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Genetic and structural basis for recognition of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein by

a two-antibody cocktail

AUTHORS: Jinhui Dong[1,*], Seth J. Zost[1,*], Allison J. Greaney[2,3], Tyler N. Starr[2], Adam S.

Dingens[2], Elaine C. Chen[4], Rita E. Chen[5,6], James Brett Case[6], Rachel E. Sutton[1], Pavlo Gilchuk[1],

Jessica Rodriguez[1], Erica Armstrong[1], Christopher Gainza[1], Rachel S. Nargi[1], Elad Binshtein[1],

Xuping Xie[7], Xianwen Zhang[7], Pei-Yong Shi[7], James Logue[8], Stuart Weston[8], Marisa E. McGrath[8],

Matthew B. Frieman[8], Tyler Brady[9], Kevin Tuffy[9], Helen Bright[9], Yueh-Ming Loo[9], Patrick

McTamney[9], Mark Esser[9], Robert H. Carnahan[1,10], Michael S. Diamond[5,6,11,12], Jesse D. Bloom[2,3,13],

James E. Crowe, Jr.[1,4,10*]

Affiliations:

[1]Vanderbilt Vaccine Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN 37232, USA

[2]Basic Sciences Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA 98109, USA

[3]Department of Genome Sciences & Medical Scientist Training Program, University of

Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA

[4]Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, Vanderbilt University Medical

Center, Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

[5]Department of Pathology and Immunology, Washington University School of Medicine,

Saint Louis, MO, 63110, USA

[6]Department of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, MO,

63110, USA

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, The University of Texas Medical Branch

at Galveston, Galveston, TX, 77555, USA

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Maryland, College Park,

MD, 20742, USA

[9]Microbial Sciences, AstraZeneca, One MedImmune Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, USA

[10]Department of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

[11]Department of Molecular Microbiology, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint

Louis, MO, 63110, USA

[12]Andrew M. and Jane M. Bursky Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy

Programs, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, MO, 63110, USA

[13]Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Seattle, WA, 98109, USA

*These authors contributed equally.

**Correspondence to: James E. Crowe, Jr., M.D., james.crowe@vumc.org

Contact information:

James E. Crowe, Jr., M.D. *[LEAD CONTACT]*

Departments of Pediatrics, Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, and the Vanderbilt

Vaccine Center

Mail:

Vanderbilt Vaccine Center

11475 Medical Research Building IV

2213 Garland Avenue

Nashville, TN 37232-0417, USA

Telephone   (615) 343-8064

Email   james.crowe@vumc.org

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The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has led to an urgent need to understand the molecular basis for immune recognition of SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) glycoprotein antigenic sites. To define the genetic and structural basis for SARS-CoV-2 neutralization, we determined the structures of two human monoclonal antibodies COV2-2196 and COV2-2130[1], which form the basis of the investigational antibody cocktail AZD7442, in complex with the receptor binding domain (RBD) of SARS-CoV-2. COV2-2196 forms an "aromatic cage" at the heavy/light chain interface using germline-encoded residues in complementarity determining regions (CDRs) 2 and 3 of the heavy chain and CDRs 1 and 3 of the light chain. These structural features explain why highly similar antibodies (public clonotypes) have been isolated from multiple individuals[1-4]. The structure of COV2-2130 reveals that an unusually long LCDR1 and HCDR3 make interactions with the opposite face of the RBD from that of COV2-2196. Using deep mutational scanning and neutralization escape selection experiments, we comprehensively mapped the critical residues of both antibodies and identified positions of concern for possible viral escape. Nonetheless, both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 showed strong neutralizing activity against SARS-CoV-2 strain with recent variations of concern including E484K, N501Y, and D614G substitutions. These studies reveal germline-encoded antibody features enabling recognition of the RBD and demonstrate the activity of a cocktail like AZD7442 in preventing escape from emerging variant viruses.

The current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is caused by SARS-CoV-2, a clade B betacoronavirus (*Sarbecovirus* subgenus) with 96.2% or 79.6% genome sequence identity to the bat coronavirus RaTG13 or SARS-CoV respectively[5,6]. The S glycoprotein mediates viral attachment via binding to the host receptor angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) and

possibly other host factors, and subsequent entry into cells after priming by the host

transmembrane protease serine 2 (TMPRSS2)[7-9]. The trimeric S protein consists of two subunits,

designated S1 and S2. The S1 subunit binds to ACE2 with its receptor binding domain (RBD),

while the central trimeric S2 subunits function as a fusion apparatus after S protein sheds the S1

subunits[10]. The human humoral immune response to SARS-CoV-2 has been well documented[11-

13], and numerous groups have isolated monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) that react to SARS-CoV-2

S protein from the B cells of patients previously infected with the virus. A subset of the human

mAbs neutralize virus *in vitro* and protect against disease in animal models[1,2,13-21]. Studies of the

human B cell response to the virus have been focused mostly on S protein so far, due to its

critical functions in attachment and entry into host cells[1,2,13-21]. For these S-protein-targeting

antibodies, the RBD of S protein is the dominant target of human neutralizing antibody

responses[1,2,13-21]. This high frequency of molecular recognition may be related to the accessibility

of the RBD to B cell receptors, stemming from a low number of obscuring glycosylation sites

(only 2 sites on the RBD versus 8 or 9 sites on the N-terminal domain [NTD] or S2 subunit,

respectively)[13]. The RBD also occupies an apical position and exhibits exposure due to the

"open-closed" dynamics of the S trimer observed in S protein cryo-EM structures[22-24]. Potently

neutralizing mAbs predominantly target the RBD, since this region is directly involved in

receptor binding.

In previous studies, we isolated a large panel of SARS-CoV-2 S-protein-reactive human mAbs

from the B cells of patients previously infected with the virus. that bind to the SARS-CoV-2 S

protein[25]. A subset of these mAbs was shown to bind to recombinant RBD and S protein

ectodomain and exhibit neutralization activity against SARS-CoV-2 by blocking S-protein-

mediated binding to receptor[1]. Two noncompeting antibodies, designated COV2-2196 and

COV2-2130, synergistically neutralized SARS-CoV-2 *in vitro* and protected against SARS-CoV-

2 infection in mouse models and a rhesus macaque model when used separately or in

combination. Several Phase III clinical trials are ongoing to study AZD7442, which incorporates

mAbs that contain the variable regions in this mAb combination, for post-exposure prophylaxis

(ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04625972), prevention (Identifier: NCT04625725), out-

patient treatment (Identifier: NCT04723394 and NCT04518410) and in-patient treatment

(NCT04501978) of COVID-19. Thus, it is of importance to define the binding sites of these two

antibodies to understand how they interact with the RBD and their ability to neutralize new virus

variants.

One of these antibodies (COV2-2196) is a member of a public clonotype, meaning this antibody

shares similar variable region genetic features with other antibodies isolated from different

individuals. Here, by studying the interaction of COV2-2196 with RBD in detail, we identify the

molecular basis for selection of a public clonotype for SARS-CoV-2 that is driven by a complex

structural configuration involving both *IGHV1-58-IGHJ3* heavy chain and *IGKV3-20-IGKJ1*

light chain recombinations,. The shared structural features of this clonotype contribute to the

formation of a paratope comprising residues in both the heavy and light chains, but are

independent of the HCDR3 that usually dominates antigen-antibody interactions. Detailed

structural studies revealed that the commonly formed antibody paratope contributes an "aromatic

cage" formed by five aromatic residues in the paratope surrounding the interface of the heavy

and light chains. This cage structure coordinates an aromatic residue on the SARS-CoV-2 S

protein, accounting for the high specificity and affinity of these antibodies. Although both the

heavy and light chains are required to form this public clonotype (thus defining canonical *IGHV*,

IGHJ, *IGLV* and *IGLJ* genes in the clonotype), the HCDR3 minimally affects the interaction.

Since these *IGHV1-58-IGHJ3* heavy chain and *IGKV3-20-IGKJ1* light chain recombinations are

common in the pre-immune B cell repertoire, many individuals likely make such clones during

the response to SARS-CoV-2 infection or vaccination. The antigenic site recognized by the

complex pre-configured structure of this public clonotype is likely an important component of a

protective vaccine for COVID-19 because of the frequency of the B cell clone in the human

population and the neutralizing and protective potency of the antibodies encoded by the variable

gene segments.

