinated cohort n=1,005)		Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 n=165	Group B BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26 n=170	Group C BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 n=501	Placebo Control n=169	
Characteristic	Parameters or categories	Value or n (%)	Value or n (%)	Value or n (%)	Value or n (%)	
Age	< 30 yrs	58 (35.15%)	42 (24.71%)	149 (29.74%)	52 (30.77%)	
	30 to < 40 yrs	30 (18.18%)	44 (25.88%)	132 (26.35%)	35 (20.71%)	
	40 to < 50 yrs	50 (30.30%)	52 (30.59%)	128 (25.55%)	51 (30.18%)	
	≥ 50 yrs	27 (16.36%)	32 (18.82%)	92 (18.36%)	31 (18.34%)	
	Total	165	170	501	169	
Gender	Female	81 (49%)	87 (51%)	249 (50%)	83 (49%)	
	Male	84 (51%)	83 (49%)	252 (50%)	86 (51%)	
Race	Caucasian	129 (78%)	126 (74%)	383 (76%)	130 (79%)	
	African-American	28 (17%)	32 (19%)	96 (19%)	31 (18%)	
	Other	8 (5%)	12 (7%)	22 (4%)	8 (5%)	

Shown in Table 2 and Table 3, respectively, are the rates (percentage) of prospectively defined local and systemic solicited adverse reactions observed in the in-clinic exams.

The analysis of injection site (local) reactions demonstrated that administration of the vaccine by the IM route, as compared to the SQ route, resulted in a statistically significant reduction in reactogenicity (i.e. cutaneous adverse reactions). Injection site adverse reactions, including warmth, tenderness, itching, erythema, induration, edema, and nodule, consistently occurred at lower frequencies and for shorter duration in participants given BioThrax by the IM route. Route of administration did not statistically significantly influence the occurrence or duration of systemic adverse reactions, with the exception of muscle ache (increased occurrence only). Most local and systemic adverse reactions were mild or moderate in severity; the proportion of participants with severe adverse reactions reported was very low (< 1%). It was observed in this study that women receiving BioThrax reported significantly more injection-site adverse reactions than did men. This gender-related difference was seen regardless of the route of administration, but was more pronounced in those receiving the vaccine by the SQ route. Women also reported more systemic adverse reactions than men (in particular fatigue, muscle ache and headache), but these gender differences were not influenced by route of administration. A brief pain or burning sensation, felt immediately after vaccine injection, was reported by most study participants. The pain was rated on a visual analog scale as 0-10. It was described as significant (> 3) more often following SQ administration (41%) than IM administration (26%). Female participants generally experienced a higher pain scale rating than male participants.

Serious adverse reactions were infrequently reported during this study but two (2) important serious adverse reactions that were noted to be possibly related to BioThrax administration include: a case of anaphylaxis and a case of an ANA positive autoimmune disorder manifesting as a moderate bilateral arthralgia of the metacarpophalangeal (MCP) joints. The majority of serious adverse reactions reported were unrelated to vaccination. Out of a total of 44 pregnancies reported in this study, no distinct patterns of infant outcome were seen, with the majority of pregnancies uncomplicated and healthy term infants delivered. Of women who received vaccine approximately within the first trimester (n = 15), 2 reports of spontaneous abortion were reported, along with one report of a healthy term infant with mild right clubbed foot abnormality.

