

# Chikungunya: Phase 3 clinical development of a single-shot live-attenuated vaccine candidate

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

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# Chikungunya: a major public health threat

## Mosquito-transmitted disease with potentially debilitating consequences



*Aedes aegypti*



*Aedes albopictus*

- Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) is transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes<sup>1</sup>
- Often causes large, explosive outbreaks with high attack rates, affecting one-third to three-quarters of the population<sup>1</sup>; difficult to predict next outbreaks<sup>2</sup>
- Outbreaks have occurred in Asia, Africa and across Latin America<sup>1</sup> with the potential for it to happen in the U.S. and Europe<sup>2,4</sup>
- Highest areas of risk of infection for travelers include the Americas, parts of Africa, and Southeast Asia<sup>3</sup>
- Returning infected travelers can trigger local transmission in areas where relevant mosquitoes are established (e.g. Southern U.S./Europe)<sup>2</sup>
- High burden of disease: outbreaks can have substantial health-economic impact; infection can progress to severe chronic symptoms in many patients<sup>4</sup>

No cure; treatment is symptomatic and supportive only

Without a vaccine, prevention is limited to protection against mosquito bites and vector control

1. Staples et al. CDC Yellow Book 2020, Chapter 4 . 2. Bettis et al. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 2022;16(1): e0010069. 3. Lindsey et al. *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 2018;98(1):192-197. doi:10.4269/ajtmh.17-0668 4. Silva LA et al. *J Clin Invest.* 2017 Mar 1;127(3):737-749.



## VLA1553 at a Glance

Live-attenuated CHIKV vaccine candidate targeting long-lasting immunity with a single shot

### Vaccine Candidate VLA1553

- **Live-attenuated** CHIKV vaccine candidate, **single** dose, i.m., **lyophilized**
- Based on **La Reunion strain** of East Central South African genotype
- **Attenuation by reverse genetics**, 60aa deletion within the non-structural nsP3 protein

### Development Status

- **Pivotal Phase 3 Trial: Primary Endpoint (Seroresponse Rate) met**
- **Lot-to-Lot consistency Trial: Primary Endpoint met**
- Antibody persistence trial ongoing
- Adolescents trial in Brazil ongoing

### Regulatory Milestones

- FDA: **Fast Track and Breakthrough designations granted**
  - **Rolling submission** of Biologics License Application (BLA) commenced in Aug 2022
- EMA: **PRIME** designation 2020
- Investigational vaccine candidate, not approved for use in any jurisdiction

### Target Populations & Geographic Reach

- **Non-endemic** countries: Travelers / Military / Outbreak preparedness in US, EU, CAN
- **Endemic** use: Partnered with CEPI and Instituto Butantan, technology transfer



## Licensure Pathway for Chikungunya Vaccines

Accelerated approval pathway agreed with regulators for chikungunya vaccines

- **Classical efficacy studies for chikungunya vaccines are considered unfeasible<sup>1,2</sup>**
  - Unpredictable and short-lived outbreaks
  - Logistical boundaries
  - Acceptable timeframes & cost barriers
- **In the US, chikungunya vaccines can be licensed following the “accelerated approval” pathway**
  - Other regulators also agreed to licensure based on serological endpoints
- **FDA-agreed surrogate endpoint “Seroresponse Rate”:**
  - Rate of subjects achieving a **neutralizing antibody titer of  $\geq 150$  in a  $\mu\text{PRNT}_{50}$  assay<sup>2</sup>**