An antibody cocktail including half-life extended versions of COV2-2196 and a non-competing

RBD-specific neutralizing antibody, COV2-2130, is being investigated for both prophylaxis and

therapy in the trials cited above. To understand the molecular details of the recognition of RBD

by COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, we determined the crystal structures of the S protein RBD in

complex with COV2-2196 at 2.50 Å (**Fig. 1, Extended Data Table 1**) and in complex with both

COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 at 3.00 Å (**Fig. 2, Extended Data Table 1**). The substructure of

RBD-COV2-2196 in the RBD-COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 complex is superimposable with that

in the structure of the RBD-COV2-2196 complex (**Extended Data Fig. 1**). The buried surface

area of the interface between COV2-2196 and the RBD is about 650 Å^2 in both crystal

structures, and that of the interface between COV2-2130 and RBD is about 740 Å^2. COV2-2196

binds to the receptor-binding ridge of RBD, and COV2-2130 binds to one side of the RBD edge

around residue K444 and the saddle region of the receptor binding motif RBM), both partially

overlapping the ACE2 binding site (**Fig. 1a-b, 2a-b**). These features explain the competition

between the antibodies and ACE2 for RBD binding from our previous study, *e.g.*, both COV2-

2196 and COV2-2130 neutralize the virus by blocking RBD access to the human receptor

ACE2[1]. Aromatic residues from the COV2-2196 heavy and light chains form a hydrophobic

pocket that surrounds RBD residue F486 and adjacent residues (G485, N487) (**Fig. 1a, 1d, 1e;**

Extended Data Fig. 2a-c). This mode of antibody-antigen interaction is unusual in that the

formation of the antibody pocket is caused by wide spatial separation of the HCDR3 and

LCDR3. In addition, although the antigenic site recognized by COV2-2196 is not buried at the

interface between protomers of S trimer *per se*, COV2-2196 is not able to bind RBD in the

"down" conformation due to steric clashes with RBD in an adjacent S protomer. Therefore,

COV2-2196 only binds to RBD in the "up" conformation (**Fig. 1c**). Overlays of the substructure

of RBD in complex with COV2-2130 (**Fig. 2c**) and the structure of RBD in complex with both

COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 (**Fig. 2d**) indicate that COV2-2130 is able to bind RBD in both

"up" and "down" conformations of the S trimer. These structural findings are consistent with our

previous lower resolution results for the complex using negative stain electron microscopy[1].

Structural analysis of COV2-2196 in complex with RBD reveals how COV2-2196 recognizes the

receptor-binding ridge on the RBD. One of the major contact residues, F486, situates at the

center of the binding site, interacting extensively with the hydrophobic pocket (residue P99 of

heavy chain and an "aromatic cage" formed by 5 aromatic side chains) between COV2-2196

heavy/light chains via a hydrophobic effect and van der Waals interactions (**Fig. 1d-e, Extended**

Data Fig. 2a-b). A hydrogen bond (H-bond) network, constructed with 4 direct antibody-RBD

H-bonds and 16 water-mediated H-bonds, surround residue F486 and strengthen the antibody-

RBD interaction (**Extended Data Fig. 2c**). Importantly, for all residues except one (residue P99

of the heavy chain) that interact extensively with the epitope, they are encoded by germline

sequences (*IGHV1-58*01* and *IGHJ3*02* for the heavy chain, *IGKV3-20*01* and *IGKJ1*01* for

the light chain) (**Fig. 3a**) or only their backbone atoms are involved in the antibody-RBD

interactions, such as heavy chain N107 and G99 and light chain S94. We noted another antibody

in the literature, S2E12, that is encoded by the same *IGHV/IGHJ* and *IGKV/IGKJ*

recombinations, with similar but most likely different *IGHD* genes to those of COV2-2196

(*IGHD2-15* vs *IGHD2-2*)[4]. A comparison of the cryo-EM structure of S2E12 in complex with S

protein (PDB 7K4N) suggests that the mAb S2E12 likely uses nearly identical antibody-RBD

interactions as those of COV2-2196, although variations in conformations of interface residue

side-chains can be seen (**Extended Data Fig. 2d**). For example, the phenyl rings of light chain

residue Y92 are perpendicular to each other in the two structures. These analyses suggest that

COV2-2196 and S2E12 have similar modes of recognition of RBD.

We searched genetic databases to determine if these structural features are present in additional

SARS-CoV-2 mAbs isolated by others and found additional members of the clonotype (**Fig 3a**).

Two other studies reported the same or a similar clonotype of antibodies isolated from multiple

COVID-19 convalescent patients[2,4], and one study found three antibodies with the same *IGHV1-*

58 and *IGKV3-20* pairing, without providing information on D or J gene usage[3]. All of these

antibodies are reported to bind SARS-CoV-2 RBD avidly and to neutralize virus with high

potency[1-4]. So far, there are only two atomic resolution structures of antibodies encoded by these

$V_H(D_H)J_H$ and V_K-J_K recombinations available, the structure for COV2-2196 presented here and

that for S2E12[4]. We performed homology modeling for two additional antibodies of this

clonotype from our own panel of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, designated COV2-2072 and

COV2-2381. As expected, given that these antibodies are members of a shared genetic

clonotype, the modeled structures of COV2-2072/RBD and COV2-2381/RBD complexes are

virtually superimposable with those of COV2-2196/RBD and S2E12/RBD at the antibody-RBD

interfaces (**Extended Data Fig. 3a-e**). Additionally, COV2-2072 encodes an N-linked

glycosylation sequon in the HCDR3 (**Extended Data Fig. 3d**), an unusual feature for antibodies,

given that glycosylation of CDRs might adversely affect antigen recognition. However, the

COV2-2196 structure shows that the disulfide-stapled HCDR3 in this clonotype is angled away

from the binding site, explaining how this unusual HCDR3 glycosylation in COV2-2072 can be

tolerated without compromising binding (**Extended Data Fig. 3e**).

We next determined whether we could identify potential precursors of this public clonotype in

the antibody variable gene repertoires of circulating B cells from SARS-CoV-2-naïve

individuals. We searched for the V(D)J and VJ genes in previously described comprehensive

repertoire datasets originating from 3 healthy human donors, without a history of SARS-CoV-2

infection, and in datasets from cord blood collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic[26]. A total

of 386, 193, 47, or 7 heavy chain sequences for this SARS-CoV-2 reactive public clonotype was

found in each donor or cord blood repertoire, respectively (**Extended Data Fig. 4a**).

Additionally, we found 516,738 human antibody sequences with the same light chain V-J

recombination (*IGKV3-20-IGKJ1*01*). A total of 103,534, 191,039, or 222,165 light chain

sequences was found for this public clonotype in each donor respectively. Due to the large

number of sequences, the top five abundant sequences were aligned from each donor. Multiple

sequence alignments were generated for each donor's sequences and logo plots were generated.

The top 5 sequences with the same recombination event in each donor were identical, resulting in

the same logo plots (**Extended Data Fig. 4a-b**).

We noted that 8 of the 9 common residues important for RBD binding in the antibody

were encoded by germline gene sequences. Interestingly, these residues were present in all 14

members of the public clonotype that we or others have described (**Fig. 3a**)[1-4]. To validate the

importance of these features, we expressed variant antibodies with point mutations in the

paratope to determine the effect of variation at conserved residues (**Fig. 3b**).

Altering the D108 residue to A, N, or E had little effect, but removing the disulfide bond in the

HCDR3 through cysteine to alanine substitutions greatly reduced binding. While altering the P99

residue to V or N had little effect, a P99G substitution had a dramatic effect on binding.

Additionally, we made two germline revertants of the COV2-2196 antibody. The P99 residue is

not templated by either the V-gene *IGHV 1-58* nor the D gene *IGHD 2-2*. However, *IGHD 2-2*

has a likely templated G at position 99. Therefore, two germline revertants were tested - one with

P99 and the other with G99. As the P99 residue orients the HCDR3 loop away from the

interaction site with antigen, the G99 germline revertant exhibited reduced binding, whereas the

P99 germline revertant bound antigen equivalently to *wt* COV2-2196 (**Fig 3b**).

