Structural basis of a two-antibody cocktail exhibiting highly potent and broadly neutralizing activities against SARS-CoV-2 variants including diverse Omicron sublineages

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Abstract

SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs), especially the latest Omicron, have exhibited severe

antibody evasion. Broadly neutralizing antibodies with high potency against Omicron are urgently

needed for understanding working mechanisms and developing therapeutic agents. In this study,

we characterized previously reported F61, which was isolated from convalescent patients infected

with prototype SARS-CoV-2, as a broadly neutralizing antibody against all VOCs including

Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.3 and BA.4 sublineages by utilizing antigen binding and cell

infection assays. We also identified and characterized another broadly neutralizing antibody D2

with epitope distinct from that of F61. More importantly, we showed that a combination of F61

with D2 exhibited synergy in neutralization and protecting mice from SARS-CoV-2 Delta and

Omicron BA.1 variants. Cryo-EM structures of the spike-F61 and spike-D2 binary complexes

revealed the distinct epitopes of F61 and D2 at atomic level and the structural basis for

neutralization. Cryo-EM structure of the Omicron-spike-F61-D2 ternary complex provides further

structural insights into the synergy between F61 and D2. These results collectively indicated F61

and F61-D2 cocktail as promising therapeutic antibodies for combating SARS-CoV-2 variants

including diverse Omicron sublineages.

Introduction

Since the first documented cases of the SARS-CoV-2 infection in Wuhan, China in late 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic has been posing a severe threat to the global public health, with more than 523 million infections and over 6 million deaths around the world[1-3] (https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/). Vaccines, monoclonal neutralizing antibodies, small-molecule drugs have been successfully developed for prophylaxis and treatment in fighting against the SARS-CoV-2[3-20]. However, SARS-CoV-2 variants, especially variants of concern (VOC) with changed pathogenicity, increased transmissibility and resistance to convalescent/vaccination sera and monoclonal antibodies have emerged repeatedly during the circulation[21-24]. In 2020, the first VOC Alpha (B.1.1.7) was identified in the United Kingdom[25,26], followed by Beta (B.1.351) in South Africa[27] and Gamma (P.1) in Brazil[28]. These three VOCs mainly circulated in their identified and neighboring countries. In contrast, Delta (B.1.617.2) first detected in India in late 2020 quickly spread to nearly all countries and became the global dominant VOC in 2021[29-32]. In November 2021, Omicron (B.1.1.529) was reported from South Africa, and the World Health Organization (WHO) immediately designated it as the fifth VOC due to its over 40 mutations in the spike (S) glycoprotein, at least three times more than the number found in previous four VOCs[33-36]. Although Omicron has lower fatality rate than Delta, it quickly outcompeted Delta and became the dominant circulating variant in 2022, due to the significantly increased transmissibility[33,37]. Currently, the major sublineages of Omicron include BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.2.12.1, BA.3, BA.4 and BA.5[38].

The S glycoprotein homotrimer on the surface of SARS-CoV-2 is critical for viral entry by binding cellular receptor ACE2 and mediating fusion of viral and cell membranes[1,39]. The monomeric S glycoprotein consists of the S1 and S2 subunits. The S1 subunit for receptor binding folds into four major domains including the N-terminal domain (NTD), receptor-binding domain (RBD) and two subdomains (SD1 and SD2), while the S2 for membrane fusion has fusion peptide (FP), two heptad repeats (HR1 and HR2) and other secondary structural elements[40]. SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies bind the S glycoprotein to block its interaction with the ACE2 receptor or interfere with the pre-fusion to post-fusion conformational transition of the S glycoprotein

required for membrane fusion[41,42]. Among the domains and secondary structural elements in the S

glycoprotein, RBD is the predominant target of neutralizing antibodies that can be grouped into

four classes (class 1 to class 4) based on germline or structural information[43]. By including more

antibodies and finer epitope binning, the antibody epitopes on the RBD were further redefined into

seven core communities (RBD-1 to RBD-7), which are located on the top receptor-binding motif

(RBM) face (RBD-1, RBD-2 and RBD-3), the solvent-exposed outer surface (RBD-4 and RBD-5)

and the cryptic inner face (RBD-6 and RBD-7) of the RBD[44].

Mutations on the RBD play important roles in varied receptor binding and escape of antibody

neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 VOCs, thereby affecting viral transmissibility and potency of

neutralizing antibodies[29,30,45,46]. Notably, Omicron has close to 20 mutations on the RBD and 10 of

them map to the top RBM surface directly interacting with the ACE2 receptor[47,48].   It has been

shown that Omicron strikingly reduced or abrogated neutralization titers of sera from vaccinated

and convalescent individuals[24,35,49-52]. Most RBD-directed potent antibodies previously identified

including those approved for emergency use authorization (EUA) also exhibited markable

reduction or complete loss of neutralizing activity against Omicron[24,35,53-56]. For example, a family

of class I antibodies using the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable 3-53 or 3-66 gene

(IGHV3-53/3-66) strongly bind to the RBM face, and their epitopes are largely within the RBD-2

community and overlap with ACE2-binding site. Majority of them are heavily affected by

mutations on the RBM face such as Q493R, Q498R, N501Y and Y505H[43,48,53,56]. Similarly,

N440K, G446S and E484A mutations found on the Omicron RBD are involved in reducing the

activities of the class 2 and class 3 antibodies targeting RBD-4 and RBD-5 on the outer surface,

while S371L, S373P and S375F heavily affect many antibodies in the class 4 targeting RBD-6 and

RBD-7 on the inner surface[48,53,56].