Table 2: Local Adverse Reactions: In-Clinic Solicited by Dose Number*																	
TREATMENT ARM																	
Number of Subjects (N)**		Group B BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26				Group C BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26 <sup>1</sup>				Placebo SQ/IM Weeks 0-2-4-26 <sup>1</sup>				Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26			
		170				501				169				165			
		Dose				Dose				Dose				Dose			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Adverse Reactions</b>																	
Warmth		4	8	6	11	3	1	10	9	2	0	0	0	28	37	29	36
Tenderness		51	61	37	42	47	10	52	51	5	6	6	9	67	72	45	60
Itching		1	3	4	9	0	1	3	6	0	0	0	0	4	15	21	19
Pain		23	23	11	17	18	4	23	15	2	2	3	3	18	24	8	16
Arm motion limitation		11	14	5	10	16	1	16	13	1	0	2	0	9	14	6	12
Erythema		13	22	21	31	10	8	20	25	12	10	8	13	52	60	57	63
Induration		5	9	8	11	4	3	9	14	1	2	4	3	26	32	30	43
Edema		4	12	13	16	3	1	13	11	1	4	3	2	14	28	27	29
Nodule		4	2	5	6	2	1	3	6	0	1	0	1	38	45	36	27
Bruise		6	4	3	3	4	3	5	4	4	6	2	4	5	5	5	3
Presence of any local adverse reaction		62	69	52	62	58	25	67	68	20	19	17	23	81	86	79	81
Presence of any moderate/severe local adverse reactions <sup>1</sup>		6	9	5	8	5	1	9	5	1	0	0	0	6	16	8	10
Presence of any large local adverse reaction <sup>1</sup>		0	1	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	3

\* Per-dose, statistical assessment performed on Intent-to-Treat population data. Evaluations performed at 15-60 minutes and 1-3 days following each injection and prior to the next scheduled injection.

\*\* N is the highest number per treatment arm; denominator (N) varied with dose number due to attrition over time.

<sup>1</sup> Subjects received saline (instead of BioThrax) for the Week 2 dose.

<sup>2</sup> The two saline groups (SQ and IM) were combined.

<sup>3</sup> Moderate = causes discomfort and interferes with normal daily activities; Severe = incapacitating and completely prevents performing normal daily activities.

<sup>4</sup> Large = an occurrence of induration, erythema, edema, nodule and bruise with a largest diameter greater than 120 mm.

Table 3: Systemic Adverse Reactions: In-Clinic Solicited by Dose Number*																	
TREATMENT ARM																	
	Group B BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26				Group C BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 <sup>1</sup>				Placebo SQ/IM Weeks 0-2-4-26 <sup>1</sup>				Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26				
Number of Subjects (N)**	170				501				169				165				
	Dose				Dose				Dose				Dose				
	1	2	3	4	1	2 <sup>1</sup>	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Systemic Adverse Reactions	Fatigue	7	10	12	8	5	12	8	5	5	6	5	8	9	7	8	
	Muscle ache	11	10	6	6	9	2	14	7	1	2	3	3	6	8	3	5
	Headache	4	7	9	5	5	5	7	4	2	6	3	1	7	6	8	9
	Fever > 100.4 °F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tender/painful axillary adenopathy	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1
	Presence of any systemic adverse reaction	20	22	21	15	18	10	26	15	8	10	12	8	17	17	17	17
	Presence of any moderate/severe systemic adverse reactions <sup>3</sup>	1	3	3	4	2	1	6	4	1	1	3	2	1	4	3	3

\* Per-dose, statistical assessment performed on Intent-to-Treat population data. Evaluations performed at 15-60 minutes and 1-3 days following each injection and prior to the next scheduled injection.

\*\* N is the highest number per treatment arm; denominator (N) varied with dose number due to attrition over time.

<sup>1</sup> Subjects received saline (instead of BioThrax) for the Week 2 dose.

<sup>2</sup> The two saline groups (SQ and IM) were combined.

<sup>3</sup> Moderate = causes discomfort and interferes with normal daily activities; Severe = incapacitating and completely prevents performing normal daily activities.

Table 4 shows adverse events (excluding injection site reactions) that occurred in ≥2% of participants through Study Month 7, and excluding those that occurred at a lower rate than those observed in the placebo group.

