Evolutionary tracking of SARS-CoV-2 genetic variants highlights intricate balance of stabilizing and destabilizing mutations

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Abstract

The currently ongoing COVID-19 pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 has accounted for millions of infections and deaths across the globe. Genome sequences of SARS-CoV-2 are being published daily in various forums and this big data availability has allowed unprecedented access into the mutational patterns of SARS-CoV-2 evolution. Genomic information has further been utilised in public health decision making through molecular epidemiology, transmission tracking and vaccine design. We made use of the same sea of genomic information for conducting a detailed phylogenetic analysis and identifying lineage-specific mutations. The catalogued mutations were analysed for their stabilizing or destabilizing impact on E, M, N and S viral proteins that are key for infection, virulence and pathogenesis. The same proteins make crucial components of vaccines recently approved and in development. We recorded positive natural selection of D614G, S477N, A222V V1176F variants and a global expansion of the PANGOLIN variant B.1. In addition, a positive natural selection of Q57H (B.1.X), R203K/G204R (B.1.1.X), T85I (B.1.2-B.1.3), G15S+T428I (C.X) and I120F (D.X) variants was observed. Overall, we recorded a striking balance between stabilizing and destabilizing mutations, therefore incredibly well maintained protein structures. With selection pressures in the form of newly developed vaccines and therapeutics to mount soon in coming months, the task of mapping of viral mutations and recording of their impact on key viral proteins would be crucial to pre-emptively catch any escape mechanism that SARS-CoV-2 may evolve for.

Key Words: SARS-CoV-2, mutations, stabilizing/destabilizing, vaccine, evolution

Introduction

The emergence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in Wuhan, China and the subsequent global spread has brought the world to a standstill (WHO, 2020). During the course of 11 months the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic has caused more than 72 million confirmed cases in 217 countries with close to 1,620,000 fatalities. (Worldometer 14/12/2020). While initially, and rightly too, the efforts were focused on minimising the number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 (WHO 2020). This included fast tracking the search and development of novel treatment and prevention options (Li & De Clercq, 2020). Today, however, as vaccine candidates have started showing promising results, there is a cautious shift towards assessing the efficacy of vaccine candidates with

respect to the circulating diversity of SARS-CoV-2 and its continuously evolving genetic variants (Hodgson et al., 2020).

Functional mutations that help the virus to adapt to the recent host-shift events are hypothesised to drive the evolution of transmissibility and virulence in SARS-CoV-2 (Sironi et al., 2020). Shortly after the first isolated SARS-CoV-2 genome from China was published, >30,500 distinct mutations were catalogued in the CoV-GLUE (http://cov-glue.cvr.gla.ac.uk/) among globally circulating strains of this virus (Singer et al., 2020). Variation in the genetic makeup are key determinants in measuring the evolutionary distance and stability of SARS-CoV-2 from the first sequenced isolate (Hu et al., 2020). Moreover, tracking the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 since its introduction in humans is a high priority undertaking to prevent future waves of this pandemic from escaping the global preparedness (van Dorp et al., 2020). Since many vaccine candidates currently under development are derived from the first available SARS-CoV-2 sequences, recurrent genetic changes may have an unforeseen impact on their sustained effectiveness in longer term (Dearlove et al., 2020).

The availability of whole genome sequences of SARS-CoV-2 in public repositories such as Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) and real-time data visualisation pipeline NextStrain (https://nextstrain.org) offers a great opportunity for scientists to track the evolutionary path of this virus. Phylogenetic Assignment of Named Global Outbreak LINeages tool (PANGOLIN) has been the most widely used tool for lineage assignment to newly emerging variants. PANGOLIN has also been deployed in establishing the transmission patterns of various clones of this virus (Rambaut et al., 2020). Due to the fast-evolving nature of this virus, the evolution and respective lineage assignment has not been easy (Tang et al., 2020; Rambaut et al., 2020). As a result, multiple studies that tracked the evolution of SARS-CoV-2, have been hugely controversial. For example, doubts have been cast on the claim of finding more aggressive L type emerging from S type strains (Tang et al., 2020). Similarly, the hypothesis of rapid spread of D614G variant of SARS-CoV-2 indicating a possible fitness advantage has been questioned (Plante et al., 2020; Korber et al., 2020; Hoffmann et al., 2020). Therefore, in the current and highly sensitive global circumstances due to this pandemic, having a detailed map of mutations highlighting their prospective role in therapeutics and vaccine development can prepare us better for the future waves of continuously evolving SARS-Cov-2. In this study, we present a catalogue of the most important genomic mutations recorded between December 2019 – November 2020 in SARS-

Cov-2 and their possible impact on stability of protein candidates that form crucial part of

vaccines and also constitute the most common therapeutic targets.

