

Review of: "Real-World Efficacy of N95, Surgical, and Cloth Masks in Mitigating SARS-CoV-2 Respiratory Infections: A Comprehensive Comparative Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This study presents the real-world efficacy of three types of face masks (N95, surgical and cloth masks) on SARS-COV-2 transmission by measuring the 30-day cumulative number of infections per thousand mask wearers in each group. The study highlights the comparative higher effectiveness of N95 mask > surgical mask > cloth mask in the transmission of COVID-19 infection based on the higher cumulative number of infections in the respective user groups. It also highlights the importance of the proper and widespread use of masks as an important public health measure for the prevention of transmission of such respiratory infections.

However, there are some suggestions for improvement

- To spell out the abbreviations while used for the first time in the abstract as well as the main article

To include some details about,

- Time of conducting this study – during which phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and the dominant variant?
- The brief details about the participants in all three groups – selected at the same time or at different times? selected from the general population or any particular group (e.g. occupational group) and their overall risk of infection.
- What was the COVID-19 transmission status in the community at the time of this study?
- Was Fit testing carried out for the group of participants who used N95 masks?

How the conclusion - “Even cloth masks provided a significant level of protection compared to no mask usage” was derived based on current results comparing the three groups using different types of masks?