Table 4: Solicited and Unsolicited Adverse Events Occurring in ≥2% of Subjects*				
MedDRA Preferred Term	Group B BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26	Group C BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26	Placebo SQ/IM Weeks 0-2-4-26 <sup>1</sup>	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26
Number of Subjects	170	501	169	165
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
Headache	108 (63.5)	312 (62.3)	82 (48.5)	111 (67.3)
Myalgia	105 (61.8)	360 (71.9)	63 (37.3)	101 (61.2)
Fatigue	104 (61.2)	311 (62.1)	82 (48.5)	101 (61.2)
Nasopharyngitis	26 (15.3)	61 (12.2)	13 (7.7)	18 (10.9)
Pharyngolaryngeal Pain	21 (12.4)	58 (11.6)	18 (10.7)	20 (12.1)
Back Pain	15 (8.8)	36 (7.2)	6 (3.6)	11 (6.7)
Diarrhea NOS	13 (7.7)	31 (6.2)	6 (3.6)	7 (4.2)
Dysmenorrhoea	12 (7.1)	36 (7.2)	11 (6.5)	7 (4.2)
Sinusitis NOS	12 (7.1)	24 (4.8)	8 (4.7)	7 (4.2)
Nausea	10 (5.9)	29 (5.8)	8 (4.7)	15 (9.1)
Hypersensitivity NOS	6 (3.5)	12 (2.4)	0 (0.0)	6 (3.6)
Neck Pain	5 (2.9)	16 (3.2)	3 (1.8)	1 (0.6)
Sinus Headache	5 (2.9)	7 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.8)
Rigors	4 (2.3)	7 (1.4)	2 (1.2)	0 (0.0)
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection NOS	3 (1.8)	16 (3.2)	2 (1.2)	7 (4.2)
Influenza Like Illness	3 (1.8)	12 (2.4)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.6)
Lymphadenopathy	5 (2.9)	9 (1.8)	2 (1.2)	5 (3.0)
Rash NOS	0 (0.0)	12 (2.4)	10 (6)	3 (1.8)
Joint Sprain	0 (0.0)	10 (2.0)	3 (1.8)	1 (0.6)
Pruritus	0 (0.0)	10 (2.0)	1 (0.6)	3 (1.8)



lethal factor (LF) and edema factor (EF). Individually these proteins are not cytotoxic but the combination of PA with LF or EF results in the formation of the cytotoxic lethal toxin and edema toxin, respectively. Although an immune correlate of protection is unknown, antibodies raised against PA may contribute to protection by neutralizing the activities of these toxins.<sup>3</sup> *Bacillus anthracis* proteins other than PA may be present in BioThrax, but their contribution to protection has not been determined.

13 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

A GLP-compliant single-dose toxicity study in rats was designed to evaluate the toxicity of an immune enhancing agent, CPG 7909, in comparison to BioThrax. In the BioThrax-only treatment arm, a single dose level of BioThrax was tested. The dosage was equivalent to the actual human dose on an absolute volume basis (i.e., 0.5 mL), but was approximately 280 times the clinical dose on a body weight basis. The only possible effect of BioThrax noted in the study was a slight degree of injection site inflammation characterised by a minimal to mild leukocytic infiltration in a few animals that received BioThrax only. Local tolerability was consistent with local inflammation (chronic or active), characterised by lymphohistiocytic infiltrates, necrosis, fibrinosis, and myofiber degeneration or necrosis and regeneration, and was not considered to be adverse in any of the treatment groups.

Local tolerance of BioThrax was assessed as part of two GLP-compliant nonclinical studies: 1) a primary pharmacodynamic study in rabbits and 2) a single-dose toxicology study in rats (described above). Intramuscular (IM) administration of BioThrax to rabbits at the dose level of 0.2 or 0.5 mL on days 1 and 29 was not associated with signs of erythema or oedema at the site of injection. Treatment-related microscopic findings at the site of the injection were observed in only a few animals and included lesions of minimal chronic inflammation, necrosis and mineralization. In the single-dose toxicity in rats (described above), a slight degree of injection site inflammation was observed in a few animals that received intramuscular administration of BioThrax only. Local tolerance was not considered to be adverse in any of the treatment groups and the changes in the injections sites were consistent with intended pharmacological activity. Taken together, these data suggest that IM administration of BioThrax resulted in only mild inflammation at the site of the injection as is commonly observed following IM administration of vaccines containing aluminium adjuvants.