Previously we reported a neutralizing antibody F61 from convalescent patients after

prototype SARS-CoV-2 infection, which showed high potency in neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 and

Alpha, Beta and Delta variants[57]. In this study, we showed that F61 using the IGHV3-53/3-66

gene exhibited the same high potency in neutralizing Omicron diverse sublineages and protecting

mouse model against Delta and Omicron BA.1 variants. Therefore, F61 is an exceptional broadly

neutralizing antibody in the family of IGHV3-53/3-66-using antibodies. We also reported another

broadly neutralizing antibody D2 that is able to potently neutralize SARS-CoV-2 VOCs except

Omicron BA.1.1 and BA.4, although its potency is less than that of F61. More importantly, we

showed that F61 and D2 exhibited significant synergy in both in vitro neutralization of all VOCs

and in vivo protection against Delta and Omicron BA.1. Cryo-EM structure determination of the

spike-Fab complexes revealed the distinct epitopes of F61 and D2 on the RBD and provided

structural insights into the broad and potent neutralization by F61 and F61-D2 cocktail against all

SARS-CoV-2 VOCs including diverse Omicron sublineages.

Results

Biochemical characterization of neutralizing antibodies F61 and D2

We previously reported a phage-displayed antibody library constructed from the PBMCs of

SARS-CoV-2 convalescent donors[57]. Both F61 and D2 were isolated by screening this library with

wildtype SARS-CoV-2 RBD (WT-RBD). After purifying these two antibodies in the recombinant

form of human IgG1, we tested their binding avidity to different fragments of the WT, Delta and

Omicron spike glycoproteins using ELISA method. These fragments include WT-S1, WT-NTD,

WT-RBD, Delta-S1, Delta-RBD and Omicron-RBD (BA.1). The ELISA results showed that F61

and D2 bound to above fragments but not WT-NTD with EC50 values less than 4.5 ng/mL (Fig.

1A), indicating that they are both RBD specific antibodies.

We also measured the binding affinities of F61 and D2 to Delta-RBD and Omicron-RBD

(BA.1 and BA.2) using surface plasmon resonance (SPR) method (Fig. 1B and Fig. S1). Both

antibodies exhibited high-affinity binding to Delta-RBD, Omicron-RBD-BA.1 and

Omicron-RBD-BA.2. The K_D values to Delta-RBD, Omicron-RBD-BA.1 and

Omicron-RBD-BA.2 by F61 were ~3.89 pM, ~5.03 nM and ~93.3 pM, respectively. We

previously reported the K_D of ~3.72 pM to the WT-RBD[57]. Therefore, the binding of F61 to

WT-RBD and Delta-RBD are on the same level. Its binding to Omicron-RBD was reduced by

~1000-fold for BA.1 (K_D = ~5.03 nM) and ~30-fold for BA.2 (K_D = ~93.3 pM). D2 retained

high-affinity binding on pM level to Delta-RBD (K_D = ~62 pM), Omicron-RBD-BA.1 (K_D =

~5.45 pM) and Omicron-RBD-BA.2 (K_D = ~5.22 pM), and the binding to Delta-RBD is slightly

weaker than that to Omicron-RBD. Next, we examined the effects of these two antibodies in

inhibiting the staining of hACE2-expressing HEK293 cells by WT-RBD-mFC fusion protein using

FACS (Fig. 1C). The results showed that F61 not D2 was able to compete with ACE2 receptor in

binding WT-RBD, indicating their distinct binding epitopes on the RBD.

Broadly neutralizing activities of F61 and F61-D2 cocktail against SARS-CoV-2 VOCs in

vitro and in vivo

We tested the neutralizing activities of F61 and D2 against pseudoviruses of SARS-CoV-2 WT

(D614G) and its VOCs including Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351), Delta (B.1.617.2 and B.1.617.3)

and Omicron (BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.3 and BA.4) (Fig. 2A). Corresponding to the high-affinity

binding, F61 was highly potent in neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 WT pseudovirus with half-maximal

inhibitory concentration (IC50) of 6 ng/mL. All IC50 values against the tested VOCs were less

than 20 ng/mL (Fig. 2A). These results showed that F61 exhibited high potency and broad

neutralization against Alpha, Beta, Delta and Omicron, even its binding to Omicron-RBD-BA.1

was significantly reduced (~1000-fold) compared to WT-RBD (Fig. 1B). Similar to F61, D2 was

able to potently neutralize SARS-CoV-2 WT pseudovirus with IC50 of 19 ng/mL, and it retained

the same level high potencies in neutralizing pseudoviruses of Alpha, Beta, Delta and Omicron

including BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3 with IC50 values less than 50 ng/mL (Fig.2A). However, its

potency against pseudovirus of Omicron BA.1.1 and BA.4 was reduced with IC50 values

increased to 249 and 318 ng/mL, respectively (Fig. 2A). Considering distinct epitopes of F61 and

D2 indicated by the competition assay, we also tested the combination of F61 and D2 with a 1:1

molar ratio in pseudovirus neutralization. The results showed that all tested VOCs were well

neutralized with IC50 values less than 30 ng/mL by using the F61-D2 cocktail (Fig. 2A).

Next, we studied the neutralization of authentic SARS-CoV-2, Delta B.1.617.2 and Omicron

BA.1, BA1.1 and BA.2 by F61 and D2. F61 had IC50 values of 50, 10, 160, 200 and 130 ng/mL

against SARS-CoV-2, Delta, Omicron BA.1, Omicron BA.1.1 and Omicron BA.2, respectively

(Fig. 2B). By increasing the IC50 value from 50 ng/mL against SARS-CoV-2 to more than 100

ng/mL against Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1 and BA.2 (Fig. 2B), the effects of Omicron mutations in

reducing F61 potency were more obvious in neutralizing authentic viruses than pseudoviruses.

The D2 exhibited less potency than F61, with the IC50 values against SARS-CoV-2, Delta

B.1.617.2, Omicron BA.1 and BA.2 were 140, 390, 350 and 162 ng/mL, respectively (Fig. 2B). In

consistent with reduced activity against Omicron BA.1.1 pseudovirus, its potency against the

authentic Omicron BA.1.1 was also significantly impaired with IC50 value of more than 800

ng/mL (Fig. 2B). We further tested the F61-D2 cocktail and the results indicated a synergy

between them in the neutralization, especially against Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1 and BA.2. When

neutralizing these three Omicron sublineages, F61 and D2 together with a 1:1 molar ratio showed

a 1.5 to 6.1-fold improvement in IC50 values over the individual antibodies (Fig. 2B), suggesting

an effect that is more than an additive for the F61-D2 cocktail against SARS-CoV-2 and its

variants.

