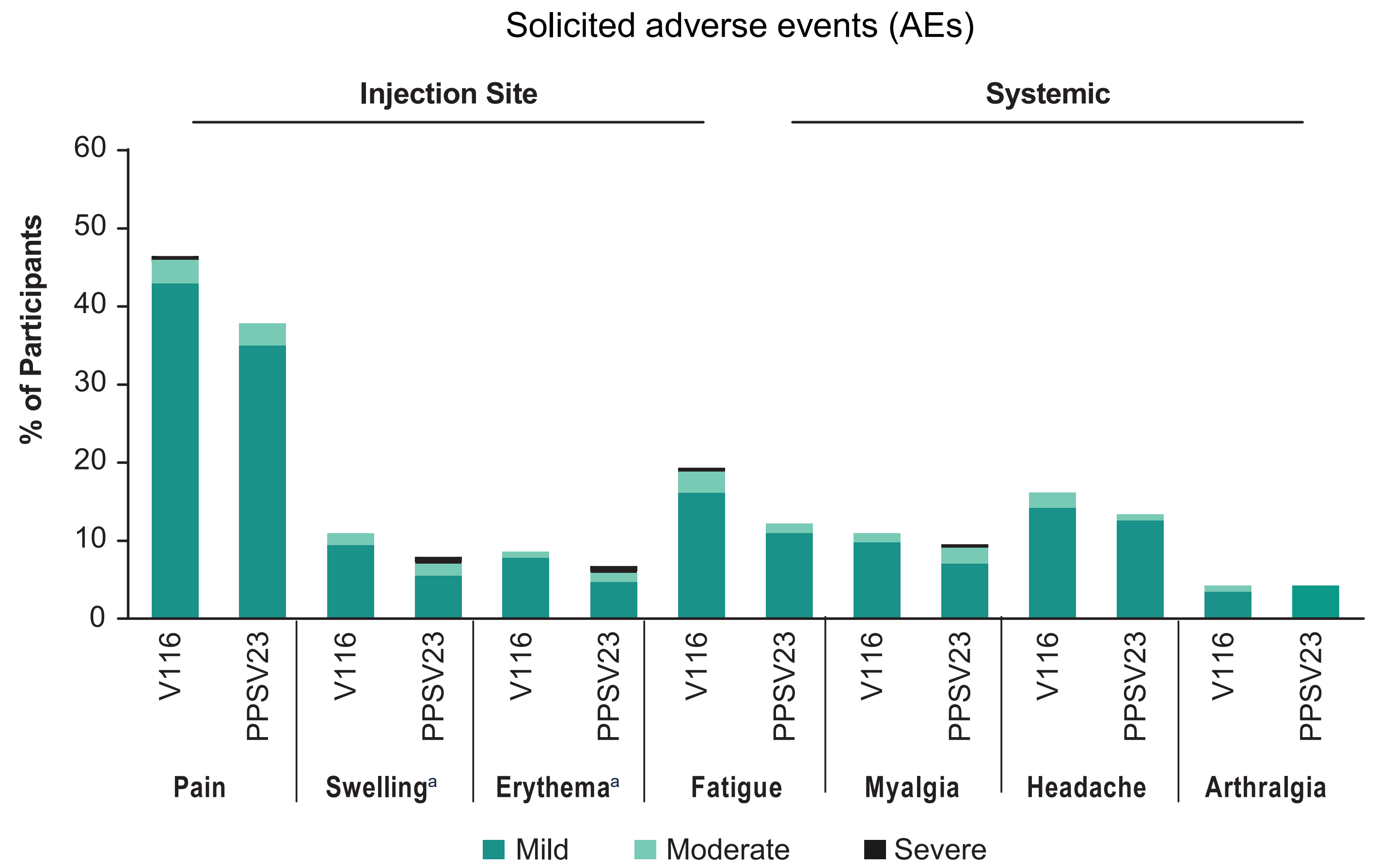


# A phase 2, randomized, double-blind study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of a 21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (V116) in adults ≥50 years