In a GLP-compliant reproductive and developmental toxicity study, adjuvant or a human dose of BioThrax (0.5 mL) was administered IM to female rabbits two times prior to mating and once during gestation. The route of administration (IM) and dosing (days 1 and 29 pre-mating, as well as day 7 or 17 of gestation) evaluated in this study are reasonably similar to those proposed for humans (i.e., IM, 3 doses at 0, 2 and 4 weeks). Maternal treatment with either the adjuvant alone or BioThrax did not produce any signs of overt systemic toxicity or adverse effects on mating, fertility, Caesarean-sectioning or natural delivery parameters, nor did it appear to be teratogenic. Neither the adjuvant nor BioThrax appear to be developmental toxicants, as there were no adverse findings noted with regard to any of the parameters evaluated on day 29 of gestation (foetal viability, foetal body weights, sex, gross external, soft tissue or skeletal examinations and ossification averages) or day 29 of lactation (P1 kit viability, body weight, sex or general appearance). A GLP-compliant repeat-dose toxicity study in rabbits included both the human dose of BioThrax (0.5 mL) and a low dose (0.1 mL). These vaccine doses are approximately 2 and 4-fold higher than the human dose on a mg/kg basis. BioThrax was administered intramuscularly on days 1, 15, 29, and 43, with necropsy on day 57 (to allow the immune response generated by the last vaccination to take effect). The recovery animals were allowed a 4-week recovery period before being sacrificed on day 85. There were no adverse effects on mortality, clinical or cascade observations, body weights, body weight changes, food consumption, body temperature, ocular findings, selected clinical pathology parameters, gross pathology, or absolute and relative organ weight data. There were no apparent organ toxicities, no adverse effects, and no evidence for a delayed onset of toxicity although there were dose-related effects at the injection sites. Therefore, the no-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) for BioThrax in rabbits when administered by repeated IM injection is at least 0.5 mL.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

A controlled field study using an earlier version of a protective antigen-based anthrax vaccine, developed in the 1950's, that consisted of an aluminum potassium sulfate-precipitated cell-free filtrate from an aerobic culture, was conducted from 1955-1959.<sup>4</sup> This study included 1,249 workers (375 received anthrax vaccine, 414 received placebo, 116 received incomplete inoculations (with either vaccine or placebo) and 340 were in the observational group (no treatment)) in four military units in the northeastern United States that processed imported animal hides. Prior to vaccination, the yearly average number of human anthrax cases (both cutaneous and inhalational) was 1.2 cases per 100 employees in these mills. During the trial, 26 cases of anthrax were reported across the four mills – 5 inhalation and 21 cutaneous. Of the five inhalation cases (four of which were fatal), two received placebo and three were in the observational group. Of the 21 cutaneous cases, 15 received placebo, three were in the observational group, and three received anthrax vaccine. Of those three cases in the vaccine group, one case occurred just prior to administration of the scheduled third dose, one case occurred 13 months after an individual received the third of the scheduled 6 doses (but no subsequent doses), and one case occurred prior to receiving the scheduled fourth dose of vaccine. Because the comparison of anthrax cases between the placebo and vaccine groups included both inhalation and cutaneous cases, the calculated efficacy of the vaccine to prevent all types of anthrax disease combined was 92.5% (lower 95% CI = 65%). The efficacy analysis in this study included all cases of anthrax disease, regardless of the route of exposure or manifestation of the disease.

Between 1962 and 1974, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collected surveillance data on the occurrence of anthrax disease in mill workers or those living near mills in the United States.<sup>5,6</sup> In that time period, individuals collected received either BioThrax or the earlier protective antigen-based anthrax vaccine used in the field (described above). Of the 27 cases of anthrax disease identified by CDC, 24 cases occurred in unvaccinated individuals. In vaccinated individuals one case occurred after the person had been given one dose of anthrax vaccine and two cases occurred after individuals had been given two doses of anthrax vaccine. No documented cases of anthrax were reported for individuals who had received at least three doses of the recommended six doses of anthrax vaccine.

