



OMICRON: A VARIANT OF SERIOUS CONCERN; BUT NOT AS A DISASTER

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Abstract

The first acknowledged tested B.1.1.529 contamination used to be from a specimen gathered on 9th November 2021. It also proclaims this variant as a VoC after evaluation when there is a bigger in transmissibility or dangerous trade in COVID-19 epidemiology; or expand in virulence or trade-in medical ailment presentation, or reduce ineffectiveness of public health and social measures or on hand diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics. Nobody is aware of if the new variant will be extra transmissible or deal a sizable blow to the contemporary vaccines. Lower vaccine charges ought to imply that self-assurance slips and recreation stages take a hit, as we noticed with Delta. Meanwhile, in India, Omicron stalls the cross away from zero-COVID. Health Community refers to as “herd immunity” generally occurs when a large portion of the population is immune, and the virus or bacteria cannot find a host within which it can reproduce. It can be achieved by having enough people contract an infection and then build up a natural immunity, or with strong vaccination. The article developed an appropriate statistical Trend analysis model and it can be used as a **decision-supporting method** to predict the spread of Omicron infection.

Keywords: Omicron, Variant of Concern, Herd Immunity, Health, Global Economy.

1.1 Introduction

Omicron is a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 that has been said from South Africa on twenty-fourth November 2021 referred to as B.1.1.529 or Omicron (based on Greek alphabets like alpha, beta, delta etc). The first stated examined B.1.1.529 infection used to be from a specimen gathered on ninth November 2021. This variant has confirmed a very large huge range of mutations, in particular extra than 30 instances the viral spike protein, and it is the key aim of the immune response. The collection of mutations in Omicron is associated with prolonged infectivity and/or immune evasion, and the stunning

upward thrust in numerous remarkable cases in South Africa. World Health Organization (WHO) declared Omicron as a **Variant of Concern (VoC)**. It additionally broadcasts this variant as a VoC after assessment when there is a greater in transmissibility or risky exchange in COVID-19 epidemiology; or make bigger in virulence or trade-in scientific sickness presentation, or limit ineffectiveness of public health and social measures or on hand diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics. It is necessary to highlight that Omicron has been declared VoC primarily based completely on the located mutations, such as; their expected factors of extended transmission and immune evasion, and preliminary proof of hazardous alternate in COVID-19 epidemiology, such as accelerated reinfections. This variant has a large differ of mutations, some of which are concerning. Preliminary proof suggests a extended chance of reinfection with this variant, as in difference to specific VOCs. Using this approach, this variant has been detected at quicker expenses than preceding surges in infection, suggesting that this variant may additionally moreover have amplified advantages. The uncertainties round the omicron stress have to require our state to achieve a suitable deal in larger vaccination programmes. (Priyanka Kishore, 2021).

1.2 Omicron: Global Economy

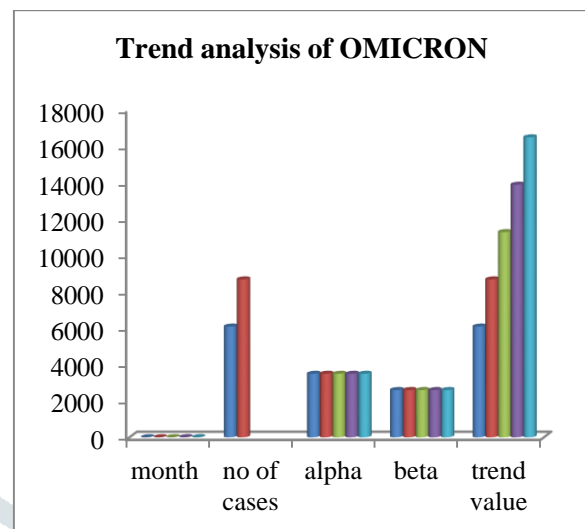
Nobody is aware of if the new variant will be extra transmissible or deal a sizable blow to the contemporary vaccines. These are the quality and worst effects for the world economic system Omicron prove to be a 'storm in a teacup'. Either that is due to the fact it cannot achieve a foothold over Delta – something noticed with the Beta variant in the past in the year or certainly due to the fact it lowers the hazard stage of COVID-19 via reducing the possibilities of extreme disease.