Tosin Omole<sup>1</sup>; Jose Cardona<sup>2</sup>; Neil J. Fraser<sup>3</sup>; Sandra Pagnussat<sup>4</sup>; Richard Mularski<sup>5</sup>; Charles Andrews<sup>6</sup>; Nizar Daboul<sup>7</sup>; Aditi Sapre<sup>1</sup>; Jianing Li<sup>1</sup>; Doreen Fernsler<sup>1</sup>; Weifeng Xu<sup>1</sup>; Nancy Gallagher<sup>1</sup>; Lori Hall<sup>1</sup>; Heather Platt<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA; <sup>2</sup>Indago Research & Health Center, Inc., Hialeah, FL, USA; <sup>3</sup>Arcturus Healthcare, PLC, Troy Internal Medicine Research Division, Troy, MI, USA; <sup>4</sup>QPS MRA, LLC, Miami, FL, USA; <sup>5</sup>Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, Portland, OR, USA; <sup>6</sup>Diagnostics Research Group, San Antonio, TX, USA; <sup>7</sup>Advanced Medical Research, Maumee, OH, USA

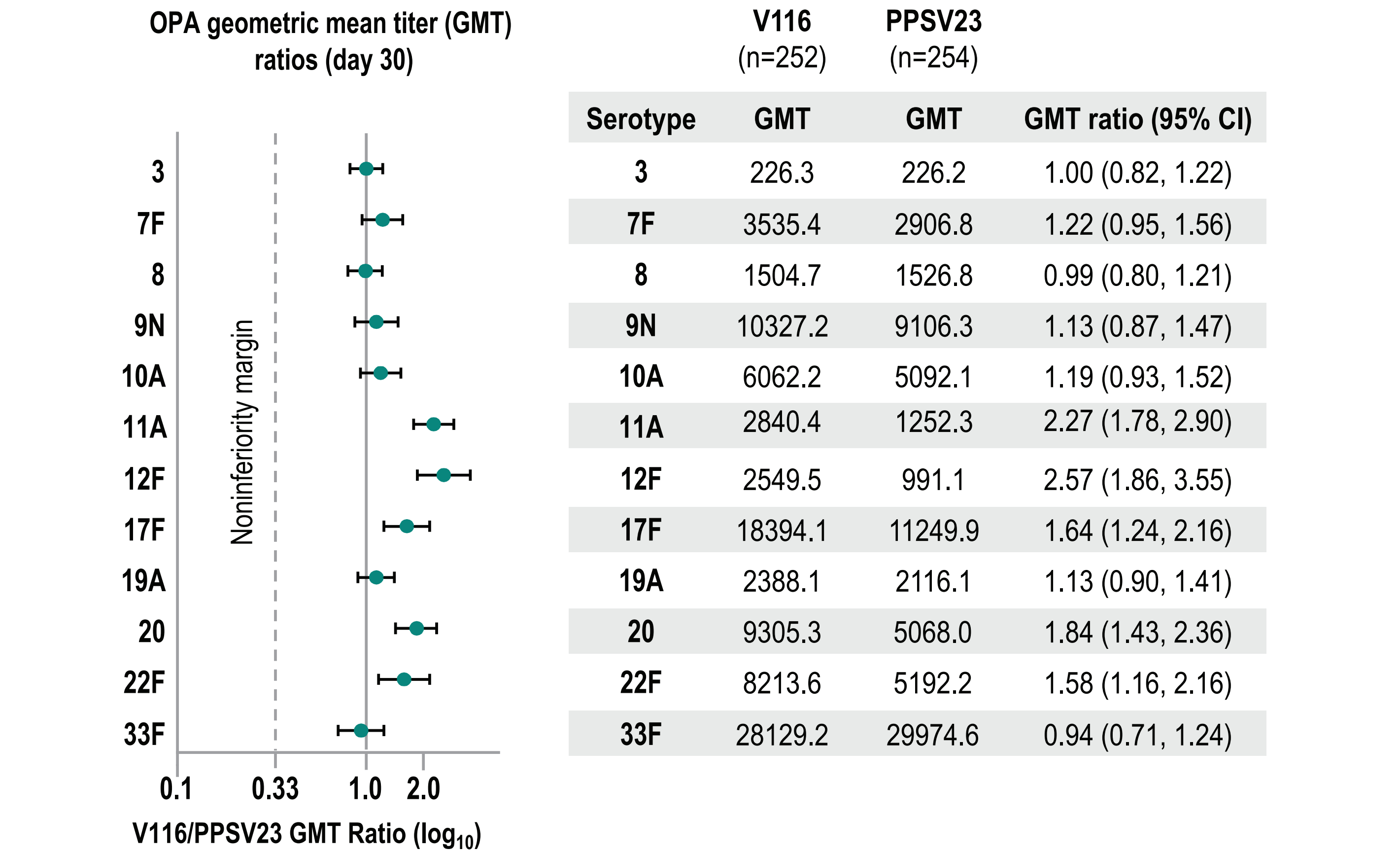
Figure 5. V116 is well tolerated in adults ≥50 years of age with a safety profile generally comparable to PPSV23