Methods

Data acquisition and curation

In total, we have retrieved 7000 genomes from GISAID EpiCoV database

(https://www.gisaid.org/). Datasets that were flagged as complete (>28,000 bp) were screened

and subsequently manually curated for excluding low quality/coverage sequences and

duplicates. Sequence metadata (Supplementary Table S1) was retrieved and genome

containing sampling time and location were only chosen for the study. Lineages were

assigned from alignment file using the Phylogenetic Assignment of Named Global Outbreak

LINeages tool PANGOLIN v1.07 (https://github.com/hCoV-2019/pangolin). We selected a

subset of 513 genomes that belongs to all major PANGOLIN lineages and common

mutations for the optimal output of the phylogenetic tree.

Phylogenetic analysis

Genome sequences were aligned against the original Wuhan-Hu-1 genome (Accession:

NC_045512) using multiple genome sequence alignment tool MAFFT (v6.240).

Subsequently, the error prone 5'-UTR and 3'-UTR regions were masked and the genome size

was adjusted without losing key sites. Maximum likelihood tree was generated using

IQTREE v.1.6.1 (http://www.iqtree.org/) under the GTR nucleotide substitution model with

1000 bootstrap replicates. The ML tree was visualised and labelled using the interactive tree

of life software iTOL v.3 (Letunic & Bork, 2019).

Mutation Profiling

In order to identify the genetic variants, assembled genomes were mapped against the

reference (Wuhan-Hu-1: Accession: NC_045512) using Snippy mapping and variant calling

pipeline (https://github.com/tseemann/snippy). Among the SNPs, missense SNPs

(nonsynonymous) was extracted using custom written bash scripts and manually curated as

per CoV-GLUE database (http://cov-glue.cvr.gla.ac.uk/). Specifically, we considered 24

major missense mutations in four major structural proteins: Envelope protein (E), Membrane

glycoprotein (M), Nucleocapsid phosphoprotein (N) and Spike protein (S). In addition,

stability of 38 amino acid substitutions in the RBD domain and/or Spike protein were further

analysed to examine the potential impact of these mutations on protein stability of S and
binding affinity of RBD, both being key antigens in COVID vaccines.

Protein homology modelling

The complete genome sequence of SARS-CoV-2 (Accession: NC_045512.2) was obtained
from the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). The 3D structure of the
major proteins (E, M, N and S) was modelled using SWISS☐MODEL
(https://swissmodel.expasy.org/). When no reliable templates were available for homology
modelling, the 3D structures were downloaded from I-Tasser
(https://zhanglab.ccmb.med.umich.edu/COVID-19/). The quality of models was validated
using Ramachandran plot.

Stability analysis

The stability of 62 missense mutations in four major proteins (E, M, N and S) was analysed
utilizing Site Directed Mutator (SDM) and DUET servers (Pandurangan et al., 2017; Pires et
al., 2014a). The impact of variations is predicted based on the difference in free energy
between folded and unfolded states. The stability of the protein is represented by changes in
Gibbs free energy. The positive and negative values of $\Delta\Delta G°$ indicate the stabilizing and
destabilizing mutations. SDM predicts changes in protein stability upon amino acid
substitution using 3D structure of the protein as input while DUET is an integrated support-
vector machines (SVM) based approach that combines two complementary approaches
(mCSM and SDM) and in a consensus prediction (Pires et al., 2014b). Structural stability of
the proteins was confirmed only when both the servers predicted similar outputs. The change
in vibrational entropy energy ($\Delta\Delta S$Vib ENCoM) between wild-type and mutant protein was
calculated using DynaMut (Rodrigues et al., 2018).