1 VRBPAC Meeting, Nov 2019. 2 Bettis et al, PLoS Negl Trop Dis 16(1): e0010069

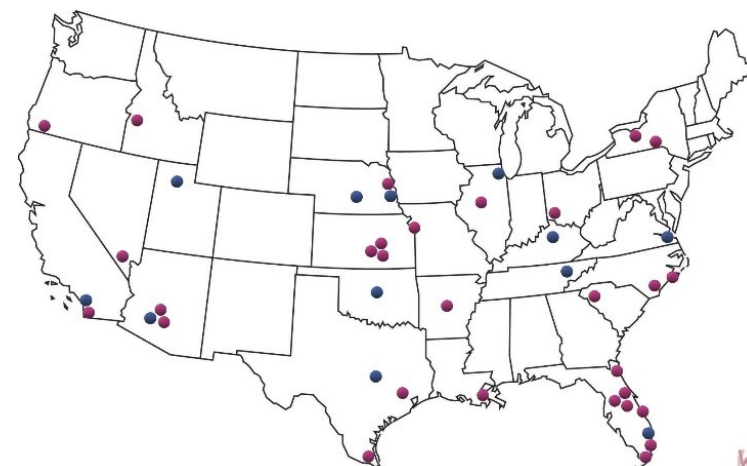
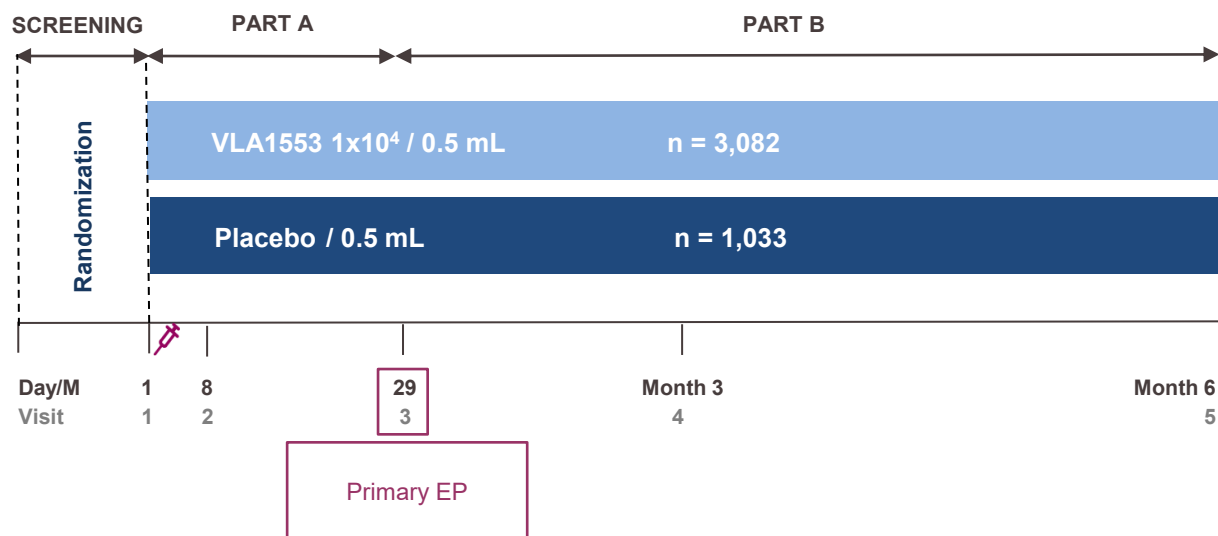
2 Roques P, et al. Effectiveness of CHIKV vaccine VLA1553 demonstrated by passive transfer of human sera. JCI Insight. 2022 Jul 22;7(14):e160173. doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.160173. PMID: 35700051; PMCID: PMC9431671.



# VLA1553-301 Pivotal Study Design

Multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled double-blind Phase 3 study in 4,115 adults aged 18 years and above, conducted in US

- **Primary Endpoint:** Proportion of participants with seroresponse (CHIKV neutralizing antibody titer  $\geq 150$  by  $\mu\text{PRNT}_{50}$ ) for baseline negative participants 28 days post-vaccination
  - FDA non-acceptance threshold: Lower bound of the 95%CI for the seroresponse rate at Day 29 needed to exceed 70%
- **Solicited adverse events** captured for **10 days** following vaccination
- Recruitment stratified by age, younger (18-64 years, N=3,652) and older adults ( $\geq 65$  years, N=463)
- 3:1 Randomization to VLA1553 and Placebo
- Immunogenicity subset: first 462 participants enrolled at selected sites