1.3 Omicron is difficult but not as a disaster

It assumes that early symptoms have been right that Omicron has a transmission advantage. Vaccine efficacy additionally takes a hit, even though as we noticed with the Delta variant, the present-day jabs nonetheless grant robust (if reduced) safety towards extreme disease, even if they are plenty much less in all likelihood to end as from getting COVID altogether. For the world economy, a ride from the Delta wave at the end provides some clues. But costly vaccine prices and the arrival of boosters suggest the people comes off greater gently than different components of the world. Consumer 'virus confidence' (eg urge for food for socialising) need no longer take an everlasting hit assuming vaccines nevertheless provide some lifelike protection. The impact may be barely extra great in India, even if the bar for lockdowns is a great deal higher. Lower vaccine charges ought to imply that self-assurance slips and recreation stages take a hit, as we noticed with Delta. Meanwhile, in India, Omicron stalls the cross away from zero-COVID.

Forecasting Omicron spread: A Trend Analysis

Month	No of Cases	α	β	Trend value
December	6087	3491	2596	6087
January	8683			8683
February	$Y = \alpha + \beta * 1$			11279
March				13875
April				16471



Source: Secondary data (Computed)

An attempt is made here to apply the Trend analysis and this analysis help us to predict the value of trend of omicron with the help of time series data, the dependent variable of the above analysis is Number of Cases admitted in both public and private hospital and the independent variable is Month in which they got admitted themselves. The Regression analysis made the alpha value (α 3491) and beta value (β 2596). Results of the above analysis predict the number of omicron cases may increases in the month of February, March and April. The analysis is made by the equation is ($Y=3491+2596*1$) simply it was written as ($Y=\alpha + \beta * 1$).

1.4 Omicron Symptoms, Severity, Transmissibility

Symptoms of Omicron: The main symptoms of Omicron include weakness, tiredness, headache, low fever, pain in the throat, loss of taste, etc. Severe Symptoms include shortness of breath, organ failure, etc.

The severity of Omicron: This is still unknown whether this new variant of Omicron causes more severe disease or not as compared to earlier variants of COVID. Research is going on.

Transmissibility of Omicron: There are rumors that Omicron Virus is more transmissible than other variants. This means Omicron will spread from person to person more easily and fastly. But, no research has proved it yet. But, precautions are necessary as this is a transmittable virus and spreads from person to person.

1.5 Precautions of Omicron

To keep ourselves safe from Omicron and all variants of Coronavirus, we have to take the following precautions to prevent the virus:

- Get vaccinated.
- Keep a Physical Distance of at least 1 meter from others.
- Wear a well-fitted mask.
- Avoid Crowded Places and Travel only if necessary.
- Keep hands clean, use sanitizer.
- Sneeze into a bent elbow or tissue.
- Eat healthy to improve the Immunity.

1.6 Herd Immunity

Omicron may additionally convey a 'level of herd immunity' however no longer for lengthy and in all likelihood at a horrible cost. Health Community refers to as "herd immunity" usually happens when a giant element of the populace is immune, and the virus or micro organism can't discover a host inside which it can reproduce. It can be accomplished by means of having sufficient human beings contract an contamination and then construct up a herbal immunity, or with sturdy vaccination. Many are thinking our u . s . a . eventually attain the herd immunity almost two years into this pandemic. Only a small percentage of the populace is vaccinated, the hazard of a disorder outbreak is larger than if many are vaccinated. The unvaccinated individuals of the populace are no longer in a roundabout way protected, and every neighborhood member has a greater danger of turning into infected. The huge wave sooner or later receives most humans infected. It is viable that with this Omicron wave will attain a stage of herd immunity.

1.7 Conclusion

The current article shows that the spread of Omicron is expected to move upward. Forecasts have shown that spread of Omicron progressively increases on a monthly basis for the three months (February-April). The article developed an appropriate statistical Trend analysis model and it can be used as a **decision-supporting method** to predict the spread of Omicron infection. As anyone throughout the globe is aware that there is no demonstrated medication has been created to enhance the fitness of sufferers with the condition. It is very necessary to forestall the unfold in the society. Therefore, men and women want to take measures such as isolation, desirable ventilation, hand hygiene and use of private shielding equipment, normally surgical masks, eye safety and gloves to protect themselves from the disease.

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