An antibody based on the COV2-2196 variable region is being tested in combination with an

antibody based on the COV2-2130 variable region in clinical trials. Unlike, COV2-2196,

COV2-2130 uses the HCDR3 for critical contacts. The HCDR3 comprises 22 amino acid

residues, which is relatively long for human antibodies. The HCDR3 forms a long, structured

loop that is stabilized by short-ranged hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic interactions/aromatic

stackings within the HCDR3, and is further strengthened by its interactions (hydrogen bonds and

aromatic stackings) with residues of the light chain (**Extended Data Fig. 5a-b**). The COV2-2130

heavy and light chains are encoded by the germline genes *IGHV3-15* and *IGKV4-1*, respectively,

and the two genes encode the longest germline-encoded HCDR2 (10 aa) and LCDR1 (12 aa)

loops, which are used in COV2-2130. The heavy chain V(D)J recombination, HCDR3 mutations,

and the pairing of heavy and light chains result in a binding cleft between the heavy and light

chains, matching the shape of the RBD region centered at S443 – Y449 loop (**Fig. 2a, Extended**

Data Fig. 5c). Closely related to these structural features, only HCDR3, LCDR1, HCDR2, and

LCDR2 are involved in the formation of the paratope (**Fig. 2e-f, Extended Data Fig. 2e-f**).

Inspection of the antibody-RBD interface reveals a region that likely drives much of the energy

of interaction. The RBD residue K444 sidechain is surrounded by subloop Y104 – V109 of the

HCDR3 loop, and the positive charge on the side chain nitrogen atom is neutralized by the

HCDR3 residue D107 side chain, three mainchain carbonyl oxygen atoms from Y105, D107, and

V109, and the electron-rich face of the Y104 phenyl ring (cation-π interaction) (**Extended Data**

Fig. 2e). Since the interacting atoms are completely protected from solvent, the highly

concentrated interactions within such a restricted space are energetically favorable. Furthermore,

this "hotspot" of the antibody-RBD interface is surrounded by or protected from the solvent by

antibody-RBD interactions with lesser free energy gains, including salt bridge between the RBD

residue R346 and HCDR2 D56, electrostatic interaction between RBD R346 and the mainchain

oxygen of HCDR3 Y106, a hydrogen bond between RBD N450 and HCDR3 Y105 mainchain

oxygen, a hydrogen bond between RBD V445 mainchain oxygen and HCDR3 Y104 sidechain, a

hydrophobic interaction between V445 sidechain and sidechains of HCDR3 L113 and F118

(**Extended Data Fig. 2e**). Also, aromatic stacking between the HCDR3 residue Y105 and

LCDR2 residue W56 participates in the shielding of the "hotspot" from solvent (**Extended Data**

Fig. 2e). In addition, COV2-2130 light chain LCDR1 and LCDR2 make extensive contacts with

the RBD. Among them, the LCDR1 S32 sidechain, S33 mainchain oxygen, N34 sidechain, and

LCDR2 Y55 sidechain form hydrogen bonds with RBD E484 sidechain, S494 mainchain

nitrogen, Y449 mainchain oxygen, and G446 mainchain nitrogen (**Extended Data Fig. 2f**).

Residues LCDR1 K36, Y38, and LCDR2 W56 interact with the RBD Y449 via aromatic

stackings and cation-π interactions, forming an "interaction cluster" (**Extended Data Fig. 2f**),

although these interactions are likely not energetically as strong as in the case of RBD K444. In

the crystal structure of the RBD in complex with both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, we noted a

possible interaction between the closely spaced COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs (**Extended**

Data Fig. 6).

To better understand the RBD sites critical for binding of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, we used

a deep mutational scanning (DMS) approach to map all mutations to the RBD that escape

antibody binding[27]; (**Extended Data Fig. 7**). For both antibodies, we identified several key

positions, all in the antibody binding site, where RBD mutations strongly disrupted binding (**Fig.**

4a-d). We leveraged our previous work quantifying the effects of RBD mutations on ACE2

binding[28] to overlay the effect on ACE2 binding for mutations that abrogated antibody binding to

RBD (**Fig. 4a,b**). For COV2-2196, many mutations to F486 and N487 had escape fractions

approaching 1 (*i.e.*, those RBD variants to which the antibody does not bind), reinforcing the

importance of the contributions of these two residues to antibody binding. Similarly, for COV2-

2130, mutation of residue K444 to any of the other 19 amino acids abrogated antibody binding,

indicating that the lysine at this position is critical for the antibody-RBD interaction.

Nevertheless, not all antibody binding site residues were identified as sites where mutations

greatly reduced binding. Several explanations are possible: 1) some binding site residues may not

be critical for binding, 2) some RBD residues do not use their side chains to form interactions

with the mAbs or 3) mutations at some sites may not be tolerated for RBD expression[28]. For

instance, residues L455, F456, and Q493 are part of the structurally-defined binding site for

COV2-2196 (**Fig. 1d**), but mutations to these sites did not impact antibody binding detectably

(**Fig. 4a and c**), suggesting that these residues do not make critical binding contributions.

Superimposition of the COV2-2196/RBD structure onto the S2E12/RBD structure clearly

demonstrates a flexible hinge region between the RBD ridge and the rest of the RBD that is

maintained when antibody is bound (**Extended Data Fig. 2d**). This finding indicates that

mutations at these three positions could be well-tolerated for antibody-RBD binding and supports

the non-essential nature of these particular residues for COV2-2196 or S2E12 binding.

Importantly, COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 do not compete with one another for binding to the

RBD[1], suggesting they could comprise an escape-resistant cocktail for prophylactic or

therapeutic use. Indeed, the binding sites and escape variant maps for these two antibodies are

non-overlapping. To test whether there were single mutations that could escape binding of both

antibodies, we performed escape variant mapping experiments with a 1:1 mixture of the COV2-

2196 and COV2-2130 antibodies, but we did not detect any mutation that had an escape fraction

of greater than 0.2, whereas the mutations with the largest effects for each of the single

antibodies was approximately 1 (**Extended Data Fig. 7d**).

Although these experiments map all mutations that escape antibody binding to the RBD, we also

sought to determine which mutations have the potential to arise during viral growth. To address

this question, we first attempted to select escape mutations using a recombinant VSV expressing

the SARS-CoV-2 S glycoprotein (VSV-SARS-CoV-2)[29]; (**Fig 4e**). We expected that the only

amino acid mutations that would be selected during viral growth were those 1) arising by single-

nucleotide RNA changes, 2) causing minimal deleterious effect on ACE2 binding and

expression, and 3) substantially impacting antibody binding[27,28]. Indeed, we did not detect any

COV2-2196-induced mutations that were both single-nucleotide accessible and relatively well-

tolerated with respect to effects on ACE2 binding (**Fig. 4b**), which may explain why escape

mutants were not selected in any of the 88 independent replicates of recombinant VSV growth in

the presence of antibody (**Fig. 4e Extended Data Fig. 7g**). For COV2-2130, mutations to site

K444, a site that is relatively tolerant to mutation[28], demonstrated the most frequent escape from

antibody binding in neutralization assays with the the VSV chimeric virus. K444R (selected in 6

out of 20 replicates) or K444E (selected in 2 out of 20 replicates) were identified in 40% of the

replicates of recombinant VSV growth in the presence of COV2-2130 (**Fig. 4e, Extended Data**

Fig. 7g).