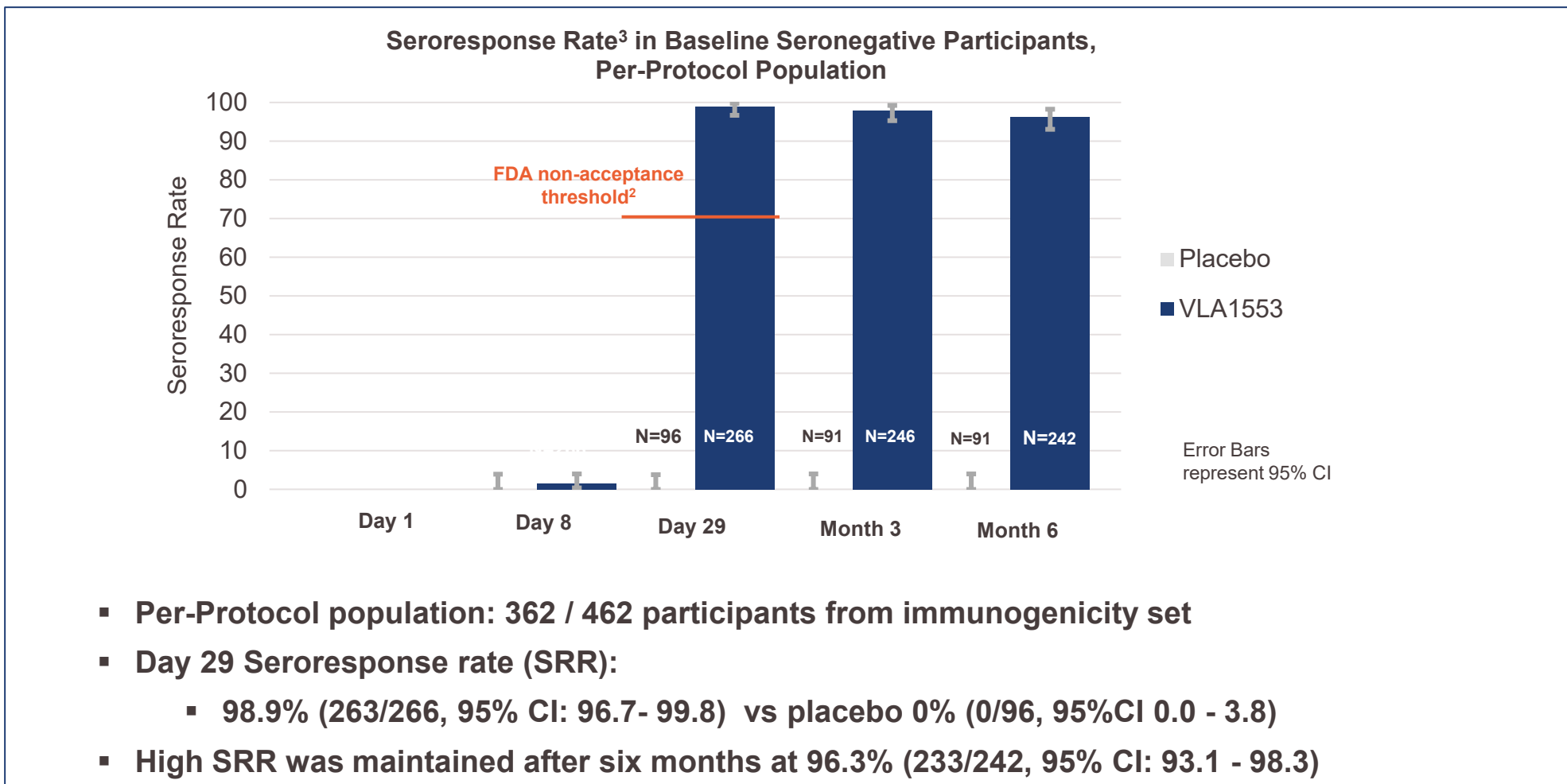
Blue = Immunogenicity Sites  
Purple = Non-Immunogenicity Sites  
(i.e. not enrolling participants within the immunogenicity subset)

n = number of participants in the safety population



## Pivotal Study Met Primary Endpoint (VLA1553-301)

Induced seroresponse<sup>1</sup> in 98.9% of participants; exceeding threshold agreed with FDA<sup>2</sup>