Between 2002 and 2008, the CDC sponsored a prospective double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the impact on safety and immunogenicity of changing the administration route from SQ to IM, and reducing the number of doses (i.e., omitting the week 2 dose) [NCT00119667]. This study enrolled a total of 1,564 healthy civilian men and women between the ages of 18 and 61. Among the 1564 subjects randomized, one was not treated and 1563 were randomized to one of six groups. Analyses were conducted to compare safety and immunogenicity of study groups at Week 8 (four weeks after the Week-4 dose), Month 7 (one month after the Month-6 dose), Month 13 (one month after the Month-12 dose), Month 19 (one month after the Month-18 dose), Month 31 (one month after the Month-30 dose), and Month 43 (one month after the Month-42 dose). These designations are used when referring to the data analyses of study groups:

Group A (N=259) received BioThrax via the SQ route of administration at Weeks 0, 2, 4 and Months 6, 12, 18 followed by 2 annual boosters (initial U.S. licensed route/schedule). Group A served as the active control in this study.

Group B (N=262) received BioThrax via the IM route of administration at Weeks 0, 2, 4 and Months 6, 12, 18 followed by 2 annual boosters.

Group C (N=782) received BioThrax via the IM route of administration at Weeks 0, 4 (no Week 2 dose) and Month 6 with various schedules thereafter. (Group C represents data from 3 randomized groups combined for the analysis because the schedules are identical through the Month 6 dose.)

Group D (N=256) is a subgroup of Group C that received BioThrax via the IM route of administration at Weeks 0, 4 (no Week 2 dose). Months 6, 12, 18 followed by 2 annual boosters.

The placebo group (N=260) received saline administered by the IM (N=127) or SQ (N=133) route, respectively, using the Weeks 0, 2, 4 and Months 6, 12, 18 schedule, followed by 2 annual boosters.

Immune responses were assessed using an ELISA and were reported as the serum geometric mean concentration (GMC) and geometric mean titers (GMT) of IgG antibodies directed against anthrax protective antigen (PA). Non-inferiority analyses of Group B vs. Group A, Group C vs. Group A, and Group D vs. Group A were performed. The three immunogenicity endpoints were: (1) Geometric Mean Concentration (GMC) (µg/mL), (2) Geometric Mean Titer (GMT), and (3) percentage with 4-fold rise in anti-PA titer from baseline. These immunogenicity endpoints were assessed at the Week 8 and Month 7 time points for comparisons of Group A vs. Group B and Group A vs. Group B and were assessed at Months 13, 19, 31, and 43 for the comparison of Group A vs. Group D, Group B (IM route) was shown to be non-inferior to Group A (SQ route) for all 3 primary endpoints at the Week 8 and Month 7 time points (Tables 5 and 6). Group C (abbreviated IM route) at the Week 8 time point (Table 7) was shown to be not non-inferior for all three endpoints. However, by the Month 7 time point (Table 8), Group C was non-inferior to Group A for all 3 primary endpoints. The elimination of the Week 2 dose did not impact the immune response following the Month 6 vaccination. Group D was also shown to be non-inferior to Group A at months 13 (Table 9), 19 (Table 10), 31 (Table 11), and 43 (Table 12).

The level of protection against *Bacillus anthracis* prior to completion of the full vaccination series is unknown.

In an exploratory subgroup analysis, a diminished immune response was noted in male subjects in Group B (IM route) at the 8 week time point compared to male subjects vaccinated via the SQ route (Group A). The diminished immune response in males was not, however, seen by 7 months (i.e., after the fourth dose of vaccine). At the 7 month time point, non-inferiority was observed between the IM and SQ routes in male subjects. A summary of the gender-by-treatment interaction findings for the three immunogenicity endpoints at the week 8 and month 7 time point is provided in Table 13.