Results

Diversity of SARS-CoV-2 Genomes

Of the 7000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes screened, we constructed a robust phylogenetic tree on
strategically selected 513 genomes that reflected the most complete diversity among the
isolates by covering all the PANGOLIN lineages. Lineage assignment based on PANGOLIN
tool indicated the circulation of seven distinct lineages and/or sub-lineages such as A, B.1,

B.1.1, B.1.1.1, B.2, B.3, B.4 and B.6. This is in line with the phylogenetic groupings by

GISAID (S, L, V, O, G, GH and GR) (**Figure 1**). As the epidemic has progressed and

mutations have accumulated, further subdivision of major lineages into sub-lineages has been

observed. Overall, a total of 61 lineages and sub-lineages have been found to be circulating

concurrently in multiple countries around the world. In general, numerous introductions of

different variants were observed across the globe with a few sub-lineages (C.2, D.2) being

restricted to certain regions. While B.1.113 lineage, for example, has been exclusively

reported from India, lineages C.2 and D.2 geographically have been confined to South Africa

and Australia, respectively.

Major amino acid substitutions

Mutation mapping showed a total of 106 amino acid substitutions (missense mutations in >5

genomes) from a representative set of 513 genomes. The analysis also revealed 36 mutations

that were found in >5% of genome sequences while 12 major substitutions were lineage

defining mutations (**Figure 1**). The first major mutation to appear was L84S in ORF8,

(present in 8.6% of the genomes) that has defined A lineage (i.e. clade S in GISAID

classification). The subsequent amino acid substitutions L37F in ORF3a and G251V in *nsp6*

were found to be present in 13.3% and 1.4% of genomes, respectively. The combination of

G251V and L37F, which was initially considered as a defining mutation pattern for B.2 – B.6

lineage (clade V in GISAID classification), more detailed analysis has shown that isolates

carrying G251V mutation are distributed in other lineages too. The predominant lineage

defining mutations in the whole dataset were D614G (85.5%) and P323L (85.5%), after

originally appearing in late January 2020 (**Figure 2**). Other major mutations noted are Q57H

(26.5%), R203K/G204R (33%), G15S (12%), I120F (11.5%) and T85I (14%).

Dominance of D614G variant

Two mutations have become consensus: D614G in S (nucleotide 23,403, A to G) and P323L

(also known as P4715L) in nsp12 (nucleotide 14,143, C to T). These mutations were present

in 80.5% of the sequences and have defined the B.1 lineage (G in GISAID classification).

The widely discussed D614G variant is speculated to have been introduced in Europe at the

end of January (EPI_ISl_422424) before becoming globally dominant. Genomes with D614G

mutations were assigned as B.1 by PANGOLIN or GH/GR by GISAID. Notably, founder

lineage B.1 and its sub lineages B.1.X, B.1.1.X, D.X and C.X that carry both D614G and

P323L mutations have become the dominant variants across the world (87% of global

collection as per CoV-GLUE as on 30th November 2020).

As the pandemic has progressed several other major substitutions affecting the protein

structure have appeared. These are Q57H (nucleotide 25,563, G to T) in ORF3a, R203K +

G204R combination (nucleotide 28,881, GGG to AAC) in Nucleocapsid and T85I

(nucleotide 1059 C to T) in ORF1a. The region-specific sub lineages C.1, C.2, D.1 and D.2

were found to cumulatively harbour multiple mutations. Amino acid substitution such as

T428I and G15S in ORF1a were reported in sub lineages C.1 and C.2, and S477N

substitution in S protein along with I120F in nsp2, which specifically established the sub

lineage D.2 (**Figure 1**).

Balance of stabilizing and destabilizing mutations

The impact of mutations in key proteins is widely accepted as an important factor in driving

the clinically meaningful evolution, which potentially allows any pathogen to escape

available treatment and prevention regimes. Recent experimental evidence (Zhang et al.,

2020; Korber et al., 2020; Fernández et al.,2020) suggests that the emergence of D614G

variant led to stable phenotype with increased structural stability and enhanced infectivity.

Among the 24 major missense mutations, our analysis using SDM predicted 13 missense

mutations as stabilizing while using DUET analysis predicted 11. Among the conservatively

selected 14 missense mutations, 10 were predicted to be stabilizing by both SDM and DUET

server (**Table 1**).