To explore resistance with authentic infectious virus, SARS-CoV-2 strain USA-WA1/2020 was

passaged serially in Vero cell monolayer cultures with the clinical antibodies based on COV2-

2196 (AZD8895), COV2-2130 (AZD1061) or their 1:1 combination (AZD7442), at

concentrations beginning at their respective IC_{50} values and increased step-wise to their IC_{90}

value with each passage (**Extended Data Fig. 8**). As a control, virus was passaged in the

absence of antibody. Following the final passage, viruses were evaluated for susceptibility

against the partner antibody at a final concentration of 10 times the IC_{90} concentration by plaque

assay. We did not detect any plaques resistant to neutralization by AZD8895 (based on COV2-

2196) or the AZD7442 cocktail. Virus that was passaged serially in AZD1061 formed plaques to

a titer of 1.2×10^7 PFU/mL after selection in $10 \times$ the IC_{90} value concentration of AZD1061, but

plaques were not formed with AZD7442. Plaques (n=6) were selected randomly, and the S gene

was amplified and sequenced, revealing the same 3 amino acid changes in all 6 of the

independently selected and sequenced plaques: N74K, R346I and S686G (**Fig. 4f**). The S686G

change has been reported previously to be associated with serial passaging of SARS-CoV-2 in

Vero cells[30], isolated from challenge studies in ferrets[31] or NHPs[32], and is predicted to decrease

furin activity[30]. The N74K residue is located in the N-terminal domain outside of the AZD1061

binding site and results in the loss of a glycan[33]. The R346I residue is located in the binding site

of AZD1061 and may be associated with AZD1061-resistance. The impact of the R346I changes

on AZD1061 (COV2-2130) binding to S protein is shown in **Fig. 4g**. The K444R and K444E

substitutions selected in the VSV-SARS-CoV-2 system and the R346I substitution selected by

passage with authentic SARS-CoV-2 are accessible by single nucleotide substitution and

preserve ACE2 binding activity (**Fig. 4g**), indicating that our DMS analysis predicted the

mutations selected in the presence of COV2-2130 antibody. Taken together, these results

comprehensively map the effects of all amino acid substitutions on the binding of COV2-2196

and COV2-2130 and identify sites of possible concern for viral evolution. That said, variants

containing mutations at residues K444 and R346 are rare among all sequenced viruses present in

the GISAID databases (all $\leq 0.01\%$ when accessed on 12/23/20).

Recently, viral variants with increased transmissibility and potential antigenic mutations have

been reported in clinical isolates[34-37]. We tested whether some of the variant residues in these

rapidly emerging strains would abrogate the activity of these potently neutralizing antibodies.

We tested isogenic D614G and E484K variants in the WA-1 strain background (2019n-

CoV/USA_WA1/2020, [WA-1]), all prepared as authentic SARS-CoV-2 viruses and used in

focus reduction neutralization tests[29]. The E484K mutation was of special interest, since this

residue is located within 5Å of each of the mAbs in the complex of Fabs and RBD, albeit at the

very binding site. E484K also is present in emerging lineages B.1.351 (501Y.V2)[36] and P.1

(501Y.V3)[37], and has been demonstrated to alter the binding of some monoclonal antibodies[38,39]

as well as human polyclonal serum antibodies[40]. Variants containing E484K also have been

shown to be neutralized less efficiently by convalescent serum and plasma from SARS-CoV-2

survivors[41-43]. For COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and COV2-2050 (a third neutralizing antibody we

incuded for comparison as it interacts with the residue E484), we found virtually no impact of

the D614G mutation (**Fig. 4h**). However, we did observe effects on neutralization with the

D614G/E484K virus. COV2-2050 completely lost neutralization activity, consistent with our

previous study defining E484K as a mutation abrogating COV2-2050 binding[27]. In contrast,

COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 showed only minor reduction in

inhibitory capacity (2- to 5-fold increases in IC_{50} values). Recent reports from others with

neutralization data for recombinant forms of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 against a viral variant

containing all the RBD substitutions in the Sotuh African lineage, rather than just the E484K

substitution, also show that this antibody cocktail is effective against emerging variants of

concern[44-47].

Discussion. The process of B cell development, in which diverse variable gene segments are recombined, results in human naïve B cell repertoires containing an enormous amount of structural diversity in the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the antibodies (Abs) that they encode. Despite this extensive and diverse pool of naïve B cells, infection or vaccination with viral pathogens sometimes elicit antibodies in diverse individuals that share common structural features encoded by the same antibody variable genes. Examples of recurring variable gene usage have been described for antibody responses to human rotavirus[21,48], human immunodeficiency virus[49-52] influenza A virus[53-56], and hepatitis C virus[57,58], among others. The recognition of the use of common variable genes in antiviral responses has led to the general concept of B cell public clonotypes, or B cells with similar genetic features in their variable regions that encode for antibodies with similar patterns of specificity and function in different individuals. A number of recent reports have described the identification of public clonotypes in the Ab responses to SARS-CoV-2[2,14,59,60]. Identifying and understanding the genetic and structural basis for selection of public clonotypes is valuable, as this information forms the central conceptual underpinning for many current rational structure-based vaccine design efforts[61]. Our structural analyses define the molecular basis for the frequent selection of a public clonotype of human antibodies sharing heavy chain V-D-J and light chain V-J recombinations that target the same region of the SARS-CoV-2 S RBD. Germline antibody gene-encoded residues in heavy and light chains play a vital role in antigen recognition, suggesting that few somatic mutations are required for antibody maturation of this clonotype. The existence of potency neutralizing public clonotypes across multiple individuals may in part account for the remarkable efficacy of S protein-based vaccines that is being observed in the clinic. One might envision an opportunity to elicit serum neutralizing antibody titers with even higher

neutralization potency using domain- or motif-based vaccine designs for this antigenic site to

prime human immune responses to elicit this clonotype.

The recent emergence of variant virus lineages with increased transmissibility and altered

sequences in known sites of neutralization is concerning for the capacity of SARS-CoV-2 to

evade current antibody countermeasures in development and testing. Our comprehensive

mapping of the effect of RBD mutations on the binding of COV2-2196 and COV2130

underscores their use as a rationally designed cocktail, given that they have orthogonal escape

mutations. Our DMS experiments are also consistent with the binding site determined by our

antibody-RBD crystal structures and the DMS results predict the mutations present in resistant

variants selected by *in vitro* passaging experiments. We tested the activity of the individual

antibodies or the cocktail against recombinant authentic viruses containing mutations from

several important variants of concern, and demonstrate that the individual antibodies or their

combination are capable of potently neutralizing these emerging variants. Recent work from

others also has demonstrated that some circulating variants of concern exhibit substantial escape

from neutralization of many human monoclonal antibodies in clinical development, but

recombinant forms of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 still potently neutralized pseudoviruses that

included the emerging B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 lineages[44]. Taken together, this work defines the

molecular basis for potent neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 by COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 and

demonstrates that these antibodies efficiently neutralize emerging antigenic variants either

separately or in combination, underscoring the promise of the AZD7442 investigational cocktail

for use in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

Data and materials availability: The crystal structures reported in this paper have been

deposited to the Protein Data Bank (https://www.rcsb.org) under the accession numbers 7L7D

(COV2-2196 + RBD) and 7L7E COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 + RBD). The following were

obtained from the PDB and used for visualization or molecular replacement: PDB IDs: 7K4N,

6M0J, 6XM4, 7CAK, 6ZOY, 6XC2, 5JRP. Sequence Read Archive deposition for the aligned

human antibody gene repertoire data set is deposited at the NCBI: PRJNA511481. All other data

are available in the main text or the supplementary materials. Requests for reagents may be

directed to and be fulfilled by the Lead Contact: Dr. James E. Crowe, Jr.

(james.crowe@vumc.org). Materials reported in this study will be made available but may

require execution of a Materials Transfer Agreement.

Software availability. The computational pipeline for the deep mutational scanning analysis of

antibody escape mutations is available on GitHub: https://github.com/jbloomlab/SARS-CoV-2-

RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs. The FASTQ files are available on the NCBI Sequence Read Archive

under BioSample SAMN17532001 as part of BioProject PRJNA639956.. Per-mutation escape

fractions   are   available   on   GitHub   (https://github.com/jbloomlab/SARS-CoV-2-

RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/blob/main/results/supp_data/AZ_cocktail_raw_data.csv)   and   in

Supplementary Data Table 1.

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Additional information

487
488   **Supplementary information** is available for this paper.
489
490   **Correspondence and requests for materials** should be addressed to J.E.C.

