

# New Novovax COVID Vaccine Contains Insect and Baculovirus Proteins with DNA

written by GEG | July 26, 2022



Novovax's spike protein is grown by genetically engineering baculoviruses to produce spike, and then infecting insect cells with the baculovirus to turn the whole thing into a spike protein factory. Novovaxi is being marketed to unvaccinated people as a 'more traditional vaccine'. However, the shot is made in India, contains the adjuvant *Matrix-M* made from the *Quillaja saponaria* tree that has not been tested for safety, and a human cell line was used in the testing of the vaccine.

You see, the vaccine's spike protein is grown by genetically engineering baculoviruses to produce spike, and then infecting insect cells with the baculovirus to turn the whole thing into a spike protein factory.

At the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices meeting that I [live-blogged](#) last week, it was revealed that the Novovax vaccine was being rolled out because it could be marketed as a "more traditional" vaccine, since it was not made from mRNA. Novovax was to be directed to the unvaccinated, although only 10% of the unvaccinated, it was anticipated, would accept it.

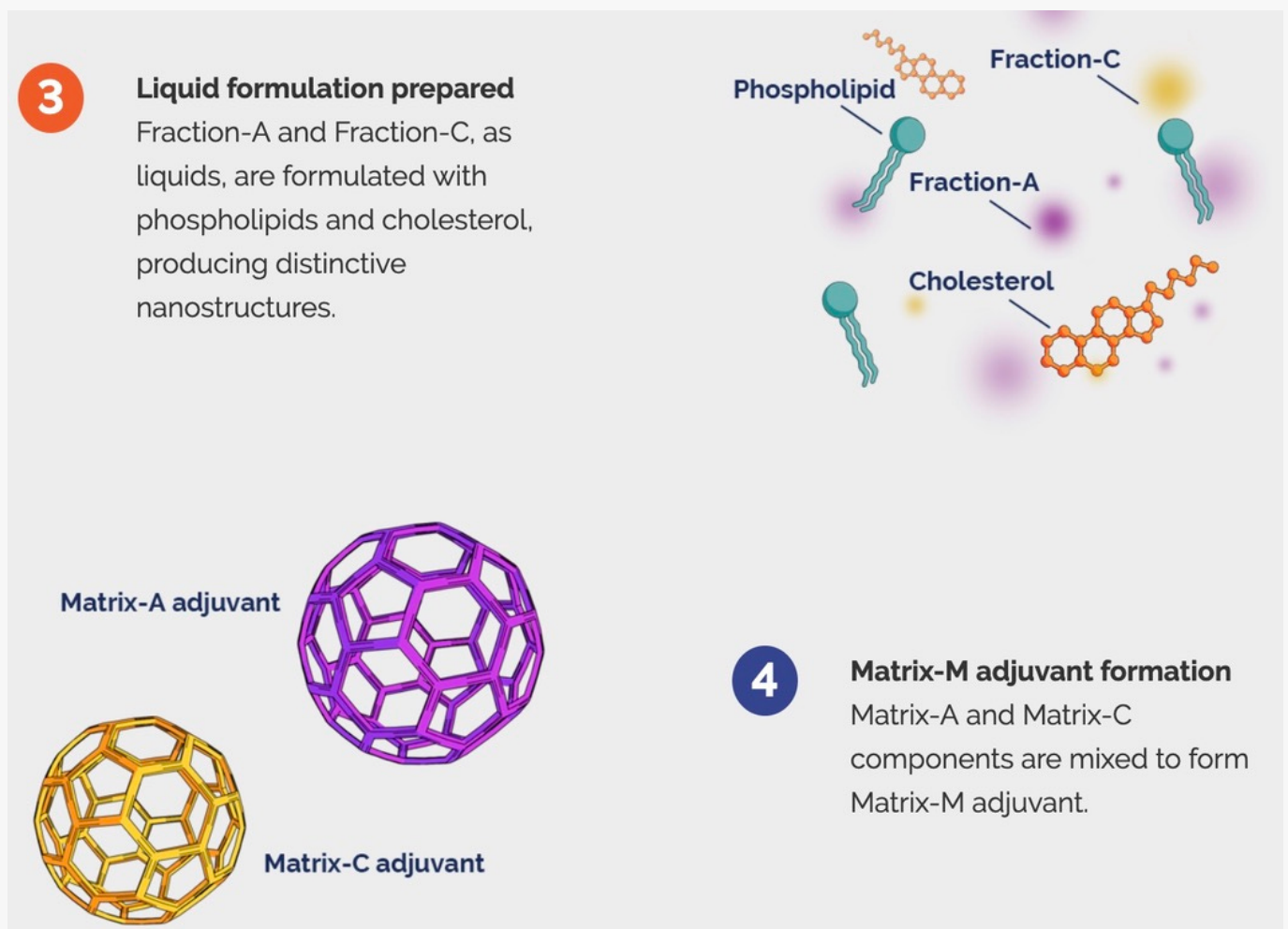
The fact that no fetal cells were used in its development was claimed to be a marketing plus. However, thanks to a reader, it turns out that a human fetal cell line, (HEK) 293F, was used in the testing of the vaccine, as described in an article in [Science](#).

NOTHING about this vaccine is traditional.

First, the Novavax company does not own a manufacturing plant, so the vaccine being distributed in the US is **made at the Serum Institute of India**.

Second, the adjuvant, *Matrix-M* (a nonspecific, potent immune stimulant) has never been used before. It is made from the *Quillaja saponaria* tree. There is another adjuvant that is only used in one (highly reactogenic) US vaccine, Shingrix, which is an extract from this tree. This GSK adjuvant, named AS01B, contains QS-21, a single extract in the Shingrix vaccine.

The problem is that we don't know what extracts from the tree are included in *Matrix-M*. The information is proprietary! The *Matrix-M* adjuvant uses two unspecified "fractions" from the *Q. saponaria* tree, and there exist no data on its safety. (*Matrix-M* does not contain QS-21, although the company sometimes implies it does, to distract from its novelty.) These two fractions, combined with phospholipids and cholesterol, form the 40 nanometer particles of Matrix M.



While the tree extracts are potent immune stimulants, **all those characterized also have significant toxicity**.

Third, in addition to getting 5 mcg of spike protein in every dose, you will receive 1 mcg of residual amounts of baculovirus and Sf9 cell proteins ( $\leq 0.96$  mcg), and baculovirus and cellular [from the fall armyworm] DNA ( $\leq 0.00016$  mcg), according to the **FDA**.

So, you are getting an additional 20% protein of insect and baculovirus origin in

addition to the 5 mcg of spike protein, in each of your two doses.

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