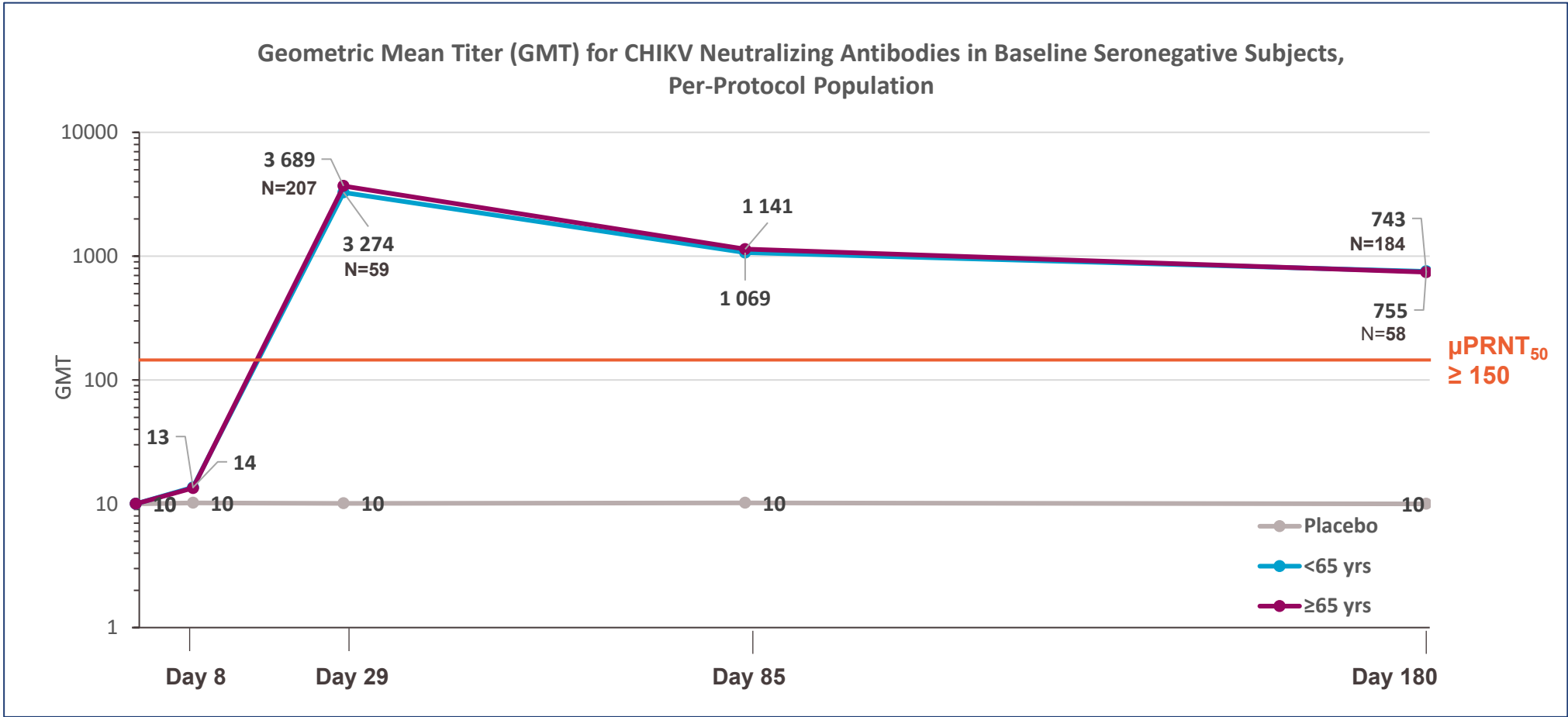


1 CHIKV neutralizing antibody titer  $\geq 150$  by  $\mu\text{PRNT}_{50}$ ; 2 The lower bound of the 95% Confidence Interval for the SRR at Day 29 in the VLA1553 group needed to exceed 70%; 3 The proportion of participants with seroresponse, determined by  $\mu\text{PRNT}_{50}$  for baseline negative participants 28 days post-vaccination



# Neutralizing Antibodies By Age Group (VLA1553-301)

Equally immunogenic in participants 18-64 or ≥65 years



Chikungunya virus neutralizing antibody titers were determined using a μPRNT<sub>50</sub> assay. Values below the quantification limit are set to 10 (Half Lower Limit of Quantification).