 FIGURE LEGENDS

Fig. 1. Crystal structure of S protein RBD in complex with Fab COV2-2196.

a. Cartoon representation of COV2-2196 in complex with RBD. COV2-2196 heavy chain

is shown in cyan, light chain in magenta, and RBD in green.

b. Structure of COV2-2196-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of RBD-

human ACE2 complex (PDB ID: 6M0J), using the RBD structure as the reference. The

color scheme of COV2-2196-RBD complex is the same as that in Fig. 1a. The RBD in

the RBD-ACE2 complex is colored in light blue, the human ACE2 peptidase domain in

grey.

c. Structure of COV2-2196-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of spike with

single RBD in the "up" conformation (PDB ID: 6XM4), using the RBD in "up"

conformation as the reference. The color scheme of COV2-2196-RBD complex is the

same as that in Fig. 1a. The three subunits of spike are colored in grey, yellow, or light

blue respectively (the subunit with its RBD in "up" conformation is yellow).

d. Surface representation of RBD epitope recognized by COV2-2196. The epitope residues

are colored in different shades of green and labeled in black with the critical contact

residue F486 labled in white.

e. Antibody-antigen interactions between COV2-2196 and RBD. RBD is shown in the same

surface representation and orientation as that in Fig. 1d. COV2-2196 paratope residues

are shown in stick representation. The heavy chain is colored in cyan, and light chain is

colored in magenta.

Fig. 2. Crystal structure of S protein RBD in complex with both Fabs COV2-2196 and

COV2-2130.

a. Cartoon representation of crystal structure of S protein RBD in complex with COV2-2196

and COV2-2130 Fabs. RBD is shown in green, COV2-2196 heavy chain in cyan, COV2-

2196 light chain in magenta, COV2-2130 heavy chain in yellow, and COV2-2130 light

chain in orange. CDRs of COV2-2130 are labeled.

b. Structure of COV2-2130-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of the RBD-

ACE2 complex (PDB ID: 6M0J), using the RBD structure as the reference. The color

scheme of the COV2-2130-RBD complex is the same to that of Fig. 2a. The RBD in the

RBD-ACE2 complex is colored in light blue, the human ACE2 peptidase domain in grey.

c. Structure of COV2-2130-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of spike with

all RBD in "down" conformation (PDB ID: 6ZOY), using the RBD in one protomer as

the reference. The color scheme of COV2-2130-RBD complex is the same as that in Fig.

2a. The three protomers of spike are colored in grey, light blue, or purple respectively.

d. Structure of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure

of spike with one RBD in "up" conformation (PDB ID: 7CAK), using the RBD in "up"

conformation as the reference. The color scheme of COV2-2130-RBD complex is the

same as that in Fig. 2a. The three protomers of spike are colored in grey, light blue, or

purple respectively.

e. Surface representation of RBD epitope recognized by COV2-2130. The epitope residues

are indicated in different colors and labeled in black.

f. Interactions of COV2-2130 paratope residues with the epitope. RBD is shown in the same

surface representation and orientation as those in Fig. 2e. The paratope residues are

shown in stick representation. The heavy chain is colored in yellow, and the light chain in

orange.

Fig. 3.

a. IMGT/DomainGapAlign results of COV2-2196 heavy and light chains. Key interacting

residues and their corresponding residues in germline genes are colored in red.

b. Binding curves of point mutants of COV2-2196. cDNAs encoding point mutants for the

heavy chain, colored in red above, were designed, synthesized as DNA to make

recombinant IgG proteins, and tested for binding activity to spike protein. Mutants of

D108 residue are in blue, revertant mutation of inferred somatic mutations to germline

sequence are in green, P99 mutants are in orange, and a mutant removing the disulfide

bond in HCDR3 is in purple.

Fig. 4. Identification of critical residues for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 through deep

mutational scanning coupled with resistant variant selection.

a. Logo plots of mutation escape fractions of all at RBD sites with strong escape for COV2-

2196 (left) or COV2-2130 (right). Taller letters indicate greater antibody binding escape.

Mutations are colored based on the degree to which they reduce RBD binding to human

ACE2. Data shown are the average of two independent escape selection experiments

using two independent yeast libraries; correlations are shown in **Extended Data Figure**

7b,c.   Interactive,   zoomable   versions   of   these   logo   plots   are   at

https://jbloomlab.github.io/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/. We determined escape

fractions, as described in methods, which represent the estimated fraction of cells

expressing that specific variant that fall in the antibody escape bin, such that a value of 0

means the variant is always bound by antibody and a value of 1 means that it always

escapes antibody binding.

b. Logo plots of mutation escape fractions for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 that are

accessible by single nucleotide substitutions from the Wuhan-Hu-1 reference strain used

in escape selections (**e,f**). The effect of each substitution on ACE2 binding is represented

as in Fig. 4a.

c. Left panel: mapping deep mutational scanning escape mutations for COV2-2196 onto the

RBD surface in the RBD-COV2-2196 structure. Mutations that abrogate COV2-2196

binding are displayed on the RBD structure using a heatmap, where blue represents the

RBD site with the greatest cumulative antibody escape and white represents no detected

escape. Grey denotes residues where deleterious effects on RBD expression prevented

assessment of the effect of the mutation on antibody binding. Right panel: the blow-up of

the left panel showing interacting residues around the strongest escape sites of RBD.

COV2-2196 heavy chain is colored cyan and the light chain magenta. Two replicates

were performed with independent libraries, as described in (a).

d. Right panel: mapping deep mutational scanning escape mutations for COV2-2130 onto

the RBD surface in the RBD-COV2-2130 structure. Mutations that abrogate COV2-2130

binding are displayed on the RBD structure using a heatmap as in **Fig. 4c**. Left panel: the

blow-up of the left panel showing interacting residues around the strongest escape sites

of RBD. COV2-2130 heavy chain is colored yellow and the light chain salmon.

e. Table showing the results of VSV-SARS-CoV-2 escape selection experiments with

COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and their combination. The number of escape mutants

selected and the total number of escape selection replicates performed is noted, as well as

the residues identified by sequencing escape mutant viruses.

f.   Table showing the results of passage of SARS-CoV-2 in the presence of sub-neutralizing

concentrations of AZD8895 (based on COV2-2196), AZD1061 (based on COV2-2130),

and AZD7442 (AZD8895 + AZD1061). Resistance-associated viral mutations identified

by sequencing neutralization-resistant plaques are denoted.

g.   Scatter plot showing DMS data from (**a**), with mutation escape fraction on the x-axis and

effect on ACE2 binding on the y-axis. Crosses denote mutations accessible only by

multi-nucleotide substitutions, while circles indicate mutations accessible by single-

nucleotide substitution. Amino acid substitutions selected by COV2-2130 in VSV-

SARS-CoV-2 (K444R, K444E) or authentic SARS-CoV-2 (R346I) are denoted.

h.   Antibody neutralization as measured by FRNT against reference strains and point

mutants observed in SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern. Neutralization assays were

performed in duplicate and repeated twice, with results shown from one experimental

replicate. Error bars denote the range for each point. Mutations compared to the WA-1

reference strain are denoted.

Extended Data Fig. 1. Overlay of substructure of RBD-COV2-2196 in RBD-COV2-2196-

2130 complex and RBD-COV2-2196 crystal structure.

Extended Data Fig. 2. Similar aromatic stacking and hydrophobic interaction patterns at the

RBD site F486 shared between RBD-COV2-2196 and spike-S2E12 complexes.

a. Same hydrogen bonding pattern surrounding residue F486 in the structures of the two

complexes.

b. Detailed interactions between COV2-2196 and RBD. COV2-2196 heavy chain is colored

in cyan, the light chain is colored in magenta, and RBD is colored in green. Important

interacting residues are shown in stick representation. Water molecules involved in

antibody-RBD interaction are represented as pink spheres. Direct hydrogen bonds are

shown as orange dashed lines, and water-mediated hydrogen bonds as yellow dashed

lines.

c. Superimposition of S2E12/RBD cryo-EM structure onto the COV2-2196/RBD crystal

structure, with the variable domains of antibodies as references. COV2-2196 heavy chain

is in cyan, and its light chain in magenta; S2E12 heavy chain is in pale cyan, and its light

chain in light pink. The two corresponding RBD structures are colored in green or

yellow, respectively.

d. Detailed interactions between COV2-2130 heavy chain and RBD. Paratope residues are

shown in stick representation and colored in yellow, epitope residues in green sticks.