Spike protein in full or part is the key vaccine candidate in today's vaccine landscape. Of the

additional 38 amino acid substitutions that have been checked particularly for the stability of

spike protein, 13 were found to be stabilizing mutations while 16 were destabilizing the

protein structure. Nine mutations have given inconclusive results as SDM and DUET server

provided contrary ΔΔG values (**Table 1**). Overall, from both the datasets, 48 amino acid

substitutions in spike protein were tested for stability of which 16 were stabilizing, 20 were

destabilizing and 12 showed inconclusive results. When checked for amino acid substitutions,

the stabilizing mutation in S protein predicted an increase in the rigidity of its structure

(**Figure 3; Figure 4**). The increased rigidities of the structure may provide a stable

conformation to the protein that may positively influence the binding of spike protein to

ACE2 receptor (Ou et al., 2020). Major mutations D614G and S477N were located at

potential epitope regions (Codons 469–882) with S477N particularly positioned in the
receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the S protein (319 – 541).

Most frequent amino acid substitutions were observed in the N protein, in which the variants
S194L, D103Y, P13L, S197L, M234I, and S188L were predicted to be stabilizing according
to both the analytical servers (**Table 1**). In contrast, M and E proteins accounted for the least
number of amino acid substitutions. The amino acid changes in M (T175M) indicated a
stabilizing effect, while E does not account for any stabilizing variant. Structural analysis of
double (D614G + S477N; D614G + A222V) and triple (D614G + S477N + A222V) mutation
patterns in S protein indicated $\Delta\Delta G$ values of 0.228, 0.195 and 0.129, respectively (**Table 2**).
This signifies that accumulation of spike mutation in D614G bearing lineages could
potentially be affecting the stability of the spike and therefore may influence the binding
affinity towards ACE2 receptor.

Discussion

Since the beginning of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, whole genome sequence based
phylogenetic inference has been heavily utilized in tracing viral origins and transmission
chains (Munnink et al., 2020). However, as the virus has evolved with time, genomic data is
being increasingly used in guiding infection risk and control strategies. Several genomic
mutations have been mapped that seem to be of advantage to the virus (Gómez-Carballa et
al., 2020). In parallel, numerous vaccine candidates have been designed using genomic data
from the original SARS-CoV-2 strain of Wuhan and many are now approved for use or at
late-stage trials (Dong et al., 2020; Alturki et al., 2020). Based on immunological data
obtained from infected and recovered patients, rightly, almost all COVID-19 vaccine
candidates of today are based on the original SARS-CoV-2 spike protein or its RBD domain
(Corbett et al., 2020; Sahin et al., 2020; Poland et al., 2020). However, as vaccines are
introduced and successful treatment options become available, it is vital that we carefully
monitor the mutations in the immunogenic region of SARS-CoV-2 genome (Li et al., 2020).
Mapping these changes on protein structure will allow pre-emptive forecasting of the
direction of change in vaccine effectiveness and guide future preparedness efforts. We
analysed the impact of recurrent amino acid replacements in the genomic evolution and
proteome stability of SARS-CoV-2 since its introduction in December 2019 to November
2020. Our analysis found an intriguing balance of stabilizing and destabilizing mutations,
allowing the SARS-CoV-2 to evolve and persist without losing pathogenicity.

SARS-CoV-2 is considered a slowly-evolving virus as it possesses an inherent proofreading

mechanism to repair the mismatches during its replication. This is believed to have a crucial

role in maintaining the stability and integrity of the viral genome (Robson et al., 2020; Bar-

On et al., 2020). Our analysis confirmed previously recorded positive natural selection of

D614G, S477N (Starr et al., 2020), S477N, A222V and V1176F (Farkas et al., 2020) variants

and a global expansion of the PANGOLIN variant B.1 (Rambaut et al., 2020). In addition, we

also observed a positive natural selection of Q57H (B.1.X), R203K/G204R (B.1.1.X), T85I

(B.1.2-B.1.3), G15S+T428I (C.X) and I120F (D.X) variants (**Figure 2**).

Apart from the clade defining mutations, some of the major missense mutations were in the

four structural proteins (E, M, N and S). When analysed for their impact in the respective

protein structure, spike glycoprotein, more specifically its RBD domain was found to be most

vulnerable to frequent mutations. This may be due to the immunological observation that

most neutralizing anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies have been found to target the RBD domain of

the S protein (Ju et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020). Consistent with this finding, a total of 4170

missense mutations have been reported in the spike protein, with 683 on the RBD domain

alone (CoV-Glue accessed on 12th December 2020). Computational prediction to understand

the effect of amino acid substitutions in E, M, N and S proteins revealed a balance of

stabilization and destabilization of the proteins. While viral population carrying mutations

with higher stabilizing effects (Positive $\Delta\Delta G$ values) would be expected to become the

dominant variant, it is interesting to note that destabilization mutations in the major protein

targets of SARS-CoV-2 have also generated variants that have been hugely successful. For

example, many of the favourably selected variants such as L18F, L5F, R203K, G204R,

A220V (Nucleocapsid) were found to be destabilizing the respective protein structure (Table

1). As destabilizing mutations are known for their crucial functional roles, a trade-off

between stabilizing and destabilizing mutations may balance the protein function and

structure in ways that are not fully understood yet (Laha et al., 2020; Teng et al., 2020).