Finally, using K18-hACE2 mice as a prophylactic model as previously described[58], in vivo

protective activities of F61, D2 and F61-D2 cocktail were evaluated with the lethal challenge of

Delta and Omicron BA.1 viruses, respectively (Fig. 2C). The results showed that, regardless of

giving a high dose (20 mg/kg body weight) or low dose (5 mg/kg or 1.25 mg/kg body weight) of

F61, D2 or F61-D2 combination, the antibody treatment conferred protection against the lethal

challenges with 100 TCID$_{50}$ Delta or 200 TCID$_{50}$ Omicron BA.1 (Fig. 2C, left panel). Most of

tested mice in the experimental end-point did not lose their body weight significantly, in particular

with Omicron BA.1 challenge (Fig. 2C, middle panel). Moreover, the viral RNAs in the lung of

mice of F61 or F61-D2 cocktail groups were significantly reduced or negatively detected

compared with PBS groups (10^8 copies/mL for both Delta or Omicron BA.1), whereas the

decrease in viral load in the D2 group was not as significant as in the F61 group (Fig. 2C, right

panel). More importantly, the significant synergy between F61 and D2 was also observed in vivo

with the lethal challenge of either Delta or Omicron BA.1, even at the minimum administration

dose of 1.25 mg/kg body weight, the viral loads in related mice lung were negative or below the

minimum detection limit (less than 10^5 copies/mL) (Fig. 2C, right panel).

Overall cryo-EM structures of the spike-antibody complexes

To understand structural basis for the binding and neutralization by F61 and D2, we expressed and

produced the six proline-stabilized (S6P) WT spike ectodomain with S1/S2 furin-cleavage site

mutated to GSAS. The complexes of the WT-spike bound by F61 or D2 Fab were prepared and

single particle cryo-EM data were collected, resulting in the binary WT-spike-F61 and WT-spike-D2 structures determined at 3.62 and 3.25 Å, respectively (Fig. S2-S4 and Table S1). We also prepared the Omicron BA.1 spike ectodomain with S6P and GSAS mutations and determined the cryo-EM structure of the ternary Omicron-spike-F61-D2 complex at a resolution of 3.04 Å (Fig. S2-S4 and Table S1). Due to the conformational heterogeneity of the Fab-bound RBDs relative the rest of the spike trimer, only the VH and VL domains of the bound Fab were built in all final models.

It has been found that the apo SARS-CoV-2 spike trimer usually exhibits a mixture of a closed form with all three RBDs in the down position and an open form with one RBD in the up position[40,59,60]. In the binary spike-F61 and spike-D2 complexes, the spike trimer is in the open form with all three RBDs adopting similar upright position with a tilt angle of ~90 degree (Fig. 3A and 3B). In the spike-F61 complex, each up-RBD was bound by a F61 Fab on the top receptor-binding motif (RBM) surface for ACE2 engagement (Fig. 3A). Among seventeen RBD residues involved in ACE2 binding, ten of them were recognized by F61, resulting in a large overlap between F61 epitope and ACE2 binding site (Fig. 3D). In the spike-D2 complex, each up-RBD was bound by a D2 Fab covering the solvent-exposed outer surface (Fig. 3B), resulting in an epitope on the RBD spatially distinct from ACE2 binding site (Fig. 3D). In the determined Omicron-spike-F61-D2 ternary complex structure, three RBDs are all in the up position, and each up-RBD was bound simultaneously by one F61 Fab and one D2 Fab (Fig. 3C and 3D).

Structural basis for the potent and broad neutralization

We performed focused 3D classification and local refinement of the Fab-RBD region, resulting in improved densities for building the WT-RBD/Fab and Omicron-RBD-BA.1/Fab interfaces (Fig. S4). We utilized the Omicron-RBD-BA.1/Fab interfaces for the following structural description and analysis, due to their better densities compared to WT-RBD/Fab interfaces. F61 using IGHV3-66 gene is a member of the class 1 antibody, and it binds to an epitope on the RBM face that can be grouped into the RBD-2a community[43,44] (Fig. 4A). The interaction buried a total of 1145 Å^2 surface area from F61 and 1075 Å^2 from RBD. All six CDRs of F61 are involved in RBD binding (Fig. 4A), and the heavy chain is more dominant than the light chain by contributing 19

residues among all 26 antibody residues for binding (Table S2). The F61 epitope consisting of 25

RBD residues does not include Alpha mutation and includes Beta K417N and Delta T478K

substitutions. Omicron has more mutations in the F61 epitope, including K417N, S477N, T478K,

Q493R and Y505H for BA.1 and BA.1.1. F61 epitope includes additional mutation sites found in

other Omicron sublineages, which are D405N and R408S on BA.2, D405N on BA.3 and D405N,

R408S and F486V on BA.4 and BA.5 (Fig. 4A and 4C). At the Omicron-RBD-BA.1/F61 interface,

N417, N477, K478, R493 and H505 have extensive interactions with F61 residues E26, I28, Y33,

Y99, D101 and F102 from the heavy chain, and N31 and D51 from the light chain (Fig. 4C).

Therefore, these Omicron mutations work in concert to alter specific interactions at the interface

and significantly reduced the binding of F61 to Omicron-RBD-BA.1 (K_D = ~5.03 nM) compared

to WT-RBD (K_D = ~3.89 pM) (Fig. 1B). Compared to Omicron-RBD-BA.1, the binding of

Omicron-RBD-BA.2 to F61 was restored to some extent with the K_D value of ~93.3 pM (Fig. 1B),

indicating that the additional D405N and R408S mutations on Omicron BA.2 would play roles in

enhancing the binding by F61. To be note, even for Omicron-RBD-BA.1 whose binding by F61

was the most significantly reduced (~1000-fold), the affinity between them is still in low nM

range (~5.03 nM). We conclude that the tight binding and direct ACE2 competition would allow

for the high potency and broad neutralization of F61 to be retained against SARS-CoV-2 VOCs

including diverse Omicron sublineages.