Table 5: Immune Responses at Week 8 - Group A vs. Group B				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=235 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group B BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=234 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	94.29 (82.08, 108.31)	84.46 (73.67, 96.82)	1.12 (0.94, 1.33)	Yes*
Antibody Titer GMT	1048.50 (913.05, 1204.05)	934.75 (815.59, 1071.32)	1.12 (0.94, 1.33)	Yes**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	94.89% (91.25, 97.33)	91.88% (87.61, 95.04)	0.030 (-0.016, 0.078)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ B}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ B}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group B). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 6: Immune Responses at Month 7 - Group A vs. Group B				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=219 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group B BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=215 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	201.14 (174.71, 231.56)	232.59 (202.37, 267.33)	0.86 (0.72, 1.03)	Yes*
Antibody Titer GMT	2211.94 (1921.78, 2545.90)	2545.58 (2215.34, 2925.06)	0.87 (0.73, 1.04)	Yes**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	96.63% (96.05, 99.72)	98.60% (95.98, 99.71)	0.00 (-0.027, 0.028)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ B}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ B}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group B). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 7: Immune Responses at Week 8 – Group A vs. Group C				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=235 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group C BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 N=698 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	94.29 (82.08, 108.31)	46.39 (42.18, 51.01)	2.03 (1.76, 2.34)	No*
Antibody Titer GMT	1048.50 (913.05, 1204.05)	514.57 (468.08, 565.68)	2.04 (1.77, 2.35)	No**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	94.89% (91.25, 97.33)	78.80% (75.57, 81.77)	0.161 (0.116, 0.201)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ C}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ C}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group C). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 8: Immune Responses at Month 7 - Group A vs. Group C				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=219 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group C BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 N=636 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	201.14 (174.71, 231.56)	206.09 (187.14, 226.96)	0.98 (0.84, 1.13)	Yes*
Antibody Titer GMT	2211.94 (1921.78, 2545.90)	2257.09 (2050.12, 2484.94)	0.98 (0.85, 1.13)	Yes**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	96.63% (96.05, 99.72)	97.80% (96.33, 98.79)	0.008 (-0.019, 0.026)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ C}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ C}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group C). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 9: Immune Responses at Month 13 - Group A vs. Group D				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=203 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group D BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 N=203 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	201.67 (174.77, 232.71)	229.86 (203.20, 260.02)	0.88 (0.74, 1.04)	Yes*
Antibody Titer GMT	2184.59 (1893.62, 2520.26)	2546.81 (2251.11, 2861.35)	0.86 (0.73, 1.01)	Yes**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	99.51% (97.29, 99.99)	100.00% (98.20, 100.00)	-0.005 (-0.027, 0.014)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ D}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ D}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group D). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 10: Immune Responses at Month 19 - Group A vs. Group D				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=190 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group D BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 N=192 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	193.45 (167.29, 223.69)	204.95 (180.82, 232.29)	0.94 (0.80, 1.12)	Yes*
Antibody Titer GMT	2080.89 (1799.87, 2405.79)	2254.56 (1986.85, 2555.75)	0.92 (0.78, 1.09)	Yes**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	98.95% (96.25, 99.87)	98.96% (96.29, 99.87)	-0.000 (-0.028, 0.028)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ D}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ D}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group D). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 11: Immune Responses at Month 31 - Group A vs. Group D				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=167 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group D BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 N=169 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	250.07 (215.38, 290.34)	263.13 (231.09, 299.61)	0.95 (0.80, 1.13)	Yes*
Antibody Titer GMT	2677.97 (2306.82, 3108.83)	2867.88 (2518.14, 3266.19)	0.93 (0.78, 1.11)	Yes**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	100.00% (97.82, 100.00)	100.00% (97.84, 100.00)	0.000 (-0.023, 0.022)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ D}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ D}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group D). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 12: Immune Responses at Month 43 - Group A vs. Group D				
Endpoint	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26 N=144 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Group D BioThrax IM Weeks 0-4-26 N=139 point estimate (2-sided 95%CI)	Comparisons	Non-Inferiority Criteria Passed?
			Ratios (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL)	216.83 (185.80, 253.05)	254.80 (222.03, 292.40)	0.85 (0.71, 1.02)	Yes*
Antibody Titer GMT	2282.36 (1955.79, 2663.45)	2760.35 (2404.66, 3168.64)	0.83 (0.69, 1.00)	Yes**
			Difference of rates (2-sided 97.5% CI)	
Titer 4-fold increase from baseline* (Proportion of Responders)	100.00% (97.47, 100.00)	100.00% (97.38, 100.00)	0.000 (-0.026, 0.027)	Yes***