The currently circulating spike variants or RBD variants need to be taken into account while

evaluating the vaccine candidate or neutralizing monoclonal antibodies against SARS-CoV-2

(Weisblum et al., 2020). Mapping the viral mutations that escape antibody binding is

essential for accessing the efficacy of therapeutic and prophylactic anti-SARSCoV-2 agents

(Starr et al., 2020a; Starr et al., 2020b). Recently generated experimental evidence suggests

that leading vaccines (mRNA-1273, BNT162b1 and ChAdOx1a) and two potent neutralizing

antibodies (REGN10987 and REGN10933) are unlikely to be affected by the dominant

variant D614G (Corbett et al., 2020; Sahin et al., 2020; Voysey et al., 2020; Baum et al.,

2020; McAuley et al., 2020). As all three candidate vaccines encode RBD or the part of spike

protein as antigens, the viral population is expected to try and escape by altering the

positioning of the respective antigens (Greaney et al.,2020) when vaccination induced

selection pressure would be on. Notably, complete escape mutation map of 3,804 of the 3,819

possible RBD amino acid mutations against ten human monoclonal antibodies are already in

place (Starr et al., 2020a; Greaney et al.,2020). The antigenic effect of key RBD mutations

against REGN-COV2 cocktail (REGN10933 and REGN10987) showed N439K and K444R

variants escaped neutralization only by REGN10987, while E406W escaped both individual

REGN-COV2 antibodies and the cocktail (Starr et al., 2020b). Similar strategies should be

adopted to map all antibody resistance mutations against neutralizing antibodies elicited after

vaccination. Once mutation escape maps are available for all successful vaccine candidates,

vaccine roll out strategies should be carefully planned to dodge geographically confined

escape mutants.

Our study highlights the importance of continued genomic surveillance, mutation mapping,

stability analysis and potential escape mutation cataloguing in the pre- and post-vaccination

period of SARS-CoV-2 in designing epidemiologically best vaccination programs.

Conclusion

The currently observed mutation pattern and subsequent phylogenetic diversification of

SARS-CoV-2 seem to be strongly influenced by the negative and positive selection pressures.

The overall variation in SARS-CoV-2 sequences is currently low compared to many other

RNA viruses. One of the possible reasons for the slow rate of mutations can be attributed to

the widespread absence of neutralizing antibodies or the selective pressure. Once the virus

population is challenged with the vaccine candidates or therapeutic monoclonal antibodies

the currently known epitopes on surfaces of SARS-CoV-2 proteins are likely to undergo

rapid forced change for survival. Thus, the prevalence of such possible escape mutations

needs to be monitored even more carefully after vaccination if we are to remain ahead of this

pandemic curve.

Figure 1: Maximum Likelihood phylogenetic tree inferred from 513 SARS-CoV-2 genomes. The tree was constructed using multiple genome sequence alignment (MAFFT) by mapping against the Wuhan-Hu-1 strain (Accession: NC_045512). Tips are coloured the major lineages assigned by PANGOLIN. Respective lineages assigned by GISAID and origin of sequence are labelled as colour strips. The scale bar indicates the distance corresponding to substitution per site.

Figure 2: Schematic representation of the major evolutionary events/ amino acid substitution

that give rise to SARS-CoV-2 variants in sequential order.

Figure 3: Schematic representation of SARS-CoV-2 genome organization, the major amino

acid substitutions and stability of amino acid changes. Stabilizing mutations are coloured

green, Destabilizing mutations are coloured red and mutations that neither stabilize nor

destabilize are coloured in yellow

Figure 4: Heat map showing the stabilizing and destabilizing mutations of SARS-CoV-2
proteins based on the predicted ΔΔG values

Suppl Fig 1: Functional effect of mutated residues and conformational changes in major
structural proteins: (a) D614G, (b) S477N and (c) A222V (d) S194L, (e) D103Y, (f) P13L (g)
S197L, (h) M234I and (i) S188L   Amino acids colored according to the vibrational entropy
change upon mutation. **Blue** represents a rigidification of the structure and **Red** a gain in
flexibility

341   **Table 1**: Predicted effect of protein stability in the presence of amino acid mutations in the
342   SARS-COV-2 genomes.