<sup>a</sup>For solicited injection-site erythema and injection-site swelling, mild ≥0 to ≤5 cm, moderate ≥5 to ≤10 cm, and severe ≥10 cm.

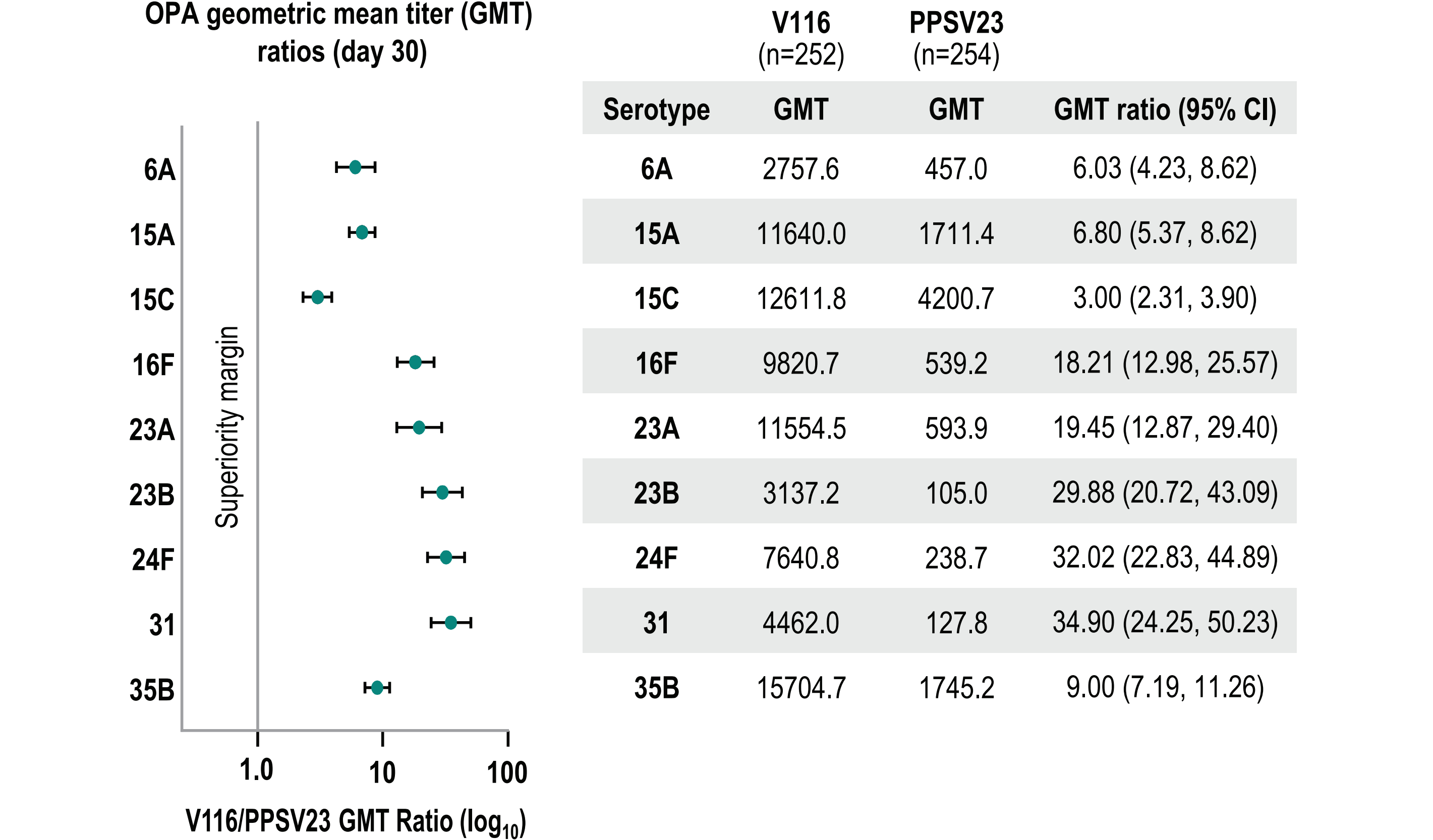
- 66.5% of V116 and 59.4% of PPSV23 recipients reported ≥1 AE
- No vaccine-related serious adverse events (SAE) were reported
- 1 death occurred in the V116 group due to COVID-19; assessed as not related to vaccine
- Majority of AEs in both groups were mild in severity, and of short duration (≤3 days)