## Seroresponse Rate in Older Participants (VLA1553-301)

99.0% in Immunogenicity Elderly Population

Subjects with Seroresponse	18-64 years		≥ 65 years	
	VLA1553 N=269	Placebo N=94	VLA1553 N=107	Placebo N=33
<b>Day 29<sup>a</sup></b> n (%)	251 <b>248 (98.8)</b>	88 <b>1 (1.1)</b>	104 <b>103 (99.0)</b>	33 <b>0</b>
<b>Day 180<sup>a</sup></b> n (%)	241 <b>233 (96.7)</b>	87 <b>2 (2.3)</b>	104 <b>99 (95.2)</b>	33 <b>0</b>

- Immunogenicity Elderly Population: ≥ 65 years 107/376 VLA1553 participants
- Day 29 Seroresponse rate (SRR):
  - 99.0% (103/104, 95% CI: 94.8 – 100.0) vs placebo 0% (0/33, 95%CI 0.0 – 10.6)
- High SRR was maintained after six months at 95.2% (99/104, 95%CI: 89.1 - 98.4)

a. Number of  $\mu$ PRNT baseline negative (<20) subjects with non-missing titers at the specified time point.  
Percentages are based on the number of subjects with non-missing titers at the visit.  
Seroresponse is defined as  $\mu$ PRNT<sub>50</sub> ≥ 150 for  $\mu$ PRNT baseline negative (<20) subjects.



## Summary of Adverse Event (AE) Rates (VLA1553-301)

VLA1553 vaccine candidate generally well tolerated

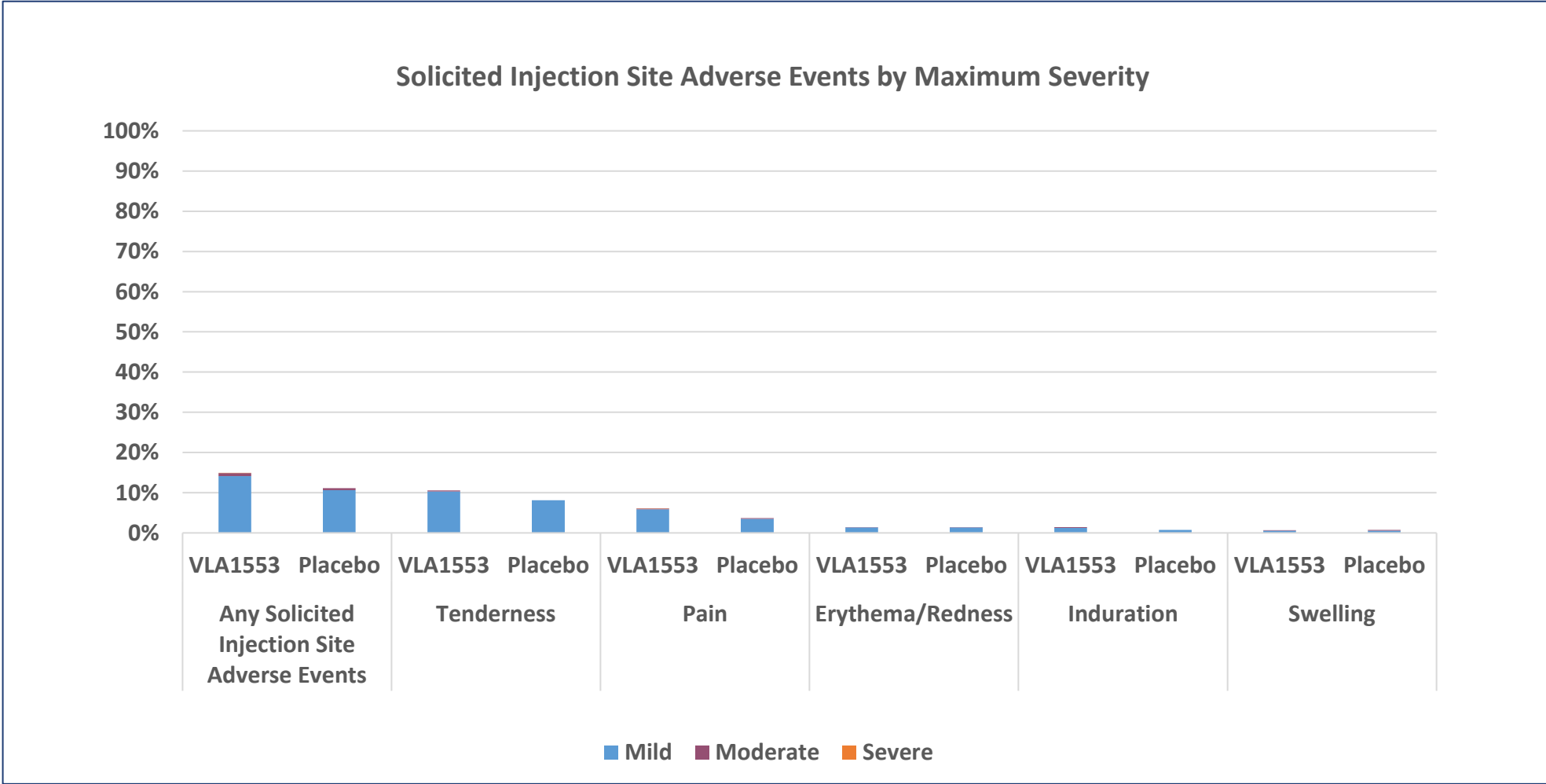
Adverse Event Category	VLA1553 N=3082 n (%)	Placebo N=1033 n (%)
<b>Any Adverse Events</b> [95% CI] p-value <sup>a</sup>	<b>1926 (62.5)</b> [60.8, 64.2]	<b>463 (44.8)</b> [41.8, 47.9] <0.0001
<b>Any Related Adverse Events</b> [95% CI] p-value <sup>a</sup>	<b>1575 (51.1)</b> [49.3, 52.9]	<b>322 (31.2)</b> [28.4, 34.1] <0.0001
<b>Any Related Severe Adverse Events</b> [95% CI] p-value <sup>a</sup>	<b>62 (2.0)</b> [1.5, 2.6]	<b>1 (0.1)</b> [0.0, 0.5] <0.0001