Protein	Mutations	ΔΔG SDM (kcal/mol)	ΔΔG DUET (kcal/mol)	Stability
Spike	D614G	0.53	2.51	Stabilizing
	A222V	0.65	0.27	Stabilizing
	S477N	0.2	1.16	Stabilizing
	L18F	-0.801	-0.46	Destabilizing
	N439K	0.35	-0.48	Inconclusive
	L5F	-0.801	-0.1	Destabilizing
	W1214G	-1.913	-0.28	Destabilizing
	R21I	-0.856	0.46	Inconclusive
	A262S	-0.84	-2.11	Destabilizing
	S98F	-0.4	0.29	Inconclusive
	D1163Y	0.21	0.26	Stabilizing
	G1167V	-0.58	-2.25	Destabilizing
	D936Y	-0.38	-0.19	Destabilizing
	P272L	0.42	2.12	Stabilizing
	D80Y	1.73	-0.06	Inconclusive
	E583D	-0.82	-0.74	Destabilizing
	P1263L	-0.231	1.29	Inconclusive
	K1073N	-0.48	-0.48	Destabilizing
	D253G	-0.21	-0.84	Destabilizing
	T723I	0.3	1.21	Stabilizing
	A688V	0.21	0.41	Stabilizing
	A626S	-0.9	-1.69	Destabilizing
	L54F	-1.33	-0.61	Destabilizing
	H655Y	1.44	0.52	Stabilizing
	G769V	0.14	0.6	Stabilizing
	L176F	-0.7	-0.33	Destabilizing
	G1124V	0.36	0.13	Stabilizing
	V622F	-0.71	-0.2	Destabilizing
	S255F	-0.64	0.94	Inconclusive
	H49Y	1.14	0.4	Stabilizing

	D839Y	-0.389	-1.08	Destabilizing
	V1176F	-0.92	-0.55	Destabilizing
	D215H	1.41	0.83	Stabilizing
	H146Y	1.139	-0.29	Inconclusive
	A879S	-1.8	-2.57	Destabilizing
	Q677H	-0.48	1.06	Inconclusive
	D1084Y	-0.02	-0.3	Destabilizing
	V1068F	-1.13	-1.05	Destabilizing
	P25S	-0.392	0.93	Inconclusive
	A520S	-0.88	-0.84	Destabilizing
	G261V	-0.17	-0.78	Destabilizing
	D574Y	0.12	1.38	Stabilizing
	T29I	0.7	0.35	Stabilizing
	Y453F	0.12	0.42	Stabilizing
	N501Y	-0.44	0.19	Inconclusive
	S939F	-0.8	0.8	Inconclusive
	T95I	0.49	1.91	Stabilizing
	Q675H	-0.53	0.58	Inconclusive
Nucleocapsid	R203K	-0.500	-1.919	Destabilizing
	G204R	-1.950	-0.840	Destabilizing
	A220V	-0.390	-0.505	Destabilizing
	S194L	1.280	1.316	Stabilizing
	D103Y	0.750	0.380	Stabilizing
	P13L	0.840	0.287	Stabilizing
	S197L	1.280	0.349	Stabilizing
	A398V	-0.990	-0.435	Destabilizing
	P199L	-0.040	-0.326	Destabilizing
	M234I	0.570	0.499	Stabilizing
	S188L	1.450	0.033	Stabilizing
	S183Y	0.770	-0.457	Inconclusive
Membrane	T175M	0.290	0.070	Stabilizing
Envelope	P71S	-0.660	-2.403	Destabilizing

Table 2: Impact of double and triple mutation in the spike protein

Protein	Combinations	Mutations	$\Delta\Delta G$ (pred)	C (pred)
Spike	Independent	D614G	0.422	0.892
	DOUBLE	D614G+S477N	0.228	0.896
		D614G+A222V	0.195	0.889
	TRIPLE	D614G+S477N+A222V	0.129	0.129

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