Structure determination showed that the epitope D2 using IGHV3-9 gene is on the outer

surface of the RBD, locating between previously defined RBD-4 and RBD-5 communities and

having overlap with both of them[43,44] (Fig. 4B). Upon binding, the VH domain of D2 contacts the

up-RBD by aligning in parallel with the outer surface, whereas the VL domain does not have

contact with the RBD (Fig. 4B). The interaction between D2 VH domain and up-RBD buried a

total of 953 Å^2 surface area from the VH domain and 944 Å^2 from the RBD. At the interface, 11

residues from the D2 heavy chain HCDR2 and HCDR3 interact with 13 Omicron-RBD residues

(Fig. 4B and Table S2). Among close to 20 mutations on the Omicron-RBD, the D2 epitope

include only G446S mutation found on BA.1 but not on BA.2 (Fig. 4D). The interaction around

S446 at the Omicron-RBD-BA.1/D2 interface is between heavy chain K65 and the main-chain

oxygen atom of S446 (Fig. 4D), which could explain that the binding of D2 to Omicron-RBD

BA.1 or BA.2 was retained on pM level and D2 could still potently neutralize Omicron BA.1 and

BA.2 (Fig. 1B, Fig. 2A and 2B). D2 epitope includes G446S and R346K mutation sites on BA.1.1

and only L452R on BA.4 and BA.5 (Fig. 4B & 4D). R346 has extensive interactions with D2

residues D52, N54, G56, V57, I58, E103 and S104, including hydrogen bonds of R346 with D52,

N54, E103 and S104 and salt bridge of R346 with D52 (Fig. 4D). R346K substitution is expected

to abolish some hydrogen bonds and to interfere with interactions around the 346 between

Omicron BA.1.1 RBD and D2, resulting in reduced neutralization against Omicron BA.1.1

compared to BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3 (Fig. 2A and 2B). L452 has hydrophobic interaction with D2

heavy chain I69 (Fig. 4D). Similar to R346K mutation, the L452R mutation found in Omicron

BA.4 would also interfere local interactions and result in reduced neutralization against BA.4

compared to BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3 (Fig. 2A and 2B).

Discussion

A large number of potent neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 have been reported since

the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic[4,6-9,13,14,20]. However, the emergence of SARS-CoV-2

VOCs harboring mutations on the spike glycoprotein has led to great concerns over resistance to

neutralizing antibodies and failure of vaccines[23,24,30,35,49-56,61]. In fact, recent studies have found that

most of previously identified neutralizing antibodies have shown markable reduction or complete

loss of activities against Omicron[24,35,53-56]. Here we comprehensively characterized a highly potent

and broadly neutralizing antibody F61 and its cocktail with another antibody D2 against

SARS-CoV-2 VOCs including Omicron.

The IGHV3-53/3-66-using antibodies are frequently elicited in most people after

SARS-CoV-2 infection or vaccination and many of them exhibit high potency by strongly binding

to the RBM and directly competing with ACE2 receptor[62]. However, most of them are heavily

affected by VOCs, especially Omicron carrying multiple mutations on the RBM[24,53-56,63].

Previously we showed that F61 was highly potent against SARS-CoV-2 WT and Alpha, Beta and

Delta variants in pseudovirus inhibition[57]. Here we showed that F61 was still highly potent against

Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2 BA.3 and BA.4 pseudoviruses with IC50 values below 20 ng/mL. It

was able to neutralize cell infection of authentic Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1 and BA.2 with IC50

values below 200 ng/mL, respectively. Structure of Omicron-RBD-BA.1/F61 interface indicated

that despite close to twenty mutations in Omicron-RBD-BA.1, F61 could still interact with these

residues, such as N417, N477, K478, R493 and H505. Furthermore, F61 also formed salt bridges

with R493 and hydrogen bonds with N417 and H505. Given that neutralization titers of many

monoclonal antibodies and sera from vaccinated and convalescent individuals are significantly

reduced because of K417N, Q493R and Y505H mutations, robust binding with these mutation

sites by F61 may explain why it stands out from other antibodies and shows excellent

neutralization against all tested variants, including Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.3 and BA.4

sublineages. These results collectively showed that F61 is an exceptional IGHV3-53/3-66-using

antibody exhibiting potent and broadly neutralizing activity. CAB-A17 is another recently

reported IGHV3-53/3-66-using antibody with broad neutralizing activity[64]. CAB-A17 and F61

exhibited similar high potency against Omicron pseudovirus (CAB-A17 IC50: ~15 ng/mL; F61

IC50: 10-20 ng/mL)[64]. Structure and sequence comparisons showed that the Omicron-RBD

epitope residues are nearly the identical, and antibody residues involved in hydrogen-bonding

interaction are also highly conserved between CAB-A17 and F61, such as heavy chain E26, Y33,

G54, S56 and R97[64]. The study of CAB-A17 also found that only four somatic hypermutations

G26E, T28I, S53P and Y58F were able to confer breadth to CAB-A17 to against Omicron[64], and

E26, I28, P53 and F58 are also conserved in F61. To be note, F61 and CAB-A17 are two

significant examples of VOC-neutralizing antibodies isolated from convalescent patients before

circulation of VOCs, indicating that broadly neutralizing antibodies are within the repertoire after

prototype SARS-CoV-2 infection and such memory B cells could be recruited upon re-infection or

vaccination.

Here we also reported another broadly neutralizing antibody D2, although its potency is

weaker than that of F61. Structural elucidation of the RBD/D2 interfaces confirmed that the

epitope of D2 is relatively conserved and almost unchanged in tested VOCs, and thus it is

unaffected by most VOCs. It only includes G446S mutation in Omicron BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3

and our structure shows that D2 remains interaction with Omicron BA.1 S446. However, RBD

residue R346 is within the epitope and has extensive interactions with D2, which may

dramatically reduce its neutralization activity against Omicron BA.1.1. These structural

observations fit well with functional data showing that D2 broadly bound and neutralized Omicron

BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3 and its potency was significantly reduced against Omicron BA.1.1 carrying

the R346K mutation. Although RBD-directed SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies have been

extensively studied and summarized such as the class 1-4 antibody and RBD1-7 communities[43,44],

the overall binding mode and epitope of D2 are still out of ordinary. Its epitope is between RBD-4

and RBD-5 and overlaps with both of them. Therefore, unlike many class 2 antibodies having

RBD-4 epitope, D2 does not compete with ACE2 and its epitope does not include E484K/A

mutation that reduces or abolishes the neutralizing activity of many antibodies in the RBD-4

community[53,54,56]. At the same time, unlike many class 3 antibodies having RBD-5 epitope, D2

does not bind to the N343-linked glycans centered in RBD-5 epitope, which is highly conserved

among SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV-1 and many bat and pangolin betacoronaviruses[14,44,65].