Hydrogen-bonds or strong polar interactions are represented as dashed magenta lines.

e. Detailed interactions between COV2-2130 light chain and RBD. Paratope residues are

shown in stick representation and colored in orange, epitope residues in green sticks.

Hydrogen-bonds are represented as dashed magenta lines.

Extended Data Fig. 3. A common clonotype of anti-RBD antibodies with the same binding

mechanism.

a. COV2-2196/RBD crystal structure.

b. S2E12/RBD cryo-EM structure.

c. COV2-2381/RBD homology model. COV2-2072 encodes an N-linked glycosylation

sequon in the HCDR3, indicated by the gray spheres.

d. COV2-2072/RBD homology model.

e. Overlay of the COV2-2196/RBD crystal structure (**a**) and S2E12/RBD cryo-EM structure

(**b**).

Extended Data Fig. 4. Identification of putative public clonotype members genetically

similar to COV2-2196 in the antibody variable gene repertoires of virus-naïve individuals.

Antibody variable gene sequences collected from healthy individuals prior to the pandemic with

the same sequence features as COV2-2196 heavy chain (**a**) and light chain (**b**) are aligned.

Sequences from three different donors as well as cord blood included sequences with the features

of the public clonotype. The sequence features and contact residues used in COV2-2196 are

highlighted in red boxes below each multiple sequence alignment.

Extended Data Fig. 5.

a. Detailed COV2-2130 HCDR3 loop structure. Short-range hydrogen bonds, stabilizing

the loop conformation, are shown as dashed magenta lines.

b. Residues of COV2-2130 light chain form aromatic stacking interactions and hydrogen

bonds with HCDR3 to further stabilize the HCDR3 loop.

c. Long LCDR1, HCDR2, and HCDR3 form complementary binding surface to the RBD

epitope. RBD is shown as surface representation in grey. COV2-2130 heavy chain is

colored in yellow with HCDR3 in orange, and the light chain in salmon with LCDR1 in

magenta.

d. 180° rotation view of panel **c**.

Extended Data Fig. 6. Interface between COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 in the crystal

structure of RBD in complex with COV2-2196 and COV2-2130. COV2-2196 heavy or light

chain are shown as cartoon representation in cyan or magenta, respectively, and COV2-2130

heavy or light chain in yellow or salmon, respectively. The RBD is colored in green. Interface

residues are shown in stick representation.

Extended Data Fig. 7. Identification by deep mutational scanning of mutations affecting

antibody binding and method of selection of antibody resistant mutants with VSV-SARS-

CoV-2 virus.

a. Top: Flow cytometry plots showing representative gating strategy for selection of single

yeast cells using forward- and side-scatter (first three panels) and selection of yeast cells

expressing RBD (right panel). Each plot is derived from the preceding gate. Bottom:

Flow cytometry plots showing gating for RBD$^+$, antibody$^-$ yeast cells (*i.e.*, cells that

express RBD but where a mutation prevents antibody binding). Selection experiments are

shown for COV2-2196 or COV2-2130, with two independent libraries shown for each.

b. Correlation of observed sites of escape from antibody binding between yeast library

selection experiments using COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196

and COV2-2130. The x-axes show cumulative escape fraction for each site for library 1,

and the y-axes show cumulative escape fraction for each site for library 2. Correlation

coefficient and *n* are denoted for each graph.

c. Correlation of observed mutations that escape antibody binding between yeast library

selection experiments using COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196

and COV2-2130. The x-axes show each amino acid mutation's escape fraction for library

1, and the y-axes show each amino acid mutation's escape fraction for library 2.

Correlation coefficient and *n* are denoted for each graph.

d-f. DMS results for COV2-2196 (**d**), COV2-2130 (**e**), or a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196 and

COV2 2130 (**f**). Left panels: sites of escape across the entire RBD are indicated by peaks that

correspond to the logo plots in the middle and right panel. Middle panel: as in **Fig. 4a**, logo

plot of cumulative escape mutation fractions of all RBD sites with strong escape mutations

for COV2-2196, or COV2-2130, or COV2-2196+COV2-2130. Mutations are colored based

on the degree to which they abrogate RBD binding to human ACE2. Right panel: again, logo

plots show cumulative escape fractions, but colored based on the degree to which mutations

effect RBD expression in the yeast display system. Interactive, zoomable versions of these

logo plots are at https://jbloomlab.github.io/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/.

g. Representative RTCA sensograms showing virus that escaped antibody neutralization.

Cytopathic effect (CPE) was monitored kinetically in Vero E6 cells inoculated with virus in

the presence of a saturating concentration (5 μg/mL) of antibody COV2-2130. Representative

instances of escape (magenta) or lack of detectable escape (blue) are shown. Uninfected cells

(green) or cells inoculated with virus without antibody (red) serve as controls. Magenta and

blue curves represent a single representative well; the red and green controls are the mean of

technical duplicates.

h. Representative RTCA sensograms validating that a variant virus selected by COV2-2130

in (**g**) indeed escaped COV2-2130 (magenta) but was neutralized by COV2-2196 (light blue).

i. Example sensograms from individual wells of 96-well E-plate analysis for escape selection

experimetnts with COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a 1:1 mix of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130.

Instances of escape from COV2-2130 are noted, while escape was not detected in the

presence of COV2-2196 or COV2-2196+COV2-2130. Positive and negative controls are

denoted on the first plate.

Extended Data Fig. 8. Method of selection of antibody resistant mutants with authentic

SARS-CoV-2 virus. The method for assessing monoclonal antibody resistant spike protein

variants is shown. SARS-CoV-2 was passaged serially in the presence of monoclonal antibodies

at the increasing concentrations indicated in the figure or without antibody (no monoclonal

antibody). Following passage at IC_{90} concentrations, samples were treated with $10 \times IC_{90}$

concentrations of monoclonal antibodies and any resultant resistant virus collected, and the

genome was sequenced.

Materials and Methods

Expression and purification of recombinant receptor binding domain (RBD) of SARS-

CoV-2 spike protein

The DNA segments correspondent to the S protein RBD (residues 319 - 528) was sequence

optimized for expression, synthesized, and cloned into the pTwist-CMV expression DNA

plasmid downstream of the IL-2 signal peptide (MYRMQLLSCIALSLALVTNS) (Twist

Bioscience). A three amino acid linker (GSG) and a His-tag were incorporated at the C-terminus

of the expression constructs to facilitate protein purification. Expi293F cells were transfected

transiently with the plasmid encoding RBD, and culture supernatants were harvested after 5

days. RBD was purified from the supernatants by nickel affinity chromatography with HisTrap

Excel columns (GE Healthcare Life Sciences). For protein production used in crystallization

trials, 5 μM kifunensine was included in the culture medium to produce RBD with high mannose

glycans. The high mannose glycoproteins subsequently were treated with endoglycosidase F1

(Millipore) to obtain homogeneously deglycosylated RBD.

Expression and purification of recombinant COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs

The DNA fragments corresponding to the COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 heavy chain variable

domains with human IgG1 CH1 domain and light chain variable domains with human kappa

chain constant domain were synthesized and cloned into the pTwist vector (Twist Bioscience).

This vector includes the heavy chain of each Fab, followed by a GGGGS linker, a furin cleavage

site, a T2A ribosomal cleavage site, and the light chain of each Fab. Expression of the heavy and

light chain are driven by the same CMV promoter. COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs were

expressed in ExpiCHO cells by transient transfection with the expression plasmid. The

recombinant Fab was purified from culture supernatant using an anti-CH1 CaptureSelect column

(Thermo Fisher Scientific). For the RBD/COV2-2196 complex, the *wt* sequence of COV2-2196

was used for expression. For the RBD/COV2-2196/COV2-2130 complex, a modified version of

COV2-2196 Fab was used in which the first two amino acids of the variable region were mutated

from QM to EV.