Figure 6. V116 is noninferior to PPSV23 for the 12 common serotypes



OPA, opsonophagocytic antibody.

Figure 7. V116 is noninferior to PPSV23 for the 9 unique serotypes



OPA, opsonophagocytic antibody.

## Conclusions

- In adults ≥50 years of age**
- V116 is well tolerated with an overall safety profile generally comparable to PPSV23 and consistent with reported data for licensed PCVs
  - OPA GMT responses in the V116 group at day 30 are:
    - Noninferior to PPSV23 for the 12 common serotypes
    - Superior to PPSV23 for the 9 serotypes unique to V116
  - The results of this study support the continued development of V116 for the prevention of pneumococcal disease in adults
  - **V116 has the potential to address the unmet medical need due to the residual pneumococcal disease burden in adults**

This study was funded by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA (MSD). Medical writing support was provided by Kara S. Cox of MSD.

Copyright © 2022 Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.

## Introduction

- Burden of disease due to *S. pneumo* in older adults remains high**
- The introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV) has significantly decreased disease incidence in pediatrics and changed epidemiology in adults
  - Major serotypes that cause pneumococcal disease currently differ between adults and children
  - Burden of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) is currently higher in adults than in children
  - **A vaccine including serotypes that are not in any currently licensed vaccines and are associated with higher burden of disease in adults has the potential to significantly reduce adult residual disease burden**

## Methods

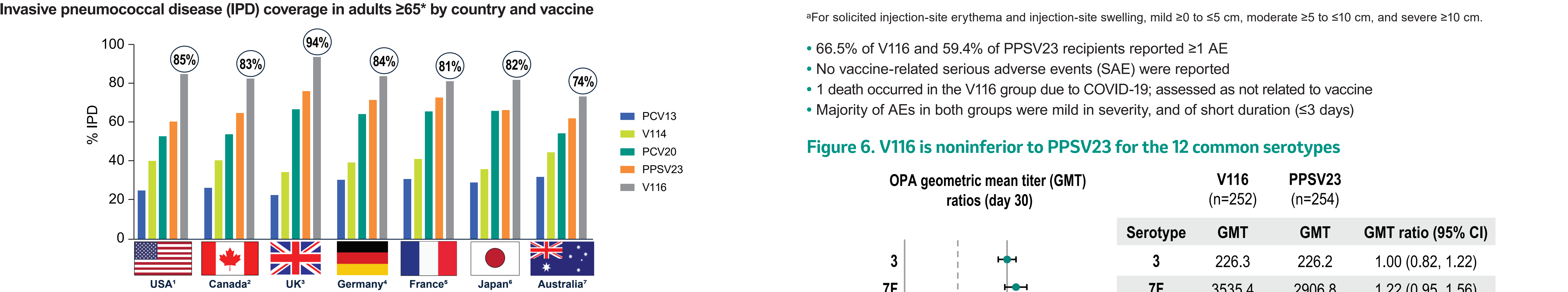
Figure 1. V116 is an investigational 21-valent PCV with 8 unique serotypes