Structural comparison showed that D2 is similar to a recently reported antibody COVOX-58 in

overall binding mode and epitope on the RBD[61] (Fig. S5). These two antibodies use the same

IGHV3-9 gene. Although the HCDR3 of COVOX-58 is longer than that of D2, their epitopes on

the RBD are very similar due to the dominant role of the conserved HCDR2 in RBD binding by

F61 and COVOX-58[61] (Fig. S5).

We also proved that F61 and D2 exhibited significant synergy both in vitro and in vivo.

Animal experiments showed that F61-D2 cocktail could provide protection against Delta and

Omicron BA.1. Even when mice were administrated at the minimum dose of 1.25 mg/kg body

weight, the viral loads in their lung were still negative or below the minimum detection limit.

These in vivo experiments implicate that F61-D2 cocktail could be a promising therapeutic

combination for combating SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern, including Omicron. We aligned

RBD-F61 or RBD-D2 binary complexes onto the spike trimers in the closed form or in the open

form with one or two RBDs adopting the up conformation. The results showed that F61 and D2

epitopes are only fully exposed in the up-RBD (Fig. S6), indicating that the down to up

conformational change is a prerequisite for the binding of F61 and D2. After binding to the RBM

face, one important mechanism of F61 neutralization is to directly block spike-ACE2 interaction.

The major neutralizing mechanism of D2 would not be ACE2 competition because its epitope

does not overlap with ACE2-binding site. The destabilization of spike trimer by representative

class 3 antibody S309 was suggested to be its mechanism of action[48], and D2 may utilize similar

working mechanism. Due to the distinct epitopes, when F61 and D2 are used as a cocktail, one

antibody binding to the RBD may help to induce and fix the RBD in the up conformation for

efficient binding of the other antibody. In this way, the F61-D2 cocktail would be more efficient

than individual F61 in fully binding the spike trimer and blocking all ACE2-binding sites, as

shown in the Omicron-RBD-F61-D2 ternary complex structure (Fig. 3C).

Figures and Figure legends

Fig. 1 Biochemical characterization of neutralizing antibodies F61 and D2. A, Binding

profiles of mAbs measured by ELISA. **B,** Binding kinetics of mAbs with Delta-RBD,

Omicron-RBD (BA.1 and BA.2) measured by SPR. **C,** Antibody and ACE2 competition for

binding to SARS-CoV-2 WT-RBD measured by FACS.

Fig. 2 Broadly neutralizing activities of F61 and F61-D2 cocktail against SARS-CoV-2 VOCs in vitro and in vivo. A, Neutralization of mAbs to SARS-CoV-2 pseudovirus in HEK293T-hACE2 cells. **B,** Neutralization of mAbs to SARS-CoV-2 authentic virus in Vero E6 cells. **C,** Prophylactic effects of F61, D2 or F61-D2 cocktail against SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.1 and Delta variants in K18-hACE2 mice. Body weights change (%), survival curves, and viral RNA loads in the lungs of K18-hACE2 mice treated with difference doses of antibodies (1.25, 2.5, 5, 20 mg/kg) F61, D2, or F61+D2 via intranasal route before infection with 100 TCID$_{50}$/mouse

Delta variant (**upper panel**) or 200 $TCID_{50}$/mouse Omicron BA.1 variant (**down panel**). As a

negative control, PBS was administered. Body weight curve values represent means ± standard

errors of the means (n = 4~6 mice/group). Significant differences between the antibody treatment

group and negative control are shown. All data points for viral load in the lungs are shown, along

with the medians. ns, $P > 0.05$; *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.0001$, as determined by One -way ANONA.

Limit of detection (LOD), 500 copies/mL.

Fig. 3 Overall cryo-EM structures of the spike-antibody complexes. A, Overall structure of

SARS-CoV-2 spike in complex with F61 Fab. The tilt angle of RBD is defined by the angle

between the long axis of RBD (red line) and its projection on the horizontal plane (black ellipse).

Angle between them is indicated. SARS-CoV-2 RBD is colored in cyan, other domains in grey,

heavy chain of F61 in magenta and light chain of F61 in violet. **B,** Overall structure of

SARS-CoV-2 spike in complex with D2 Fab. The tilt angle of RBD is defined by the angle

between the long axis of RBD (red line) and its projection on the horizontal plane (black ellipse).

Angle between them is indicated. SARS-CoV-2 RBD is colored in cyan, other domains in grey,

heavy chain of D2 in orange and light chain of D2 in light orange. **C,** Overall structures of

SARS-CoV-2 Omicron spike in complex with F61 Fab and D2 Fab. Color schemes are the same

as **A** and **B**. **D,** Structural superposition of RBD-fab and RBD-ACE2 (PDB ID: 6M0J) structures

and the footprints of F61, D2 and ACE2 on the RBD, and structure of Omicron-RBD-F61-D2 with

footprints of F61 and D2 on the RBD. ACE2 is colored in blue. The footprints of F61, D2 and

ACE2 are represented as magenta, orange and blue, respectively. Other color schemes are the

same as **A** and **B**.