Crystallization and structural determination of antibody-antigen complexes

Purified COV2-2196 Fab was mixed with deglycosylated RBD in a molar ratio of 1:1.5, and the

mixture was purified further by size-exclusion chromatography with a Superdex-200 Increase

column (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) to obtain the antibody-antigen complex. To obtain

RBD/COV2-2196/COV2-2130 triple complex, purified and deglycosylated RBD was mixed

with both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs in a molar ratio of 1:1.5:1.5, and the triple complex

was purified with a Superdex-200 Increase column. The complexes were concentrated to about

10 mg/mL and subjected to crystallization trials. The RBD/COV2-2196 complex was

crystallized in 16% - 18% PEG 3350, 0.2 Tris-HCl pH 8.0 – 8.5, and the RBD/COV2-

2196/COV2-2130 complex was crystallized in 5% (w/v) PEG 1000, 100 mM sodium phosphate

dibasic/citric acid pH 4.2, 40% (v/v) reagent alcohol. Cryo-protection solution was made by

mixing crystallization solution with 100% glycerol in a volume ratio of 20:7 for crystals of both

complexes. Protein crystals were flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen after a quick soaking in the cryo-

protection solution. Diffraction data were collected at 100 K at the beamline 21-ID-F

(wavelength: 0.97872 Å) for RBD/COV2-2196 complex and 21-ID-G (wavelength: 0.97857 Å)

for RBD/COV2-2196/COV2-2130 complex at the Advanced Photon Source. The diffraction data

were processed with XDS[62] and CCP4 suite[63]. The crystal structures were solved by molecular

replacement using the structure of RBD in complex with Fab CC12.1 (PDB ID 6XC2) and Fab

structure of MR78 (PDB ID 5JRP) with the program Phaser[64]. The structures were refined and

rebuilt manually with Phenix[65] or Coot[66], respectively. The Ramachandran statistics for final

structure of RBD-COV2-2196 are: 95.82% favored, 4.18% allowed, and 0.00% disallowed, and

the Ramachandran statistics for final structure of RBD-COV2-2196-2130: 95.34% favored,

4.37% allowed, and 0.00% disallowed. The models have been deposited into the Protein Data

Bank. PyMOL software[67] was used to make all of the structural figures.

COV2-2196 mutant generation

Struturally-important residues in the COV2-2196 heavy chain sequence were identified as D108,

P99, and the disulfide bond in HCDR3. The D108 residue was mutated to alanine, asparagine,

and glutamic acid. The P99 residue was mutanted to valine, asparagine, and glycine. The

disulfide bond was removed by replacing the cystines with alanine. Additionally, the germline

revertant forms of COV2-2196 were generated by aligning the sequence to identified germline

sequences using IgBlast, and reverting back the residues that were not germline-encoded. DNA

fragments corresponding to the COV2-2196 mutant heavy chain variable domains with human

IgG1 and light chain variable domain with human kappa chain constant domain were synthesized

and cloned into the pTwist_mCis vector (Twist Bioscience) as previously described[25]. Constructs

were transformed into *E. coli*, and DNA was purified. Antibodies then were produced by

transient tranfection of ExpiCHO cells following the manufacturer's protocol (Gibco).

Supernatants were filter-sterilized using 0.45 µm pore size filters and samples were applied to

HiTrap MabSelect Sure columns (Cytiva).

ELISA binding of COV2-2196 mutants

Wells of 384-well microtiter plates were coated with purified recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S 6P protein at 4°C overnight. Plates were blocked with 2% non-fat dry milk and 2% normal goat serum in DPBS containing 0.05% Tween-20 (DPBS-T) for 1 h. Antibodies were diluted to 10 μg/mL and titrated two-fold 23 times in DPBS-T and added to the wells, followed by an incubation for 1 h at room temperature. The bound antibodies were detected using goat anti-human IgG conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (Southern Biotech) and TMB substrate (Thermo Fischer Scientific). Reactions were quenched with 1 N hydrochloric acid and absorbance was measured at 450 nm using a spectrophotometer (Biotek).

Mapping of all mutations that escape antibody binding

All mutations that escape antibody binding were mapped via a DMS approach[27]. We used previously described yeast-display RBD mutant libraries[27,28]. Briefly, duplicate mutant libraries were constructed in the spike receptor binding domain (RBD) from SARS-CoV-2 (isolate Wuhan-Hu-1, Genbank accession number MN908947, residues N331-T531) and contain 3,804 of the 3,819 possible amino-acid mutations, with >95% present as single mutants. Each RBD variant was linked to a unique 16-nucleotide barcode sequence to facilitate downstream sequencing. As previously described, libraries were sorted for RBD expression and ACE2 binding to eliminate RBD variants that are completely misfolded or non-functional (*i.e.*, lacking modest ACE2 binding affinity[27]).

Antibody escape mapping experiments were performed in biological duplicate using two independent mutant RBD libraries, as previously described[27] ,with minor modifications. Briefly, mutant yeast libraries induced to express RBD were washed and incubated with antibody at 400

ng/mL for 1 h at room temperature with gentle agitation. After the antibody incubations, the

libraries were secondarily labeled with 1:100 FITC-conjugated anti-MYC antibody

(Immunology Consultants Lab, CYMC-45F) to label for RBD expression and 1:200 PE-

conjugated goat anti-human-IgG (Jackson ImmunoResearch 109-115-098) to label for bound

antibody. Flow cytometric sorting was used to enrich for cells expressing RBD variants with

reduced antibody binding via a selection gate drawn to capture unmutated SARS-CoV-2 cells

labeled at 1% the antibody concentration of the library samples. For each sample, approximately

10 million RBD+ cells were processed on the cytometer. Antibody-escaped cells were grown

overnight in SD-CAA (6.7 g/L Yeast Nitrogen Base, 5.0 g/L Casamino acids, 1.065 g/L MES

acid, and 2% w/v dextrose) to expand cells prior to plasmid extraction.

Plasmid samples were prepared from pre-selection and overnight cultures of antibody-escaped

cells (Zymoprep Yeast Plasmid Miniprep II) as previously described[27]. The 16-nucleotide

barcode sequences identifying each RBD variant were amplified by PCR and sequenced on an

Illumina HiSeq 2500 with 50 bp single-end reads as described[27,28].

Escape fractions were computed as described[27], with minor modifications as noted below. We

used the dms_variants package (https://jbloomlab.github.io/dms_variants/, version 0.8.2) to

process Illumina sequences into counts of each barcoded RBD variant in each pre-sort and

antibody-escape population using the barcode/RBD look-up table previously described[68].

For each antibody selection, we computed the "escape fraction" for each barcoded variant using

the deep sequencing counts for each variant in the original and antibody-escape populations and

the total fraction of the library that escaped antibody binding via a previously described

formula[27]. These escape fractions represent the estimated fraction of cells expressing that

specific variant that fall in the antibody escape bin, such that a value of 0 means the variant is

always bound by serum and a value of 1 means that it always escapes antibody binding. We then

applied a computational filter to remove variants with low sequencing counts or highly

deleterious mutations that might cause antibody escape simply by leading to poor expression of

properly folded RBD on the yeast cell surface[27,28]. Specifically, we removed variants that had (or

contained mutations with) ACE2 binding scores < -2.35 or expression scores < -1, using the

variant- and mutation-level deep mutational scanning scores as previously described[28]. Note that

these filtering criteria are slightly more stringent than those previously used to map a panel of

human antibodies[27] but are identical to those used in recent studies defining RBD residues that

impact the binding of mAbs[68] and polyclonal serum[40].

We next deconvolved variant-level escape scores into escape fraction estimates for single

mutations using global epistasis models[69] implemented in the dms_variants package, as detailed

at (https://jbloomlab.github.io/dms_variants/dms_variants.globalepistasis.html) and described[27].