Serotype composition																																
PCV7	4	6B	9V	14	18C	19F	23F																									
PCV13	4	6B	9V	14	18C	19F	23F	1	3	5	6A	7F	19A																			
V114	4	6B	9V	14	18C	19F	23F	1	3	5	6A	7F	19A	22F	33F																	
PPSV23	4	6B	9V	14	18C	19F	23F	1	3	5		7F	19A	22F	33F	2	8	9N	10A	11A	12F	15B	17F	20								
PCV20	4	6B	9V	14	18C	19F	23F	1	3	5	6A	7F	19A	22F	33F		8		10A	11A	12F	15B										
V116								3			6A	7F	19A	22F	33F		8	9N	10A	11A	12F		17F	20	15A	15C <sup>a</sup>	16F	23A	23B	24F	31	35B

<sup>a</sup>15C is denoted here to represent the serotype protection proposed with deOAc15B as the molecular structures for deOAc15B and 15C are similar.

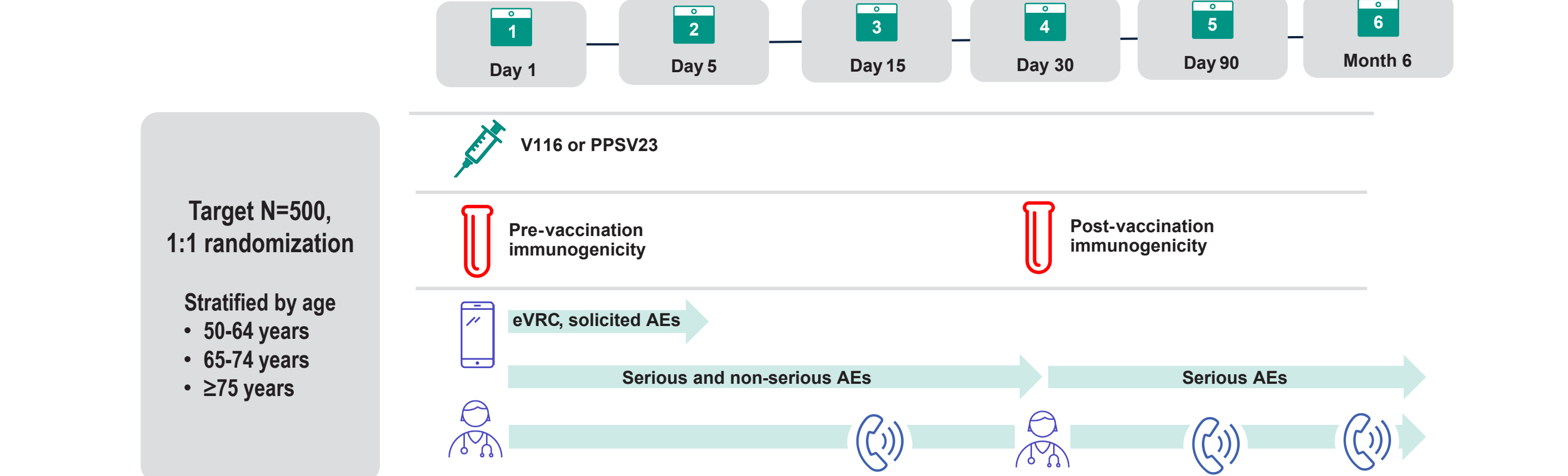
- Designed to provide significantly broader disease coverage by targeting residual pneumococcal disease in adults
- Contains 8 unique serotypes not currently in any licensed pneumococcal vaccine

Figure 2. Serotypes in V116 are responsible for 74%-94% of IPD in adults ≥65 years