\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMCs: Mean antibody concentration ratio ( $GMC_{Group\ D}/GMC_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on ratios of GMTs: Mean antibody titer ratio ( $GMT_{Group\ D}/GMT_{Group\ A}$ ). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 1.5$ .  
\*\*\*Criteria for non-inferiority of comparisons based on differences in rates of 4-fold rise in antibody titer: 4-fold rise in antibody titer (Group A – Group D). Non-inferiority is achieved (passed) when the upper 97.5% confidence limit is  $\leq 0.10$ .  
\*Baseline values below LLOQ set to ½-empirical LLOQ to calculate post-vaccination 4-fold rise in titer.

Table 13: Immune Response by Gender: Group A (SQ) vs. Group B (IM)					
Immunogenicity Endpoints	Group A BioThrax SQ Weeks 0-2-4-26	Group B BioThrax IM Weeks 0-2-4-26	Ratio (of GMCs, GMTs) or Difference (of rates of 4-fold rise)	2-sided 97.5% CIs of ratios of GMCs, GMTs, or 2-sided 97.5% CI of Difference of rates of 4-fold rise	
	N (Point Estimate) (95% CI)	N (Point Estimate) (95% CI)		Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL): Males: week 8	- 83.81 (68.60, 102.38)	- 66.95 (54.81, 81.77)	Ratio of GMCs 1.25	0.97	1.62
Log Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL): Males: month 7	- 197.20 (160.71, 241.99)	- 217.75 (177.62, 266.96)	Ratio Of GMCs 0.91	0.70	1.18
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL): Females: week 8	- (83.93, 123.35)	- (85.00, 123.62)	Ratio of GMCs 0.99	0.79	1.25
Antibody Concentration GMC (µg/mL): Females: month 7	- 198.68 (163.56, 241.33)	- 241.89 (199.90, 292.71)	Ratio of GMCs 0.82	0.65	1.04

Antibody Titer GMT : Males: week 8	- 938.10 (767.93, 1145.99)	- 736.21 (602.73, 899.25)	Ratio of GMTs 1.27	0.99	1.65
Antibody Titer GMT: Males: month 7	- 2183.46 (1778.22, 2678.54)	- 2414.26 (1989.04, 2960.16)	Ratio of GMTs 0.90	0.70	1.18
Antibody Titer GMT: Females: week 8	- 1121.38 (925.87, 1358.17)	- 1138.93 (945.29, 1372.24)	Ratio of GMCs 0.98	0.78	1.24
Antibody Titer GMT : Females: month 7	- 2165.23 (1784.18, 2627.65)	- 2610.68 (2159.29, 3156.43)	Ratio of GMTs 0.83	0.66	1.05

4-fold rise in Titer (Proportion of responders): <b>Males: week 8</b>	114 94.74% (88.90, 98.04)	112 87.50% (79.92, 92.99)	0.072	-0.002	0.153
4-fold rise in Titer (Proportion of responders): <b>Males: month 7</b>	103 100.00% (96.48, 100.00)	103 98.06% (93.16, 99.76)	0.019	-0.017	0.068
4-fold rise in Titer (Proportion of responders): <b>Females: week 8</b>	121 95.04% (89.52, 98.16)	122 95.90% (90.69, 98.66)	-0.009	-0.069	0.050
4-fold rise in Titer (Proportion of responders): <b>Females: Month 7</b>	116 97.41% (92.63, 99.46)	112 99.11% (95.13, 99.98)	-0.017	-0.066	0.026