- Two related SAEs (Myalgia, Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion) reported for VLA1553, both fully recovered
- Monitoring for AESI:
  - Symptoms suggesting acute chikungunya, including combinations of solicited AEs (Fever, Arthralgia, Rash)
  - 10 cases reported, 9 confirmed by DSMB to meet definition
  - Most symptoms were mild or moderate, 5 subjects w/ severe fever; 21 of 28 symptoms were solicited adverse events, most commonly fever and arthralgia, majority of symptoms self-limited 2-4 days



# Pivotal Phase 3 Solicited Local AE Within 10 Days After Vaccination (VLA1553-301)

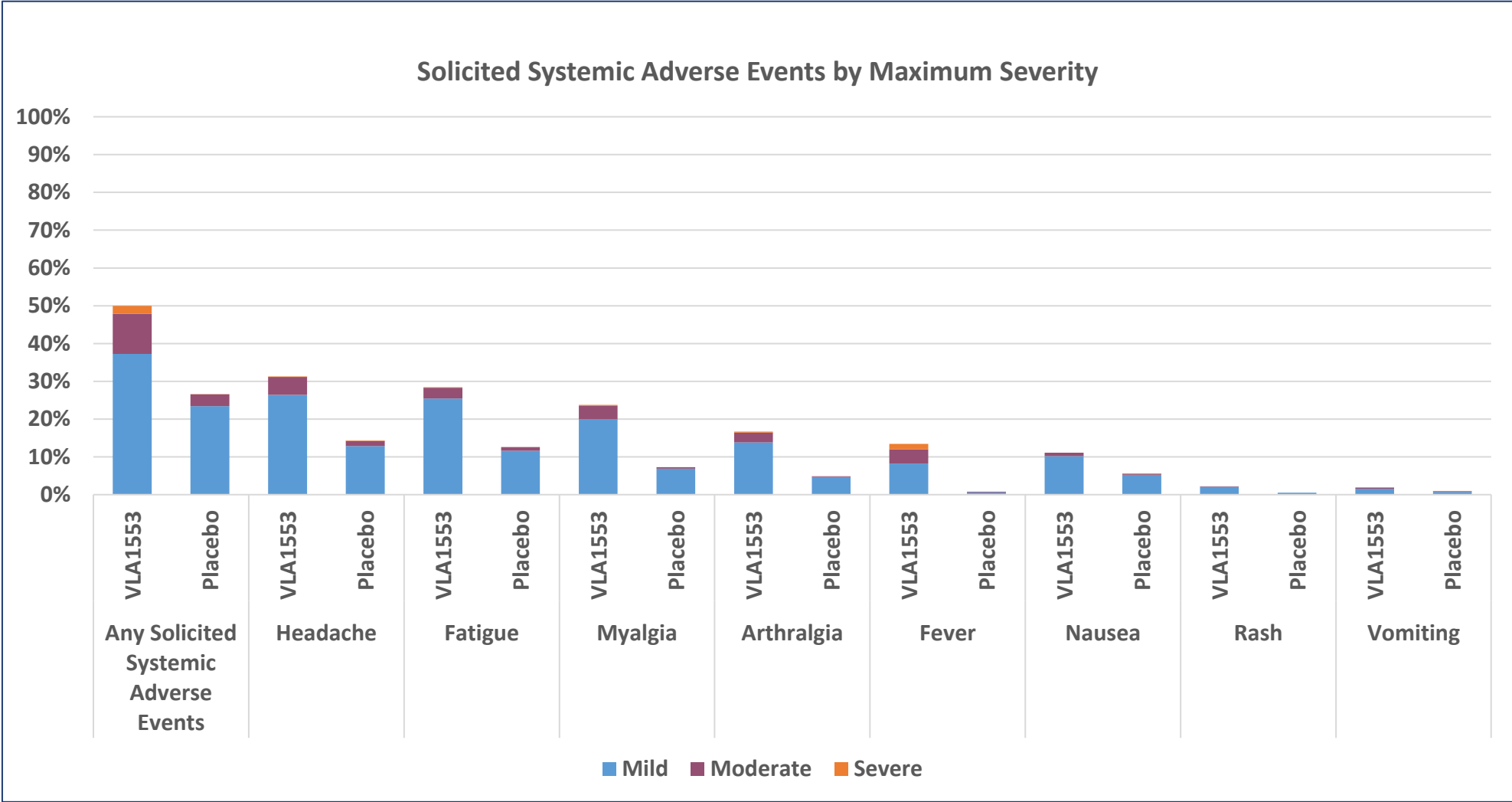
Local AEs in 15% of participants, majority of AEs mild-moderate





# Pivotal Phase 3 Solicited Systemic AE Within 10 Days After Vaccination (VLA1553-301)

Generally well tolerated, majority of AEs mild-moderate





# VLA1553 Chikungunya Vaccine Candidate

## Summary

- **VLA1553 met primary endpoint in a pivotal immunogenicity phase 3 study**
  - Serological endpoint,  $\mu\text{PRNT}_{50}$  titer  $\geq 150$ , agreed by FDA to support accelerated approval
  - **Single dose induced seroresponse in 98.9%** of participants at Day 29
  - Seroresponse was **sustained in 96.3%** of participants at **Day 180**
  - Similar GMT and SRR induced in participants aged 18-64 or  $\geq 65$  years of age
- **VLA1553 was generally well tolerated across age groups**
  - Independent DSMB did not identify any safety concern
  - **Majority of AEs mild or moderate** and resolved within 3 days, 2.1% severe solicited AEs (most commonly fever)
- **Safety profile comparable with other licensed vaccines<sup>1</sup>**
- **Rolling BLA Submission to FDA initiated**

VLA1553 is an investigational chikungunya vaccine candidate and is not approved for use in the United States or any other jurisdiction

<sup>1</sup> E.g. compare FDA prescribing information Comirnaty, Bexsero, Shingrix, YF-VAX, all accelable at <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/vaccines-licensed-use-united-states>

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Thank you.