Fig. 4 Structural basis for the potent and broad neutralization. A, Overall structure of
Omicron-RBD-BA.1 bound with F61 and CDRs involved in binding are labeled. On the RBD, the
footprints of F61 is represented by magenta surface and the footprint of REGN10933 (PDB ID:
6XDG) is circled by yellow line. Omicron-RBD-BA.1 residues recognized by F61 are listed and
mutated N417, N477, K478, R493 and H505 in BA.1 are colored red. Additional mutations sites
in BA.2 (D405 and R408), BA.3 (D405), BA.4 (D405, R408 and F486) and BA.5 (D405, R408
and F486) are colored blue. **B,** Overall structure of Omicron-RBD- BA.1 bound with D2 and
CDRs involved in binding are labeled. On the RBD, the footprint of D2 is represented by orange
surface and the footprints of P2B-2F6 (PDB ID: 7BWJ) and S309 (PDB ID: 6WPS) are circled by
purple and black lines, respectively. Omicron-RBD-BA.1 residues recognized by D2 are listed and
mutated S446 in BA.1 is colored red. Additional mutation site in BA.1.1 (R346) and only L452
mutation site in BA.4 and BA.5 are colored blue. **C,** The detailed interactions between residues
mutated in above Omicron sublineages and F61. F61 footprint is circled by a magenta line.

Interacting residues of Omicron-RBD are shown as cyan sticks and F61 are shown as magenta

sticks. Hydrogen bonds and salt bridges are represented by dashed lines and solid lines,

respectively. **D,** The detailed interactions between residues mutated in above Omicron sublineages

and D2. D2 footprint is circled by an orange line. Interacting residues of Omicron-RBD are shown

as cyan sticks and D2 are shown as orange sticks. Hydrogen bonds and salt bridges are

represented by dashed lines and solid lines, respectively.

Fig. S1. The binding curves between mAbs and SARS-CoV-2 Delta or Omicron RBD

measured by SPR. Black lines were the original curves, while colored lines were the fitted

curves.

A

2,905 Micrographs

Autopicking

823,768 Particles

2D Classification

688,428 Particles

3D Initial Model

3D Classification

4%   15%   3%   60%   18%

3D Auto-Refine

3.62 Å

Local Refinement

4.13 Å

B

5082 Micrographs

Autopicking

2,381,498 Particles

2D Classification

1,049,725 particles

Ab-Initio Reconstruction

Heterogeneous Refinement

8%　　　11%　　　40%　　　35%　　　3%　　　3%

Non-uniform Refinement

3.32 Å　　　3.25 Å

Local Refinement

3.88 Å

C

5620 Micrographs

↓ Autopicking

2,582,061 Particles

↓ 2D Classification

915,545 particles

↓ Ab-Initio Reconstruction

Heterogeneous Refinement

2%　2%　14%　9%　36%　37%

Non-uniform Refinement

3.04 Å

↓ Local Refinement

3.59 Å

414　**Fig. S2. Cryo-EM data processing workflow. A,** Processing workflow of the Spike-F61 binary

415　complex Cryo-EM data. **B,** Processing workflow of the Spike-D2 binary complex Cryo-EM data.

416　**C,** Processing workflow of the Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 ternary complex Cryo-EM data.

Fig. S3. Cryo-EM structure validations. A-C, Local resolution map (left panel), particle

orientation distribution (middle panel) and Gold-standard Fourier Shell Correlation (FSC) curves

of the final density maps (right panel) of the Spike-F61 complex (**A**), the Spike-D2 complex (**B**)

and the Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 complex (**C**). The final resolution of the Spike-F61 complex is

3.62 Å, the final resolution of the Spike-D2 complex is 3.25 Å, and the final resolution of the

Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 complex is 3.04 Å.

Fig. S4. The representative density maps of residues of the Spike-F61, Spike-D2 and Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 complexes. A, The representative density maps of the WT-RBD-F61 interface. The map is contoured at 2 RMS to show the density. **B,** The representative density maps of the WT-RBD-D2 interface. The map is contoured at 7.2 RMS to show the density. **C,** The representative density maps of the Omicron-RBD-F61 interface. The map is contoured at 5.6 RMS to show the density. **D,** The representative density maps of the Omicron-RBD-D2 interface. The map is contoured at 5.6 RMS to show the density. **E,** The representative density maps of the Omicron-RBD-F61 interacting residues. The map is contoured at 2.2 RMS to show the density. **F,** The representative density maps of the Omicron-RBD-D2 interacting residues. The map is contoured at 2.2 RMS to show the density.

Fig. S5. The comparison of RBD-D2 and RBD-COVOX-58 structures and VH sequences. A,

The structural comparison of the RBD-D2 and RBD-COVOX-58 (PDB ID: 7QNY) complexes.

These two structures are superimposed to show a similar binding mode and nearly identical

epitope. The structure and epitope of COVOX-58 is shown in marine. HCDR3s of D2 and

COVOX-58 are indicated with arrows. **B,** Sequence alignment of VH of D2 and COVOX-58.

Fig. S6. Alignment of the RBD-F61 or RBD-D2 structures onto the spike trimers in the

closed form or in the open form with one or two RBDs adopting the up conformation. A-C,

Align RBD-F61 or RBD-D2 complexes to spike trimer with three RBDs in the down

conformation (**A**, PDB ID: 6VXX), spike trimer with one RBD in the up conformation (**B**, PDB

ID: 6VSB) and spike trimer with two RBDs in the up conformation (**C**, PDB ID: 7A93).

 Table S1. Cryo-EM data collection, refinement and validation statistics

	SARS-CoV-2 spike+F61 fab	SARS-CoV-2 spike+D2 fab	SARS-CoV-2 Omicron spike+F61 Fab+D2 fab
	(EMDB-33307) (PDB-7XMX)	(EMDB-33308) (PDB-7XMZ)	(EMDB-33434) (PDB-7XST)
Data collection and processing			
Magnification	29000×	29000×	29000×
Voltage (kV)	300	300	300
Electron exposure (e–/Å^2)	50	50	50
Defocus range (μm)	-1.2 to -1.5	-1.2 to -1.5	-1.2 to -1.5
Pixel size (Å)	0.97	0.97	0.97
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1	C1
Initial particle images (no.)	~820,000	~2,380,000	~2,580,000
Final particle images (no.)	412558	790425	670525
Map resolution (Å)	3.62	3.25	3.04
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	0.143
Map resolution range (Å)	3.62-6	3.25-6	3.04-6
Refinement			
Initial model used (PDB code)	7KMS	7KMS	7WPF
Model resolution (Å)	3.62	3.25	3.04
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	0.143
Model resolution range (Å)	3.62	3.25	3.04
Map sharpening B factor (Å^2)	-148	-139	-127
Model composition			
Non-hydrogen atoms	29329	29706	33908
Protein residues	3737	3775	4414
Ligands	34	36	37
B factors (Å^2)			
Protein	102.96	70.88	47.73
Ligand	114.89	49.13	59.51
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.011	0.010	0.006
Bond angles (°)	1.286	1.372	1.315
Validation			
MolProbity score	2.35	2.25	1.86
Clashscore	8.48	9.78	8.86
Poor rotamers (%)	3.46	2.96	0.62
Ramachandran plot			
Favored (%)	92.16	94.46	94.32
Allowed (%)	6.80	5.08	5.61

| Disallowed (%) | 1.04 | 0.46 | 0.07 |

 Table S2. The interacting residues between Fabs and SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike

Complex	RBD	Heavy chain	Light chain
	R403		N31, N32
	D405		S94
	R408		S97
	T415	S56	
	N417	Y33, D101	
	D420	S56	
	Y421	Y33, Y52, P53, G54	
	Y453	F102	
	L455	Y33, Y99, F102	
	F456	Y33, Y99	
	R457	P53	
	K458	R31, P53	
Omicron Spike in complex with F61 fab	N460	G54	
	Y473	R31	
	Q474	R31	
	G476	I28	
	N477	E26, I28	
	K478	E26	
	F486	R97	
	N487	E26, I27, R97	
	Y489	R97	
	R493	Y99, F102	D51
	G502		N31
	G504		N31
	H505		N31
	E340	W53	
	V341	W53	
	A344	N54	
	T345	E103	
	R346	D52, N54, G56, V57, I58, E103, S104	
	F347	G56	
	A348	N54, S55, G56	
Omicron Spike in complex with D2 fab	Y351	I69	
	A352	S55	
	N354	W53, N54	
	K356	W53	
	S446	K65	
	N448	K65	
	Y449	Y60, G66, F68, I69	
	N450	V57, G59	

L452	I69
R466	S55, R72
I468	S71, R72, D73
T470	H82
N481	R16
G482	S17
F490	I69, R84

455   A distance cut-off of 4 Å was used.

Materials and Methods

Cells, Viruses and Proteins

Cell lines (HEK293T and Vero E6 cells) were initially acquired from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; USA). HEK293T-hACE2-cells were generated via the overexpression of the human ACE2 receptor in HEK293T cells and were used in the neutralization assays of pseudoviruses. Vero E6 cells were used in the neutralization assay of authentic viruses. SARS-CoV-2 WT and variants pseudoviruses were purchased from Beijing Tiantan Pharmaceutical Biotechnology Development Co., Ltd. All SARS-CoV-2 authentic virus were isolated from nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal samples from patients with COVID-19 and deposited by Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co., Ltd. Recombinant SARS-CoV-2 proteins, including WT-S1/RBD/NTD (Sino, 40591-V49H\40591-V08H\40592-V02H1), Delta (B.1.617.2) S1/RBD with a his tag (Sino, 40591-V08H23\40592-V08H90), Omicron (BA.1) RBD with a his tag (Sino, 40592-V08H121), Omicron (BA.2) RBD with a his tag (ACRO Biosystems, SPD-C522g) were used in the context of phage-display library panning, binding ELISA or SPR.

Binding ELISA

ELISA plates were coated with SARS-CoV-2 protein including WT-S1, WT-NTD, WT-RBD, Delta-S1, Delta-RBD and Omicron-RBD (Sino Biological, China) at 4 °C overnight. Following washing with PBST, serial dilutions of testing antibodies start at 5 μg/mL were added to each well and incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. After washing with PBST, horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated anti-human IgG Fc specific antibody (Sigma, USA) was added at the dilution of 1:2,000 and incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. The absorbance was detected at 450 nm. The data were analyzed using GraphPad Prism 8.0.

RBD-ACE2 Binding Inhibition Assayed by FACS

The block assay was assessed by FACS. HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with the ACE2 expression plasmid for 24 h. The mouse-Fc tag Fusion protein of SARS-CoV-2 RBD (RBD-mFC) (Jiangsu East-MabBiomedical Technology, China) at a concentration of 2 μg/mL was mixed with the mAbs or isotype IgG hepatitis b virus (HBV) at a molar ratio of 1:10 and

incubated at 4 °C for 1 h. Then mixtures were added to 2.5×10^5 HEK293T cells expressing ACE2

and incubated at 4 °C for another hour. Then cells were stained with anti-mouse IgG Taxes red

conjugated antibody and anti-human IgG FITC-conjugated antibody (Sigma, USA) for another 30

min then analyzed by FACS Aria II (BD, USA). All of these data were analyzed using Flow Jo.

Antibody Binding Kinetics Measured by SPR

The binding kinetics of mAbs to SARS-CoV-2 Delta-RBD or Omicron-RBD monomer were

analyzed using SPR (Biacore 8K; GE Healthcare). Specifically, recombinant protein A (Sino

Biological) was immobilized to a CM5 sensor chip. The mAbs (2 μg/mL) were captured by

recombinant protein A, and then serial dilutions of SARS-CoV-2 Delta/omicron-RBD with

highest concentration of 100 nM to 50 nM were running at a flow rate of 30 μL/min in PBST

buffer ($1 \times$ PBS and 0.05% [vol/vol] Tween-20). The resulting data were fitted to a 1:1 binding

model using the Biacore 8K Evaluation software (GE Healthcare). The equilibrium dissociation

constants (binding affinity, K_D) for each antibody were calculated using Biacore 8000 Evaluation

Software.

Virus Neutralization Assay

The neutralization of authentic SARS-CoV-2 reference strain (GenBank ID: MN996528.1) and

variants including Delta B.1.617.2 and Omicron BA.1, BA1.1 and BA.2 were measured by the

microneutralization test in the bio-safety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory. The assay was performed as

described by Manenti et al. with a few modifications[66]. Briefly, two-fold serially diluted antibodies

(50 μL) in minimal essential medium (Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA)

supplemented with two percent fetal bovine sera (Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA,

USA) were prepared (four replicates per dilution). In the next step, 50 μL of virus suspension of

100 tissue culture infective dose of previously titrated virus stock was added to each well of a 96

well plate (Greiner bio-one GmbH, Frickenhausen, Germany) and incubated at 37 °C for one hour.