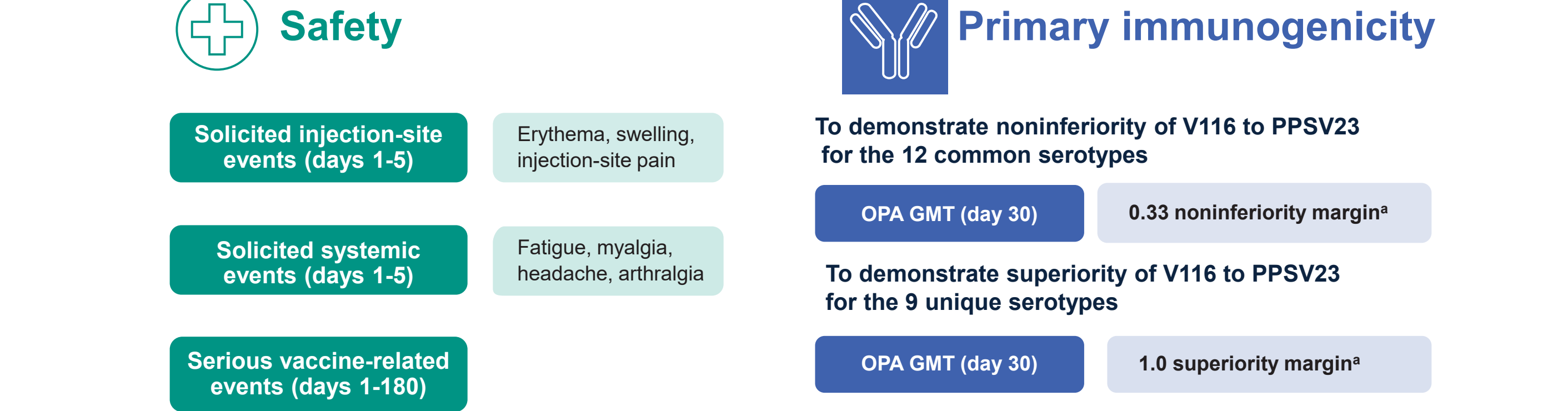
1. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, IPD serotype data 2019, as compiled from data provided through Active Bacterial Core surveillance (ABCs).
2. Canada - National Laboratory Surveillance of Invasive Streptococcal Disease in Canada, Annual Summary 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/drugs-health-products/national-laboratory-surveillance-invasive-streptococcal-disease-canada-annual-summary-2018.html>. Accessed 5/23/2022.
3. UK - PHE Surveillance Report 2017/2018.
4. Germany – data is for ages 60+ years of age; IPD surveillance report by Mark Van der Linden 2018-2019.
5. France – CNRP 2018 report.
6. Japan - Infectious Agents Surveillance Report (IASR) 2018.
7. Australia - Enhanced Invasive Pneumococcal Disease Surveillance Working Group (Communicable Diseases Network Australia), 2018.

Figure 3. V116 Phase 2 study design



- This study enrolled pneumococcal vaccine-naïve adults ≥50 years of age in good general health, with or without stable chronic medical conditions

Figure 4. V116 Phase 2 study objectives



## Results

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

All vaccinated participants	V116 N=254	PPSV23 N=254
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	55.9%	54.7%
<b>Age (years)</b>		
Mean (min to max)	61 (50 to 87)	61 (50 to 88)
50 to 64	71.3%	70.9%
65 to 74	23.2%	23.6%
≥75	5.5%	5.5%
<b>Race</b>		
White	88.2%	85.8%
Black or African American	9.8%	11.8%
Asian	0.8%	1.2%
Other <sup>a</sup>	1.2%	1.2%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino	42.1%	41.7%

<sup>a</sup>Race category of Other includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Multiple, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Presented at the BSI Congress 2022; Liverpool, UK. December 5-8, 2022.

Table 2. Participant disposition

All randomized participants	V114 N=254	PPSV23 N=256
	n (%)	n (%)
<b>Trial disposition</b>		
Vaccinated	254 (100)	254 (99.2)
<b>Completed</b>		
Completed	244 (96.1)	247 (96.5)
Discontinued	10 (3.9)	9 (3.5)
Death	1 (0.4)	0 (0.0)
Lost to follow-up	7 (2.8)	5 (2.0)
Withdrawal by participant	2 (0.8)	4 (1.6)