The reported escape fractions throughout the paper are the average across the libraries

(correlations shown in **Extended Data Fig. 7a,b**); these scores are also in **Supplementary Data**

Table 1. Sites of strong escape from each antibody for highlighting in logo plots were

determined heuristically as sites whose summed mutational escape scores were at least 10 times

the median sitewise sum of selection, and within 10-fold of the sitewise sum of the most strongly

selected   site.   Full   documentation   of   the   computational   analysis   is   at

https://github.com/jbloomlab/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs.   These   results   are   also

available in an interactive form at https://jbloomlab.github.io/SARS-CoV-2-
RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/.

Antibody escape selection experiments with VSV-SARS-CoV-2. For escape selection
experiments with COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, we used a replication competent recombinant
VSV virus encoding the spike protein from SARS-CoV-2 with a 21 amino-acid C-terminal
deletion[29]. The spike-expressing VSV virus was propagated in MA104 cells (African green
monkey, ATCC CRL-2378.1) as described previously[29], and viral stocks were titrated on Vero
E6 cell monolayer cultures. Plaques were visualized using neutral red staining. To screen for
escape mutations selected in the presence of COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a cocktail composed
of a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, we used a real-time cell analysis assay
(RTCA) and xCELLigence RTCA MP Analyzer (ACEA Biosciences Inc.) and a previously
described escape selection scheme[27]. Briefly, 50 μL of cell culture medium (DMEM
supplemented with 2% FBS) was added to each well of a 96-well E-plate to obtain a background
reading. Eighteen thousand (18,000) Vero E6 cells in 50 μL of cell culture medium were seeded
per well, and plates were placed on the analyzer. Measurements were taken automatically every
15 min and the sensograms were visualized using RTCA software version 2.1.0 (ACEA
Biosciences Inc). VSV-SARS-CoV-2 virus (5,000 plaque forming units [PFU] per well, ~0.3
MOI) was mixed with a saturating neutralizing concentration of COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a
1:1 mixture of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 antibody (5 μg/mL total concentration of
antibodies) in a total volume of 100 μL and incubated for 1 h at 37°C. At 16-20 h after seeding
the cells, the virus-antibody mixtures were added to cell monolayers. Wells containing only virus
in the absence of antibody and wells containing only Vero E6 cells in medium were included on

each plate as controls. Plates were measured continuously (every 15 min) for 72 h. Escape

mutations were identified by monitoring the cell index for a drop in cellular viability. To verify

escape from antibody selection, wells where cytopathic effect was observed in the presence of

COV2-2130 were assessed in a subsequent RTCA experiment in the presence of 10 μg/mL of

COV2-2130 or COV2-2196. After confirmation of resistance of selected viruses to neutralization

by COV2-2130, viral isolates were expanded on Vero E6 cells in the presence of 10 μg/mL of

COV2-2130. Viral RNA was isolated using a QiAmp Viral RNA extraction kit (QIAGEN)

according to manufacturer protocol, and the SARS-CoV-2 spike gene was reverse-transcribed

and amplified with a SuperScript IV One-Step RT-PCR kit (ThermoFisher Scientific) using

primers flanking the S gene. The amplified PCR product was purified using SPRI magnetic

beads (Beckman Coulter) at a 1:1 ratio and sequenced by the Sanger method, using primers

giving forward and reverse reads of the RBD.

Serial passaging and testing of SARS-CoV-2 to select for mAb resistant mutations. SARS-

CoV-2 strain USA-WA1/2020 was passaged serially in Vero cell monolayer cultures with

AZD8895, AZD1061 or AZD7442, at concentrations beginning at their respective IC_{50} values

and increased step-wise to their IC_{90} value with each passage. As a control, virus was passaged in

the absence of antibody. Following the final passage, viruses were evaluated for susceptibility

against the reciprocal antibody at a final concentration of 10 times the IC_{90} concentration by

plaque assay. Plaques (n=6) were selected randomly for AZD1061 cultures, and their virus

spike-encoding gene was sequenced.

Generation of authentic SARS-CoV-2 viruses, including viruses with variant residues. The

2019n-CoV/USA_WA1/2020 isolate of SARS-CoV-2 was obtained from the US Centers for

Disease Control (CDC) and passaged on Vero E6 cells. Individual point mutations in the spike

gene (D614G and E484K/D614G) were introduced into an infectious cDNA clone of the 2019n-

CoV/USA_WA1/2020 strain as described previously[70]. Nucleotide substitutions were introduced

into a subclone puc57-CoV-2-F6 containing the spike gene of the SARS-CoV-2 wild-type

infectious clone[71]. The full-length infectious cDNA clones of the variant SARS-CoV-2 viruses

were assembled by *in vitro* ligation of seven contiguous cDNA fragments following the

previously described protocol[71]. *In vitro* transcription then was performed to synthesize full-

length genomic RNA. To recover the mutant viruses, the RNA transcripts were electroporated

into Vero E6 cells. The viruses from the supernatant of cells were collected 40 h later and served

as p0 stocks. All virus stocks were confirmed by sequencing.

Focus reduction neutralization test. Serial dilutions of mAbs or serum were incubated with 10^2

focus-forming units (FFU) of different strains or variants of SARS-CoV-2 for 1 h at 37°C.

Antibody-virus complexes were added to Vero-hACE2-TMPRSS2 cell monolayer cultures in 96-

well plates and incubated at 37°C for 1 h. Subsequently, cells were overlaid with 1% (w/v)

methylcellulose in MEM supplemented with 2% FBS. Plates were harvested 20 h later by

removing overlays and fixed with 4% PFA in PBS for 20 min at room temperature. Plates were

washed and sequentially incubated with an oligoclonal pool of anti-S mAbs and HRP-conjugated

goat anti-human IgG in PBS supplemented with 0.1% saponin and 0.1% bovine serum albumin.

SARS-CoV-2-infected cell foci were visualized using TrueBlue peroxidase substrate (KPL) and

quantitated on an ImmunoSpot microanalyzer (Cellular Technologies).

Multiple sequence alignments

We searched for antibody variable gene sequences originating with the same features as those encoding COV2-2196 and retrieved the matching sequences from the repertoires of each individual examined. We searched for similar sequences in the publicly available large-scale antibody sequence repertoires for three healthy individuals and cord blood repertoires (deposited at SRP174305). The search parameters for the heavy chain were sequences with *IGHV1-58* and *IGHJ3* with the P99, D108, and F110 residues. Additionally, the search parameters for the light chain were sequences with Y92 and W98 residues. Sequences from a matching clonotype that belonged to each individual were aligned with either ClustalO[72] (heavy chains) or with MUSCLE[73] (light chains). Then, LOGOs plots of aligned sequences were generated using WebLogo[74].

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1128

Figure 1

Figure 2

e COV2-2130 binding site on RBD

f COV2-2130 CDRs on RBD

Figure 3

Figure 4

a COV2-2196 (all substitutions) | COV2-2130 (all substitutions)

b COV2-2196 (single-nucleotide only) | COV2-2130 (single-nucleotide only)

ACE2 binding: -2.0 -1.5 -1.0 -0.5 0.0

c COV2-2196 light chain / COV2-2196 heavy chain

d COV2-2130 light chain / COV2-2130 heavy chain

e VSV-SARS-CoV-2 escape variant selection

Selection condition	Replicates with escape/total	Mutations identified
COV2-2196	0/88 (0%)	N/A
COV2-2130	8/20 (40%)	K444R (6), K444E (2)
Cocktail (2196+2130)	0/104 (0%)	N/A

f Authentic SARS-CoV-2 resistant variant selection

Passaging condition	Test condition	Resistance detected	Mutations identified
AZD8895 (COV2-2196)	AZD8895	No	N/A
	AZD7442	No	
AZD1061 (COV2-2130)	AZD1061	Yes	N74K, R346I
	AZD7442	No	N/A
AZD7442 (Cocktail)	AZD7442	No	N/A

g COV2-2196 | COV2-2130 | COV2-2196+ COV2-2130

K444R, R346I, K444E

single-nucleotide | multi-nucleotide | VSV-SARS-CoV-2 selected | SARS-CoV-2 selected

h SARS-CoV-2 strain: WA-1 | D614G | E484K + D614G

MAb(s): COV2-2196, COV2-2130, COV2-2196+COV2-2130, COV2-2050