Authors' response: Meningococcal vaccine antigen diversity in global databases

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To the editor: We concur with Anderson et al. [1] that estimates of the coverage of the protection elicited by novel meningococcal protein vaccine formulations are dependent on knowledge of cross-reactivity. Indeed, we stressed this point in our penultimate paragraph of our article [2], where we referenced the surrogate assays developed by two companies to address this issue for their particular formulations.

For this reason, in our report [2] we were careful to discuss *exact peptide matches* and not *strain coverage* of any formulation. As Anderson and colleagues rightly state, in the absence of Phase III trial data, knowledge of the actual strain coverage of any particular commercial formulation will require post-implementation surveillance information. It remains an especial concern, however, that the greatest uncertainty concerning the cross-reactivity of these vaccines is in infants (those under 18 months of age), the age group most at risk of meningococcal disease in Europe.

Conflict of interest

None declared.

Authors' contributions

All authors participated in drafting the letter.

References

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