

## Promising results for Ebola vaccine developed in Canada

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A phase 1 randomized controlled trial has found an Ebola virus disease (EVD) vaccine, developed in Canada, was well-tolerated with no safety concerns, and high antibodies were present in participants 6 months after immunization.

The research team conducted the clinical trial as part of a coordinated, international effort to expeditiously evaluate candidate EVD vaccines and make them available to control the epidemic.

The trial involved 40 healthy people aged 18 to 65 years and looked at safety of the vaccine and the lowest dose required for an immune response after injection with one of 3 doses. At a ratio of 3:1, thirty participants received the vaccine and 10 received placebo injections. The researchers found that adverse events were mild to moderate, with only 3 severe reactions, including headache, diarrhea and fatigue, which completely resolved.

The results of this trial were positive and very promising with all 3 dose levels of the VSV (vesicular stomatitis virus) Ebola vaccine being well-tolerated by participants, and no safety concerns were identified.

An upcoming study at 2 sites in Africa, as well as in Montréal and Ottawa in Canada, will test the safety and protection levels of the VSV-Ebola vaccine in HIV-infected adults and adolescents. A completed phase 3 trial showed that the vaccine is effective in preventing EVD in contacts of recently confirmed cases.