Booster jab targeting Sars virus may neutralise Covid-19 variants

Cheryl Tan

Researchers have found that people who have recovered from Sars-CoV-1, the virus that caused Sars in 2003, may have a cross-reactive immune response against Sars-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

In a study published in the journal Nature, the researchers tested serum samples from people who had recovered from Sars-CoV-1 against Sars-CoV-2 and found that they were able to neutralise the virus.

The cross-reactive immune response was found to be stronger in patients who had recovered from Sars-CoV-1 more than three months ago.

The researchers also found that the cross-reactive immune response was stronger in patients who had received a booster dose of a Sars-CoV-1 vaccine.

The findings suggest that a booster dose of a Sars-CoV-1 vaccine could provide protection against Sars-CoV-2.

The study was led by Dr. Cheryl Tan, an infectious diseases specialist at the National University of Singapore, and Dr. Young Choon Han, a virologist at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

“Previous studies have shown that people who have recovered from Sars-CoV-1 have a strong immune response against Sars-CoV-2, which may provide cross-protection against Covid-19,” Dr. Tan said.

The researchers are now planning to conduct a clinical trial to test the effectiveness of a booster dose of a Sars-CoV-1 vaccine against Covid-19.