

Review of: "Emerging Omicron Subvariants EG.5 and BA.2.86: Implications for COVID-19 Immunity and Surveillance"

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This is an interesting and updated narrative review. Nevertheless, some improvements are needed.

As a general comment, the manuscript in its actual form is too long and lacks a clear rationale, which appears only on page 6.

The Introduction on the COVID-19 pandemic seems unnecessary, and I would prefer a background on the dynamics of variants as a start, with the rationale and objectives of the paper stated at the end of the introduction.

Then the Methodology could be better integrated with details on inclusion and exclusion criteria. The Results section misses a descriptive part on the number of articles included and on the selection process.

Overall tables and graphs could be added, for instance, to synthesize the evidence on the Omicron variants classification and on their spread over time.

Real-world studies on vaccine effectiveness are not included in the Vaccine efficacy section, and this is a crucial aspect of the public health impact of Omicron variants.

Finally, the Conclusions should report a specific comment on the genomic and epidemiological characteristics and vaccine efficacy of the new variants EG.5 and BA.2.86,