100 μL of Vero E6 cells (1×10^5 cells/mL) was then added to the 96 well plates and incubated at

37 °C with 5% CO_2. After incubation for 72 h, cytopathic effect (CPE) was observed under a light

microscope (Nikon, ×100, Tokyo, Japan). The number of positive holes in each row was counted

and the neutralizing titer was calculated using the Reed-Muench method.

Neutralization activity of monoclonal antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 pseudoviruses were

assayed as previously described[67]. 50 μL serial dilutions of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) were

added into 96-well plates. After that, 50 μL SARS-CoV-2 WT or variants pseudoviruses were

incubated with mAbs at 37 ℃ for 1 h. HEK293-hACE2 cells (2.5×10^4 cells/100μL per well)

were then added into the mixture and incubated at 37 ℃ in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2

for 23 h to 25 h. Then the luciferase activity was measured after cell lysis. The percent of

neutralization was determined by comparing with the virus control. The half-maximal inhibitory

concentrations (IC50) were determined using 4-parameterlogistic regression (GraphPad Prism

version 8).

In vivo Protection Activity Evaluation

To evaluate the prophylactic effects of monoclonal antibodies, SARS-CoV-2 Delta and Omicron

strains were used in challenge experiments. Male K18-hACE2 mice (6–8 weeks old, purchased

from GemPharmatech Co., Ltd. Company.) were randomly distributed into groups (n = 3–6 mice

per group). 2 h after administration of monoclonal antibodies, mice were anesthetized with

isoflurane and then administered 50 μL SARS-CoV-2 via intranasal route in a challenge dose of

100 or 200 $TCID_{50}$/mouse respectively for Delta and Omicron strains. 50 μL of the antibodies at

different concentrations (1.25, 2.5, 5 and 20 mg/kg F61, D2 or F61-D2 (ratio of 1:1)) or vehicle

(PBS) was administered to each mouse via intranasal route at 2 h before challenge. Mice were

monitored every day for body weight changes and clinical signs of disease until all the mice in the

control group died. Mice that lost greater than or equal to 25% of their initial body weight were

humanely euthanized. At the end point of the experiment, all remaining animals in the monoclonal

antibody-administered group received an overdose of isoflurane and were humanely euthanized.

Lungs were collected from each mouse postmortem. Tissues were stored at −80 ℃ until further

analysis.

Tissue homogenates were generated using the TissueLyzer II (Qiagen, Gaithersburg, MD,

USA). Briefly, 1000 μL PBS was added to each sample (lungs, 0.01–0.04 g) along with Tungsten

carbide 3 mm beads (Qiagen). Samples were homogenized at a speed of 10 Hz for 10 min and

then centrifuged at 15,000 × *g* for 10 min. Supernatant was collected, aliquoted, and stored at −80 ℃ until further analysis.

Total RNA was extracted from tissues homogenates of lungs using an RNA/DNA Purification Kit (Magnetic Bead) (cat no. DA0623; Daan Gene Co., Ltd., China), and RT-qPCR was performed using a Detection Kit for 2019-nCoV (PCR-Fluorescence) (Fast) (cat no. DA0992; Daan Gene Co., Ltd.) following the manufacturer's instructions. Samples were processed in duplicate using the following cycling protocol: 50 ℃ for 2 min, 95 ℃ for 2 min, followed by 42 cycles at 95 ℃ for 5 s and 60 ℃ for 10 s. Viral RNA concentrations (copies/mL) in the lungs of mice were determined using RNA standards for SARS-CoV-2 (Bdsbiotech Co., Ltd., Guangzhou, China). The RT-qPCR results were read according to the Daan Kit criteria, the negative results in this manuscript description mean no signal detected (0 copy) or the CT values of both *N* and *ORF1ab* genes were over 38, corresponding viral RNA copies were under the limitation of the detection (LOD, $10^{2.7}$ copies/mL). All statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 8. All statistical tests were described in the relevant figure legends.

Ethics statement

This study was approved by the Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board of Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co., Ltd (protocol WIBP-AII442021005). The experiments conducted in strict accordance with the recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals established by the People's Republic of China.

Expression and purification of SARS-CoV-2 Spike ectodomain and SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike ectodomain

The cDNA encoding SARS-CoV-2 WT Spike (GenBank ID: QHD43416.1) was synthesized. Its codons were optimized for insect cell expression and there were six sites mutated to proline. These substitutions occurred at F817, A892, A899, A942, K986 and V987. Furthermore, 'GSAS' substitutions were introduced to residues 682-685, the S1/S2 furin cleavage site. The SARS-CoV-2 Spike ectodomain (1-1208) with a C-terminal Strep tag for purification and a foldon tag for trimerization was inserted into the pFastBac-Dual vector (Invitrogen) and was expressed

using Bac-to-Bac baculovirus system (Invitrogen). The constructed recombinant plasmid was

transformed into bacterial DH10Bac competent cells, then the extracted bacmid was transfected

into Sf9 insect cells using Cellfectin II Reagent (Invitrogen). 7 days later, the baculoviruses were

harvested. The low-titre viruses were then used for amplification to generate high-titre

baculoviruses, which were used to infect Hi5 insect cells at a density of 2×10^6 cells per ml for

protein expression. 60 hours after infection, the supernatant of cell medium containing

SARS-CoV-2 Spike was collected and concentrated with buffer changed into Tris buffer (50 mM

Tris, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl). The SARS-CoV-2 spike ectodomain was purified by Strep-Tactin

beads (IBA) and eluted with 10 mM Desthiobiotin in Tris buffer. Then the interest protein was

purified by gel-filtration chromatography using a Superose 6 gel filtration column (GE Healthcare)

pre-equilibrated with HBS buffer (10 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 150 mM NaCl). Fractions containing

the SARS-CoV-2 Spike ectodomain were collected and concentrated for subsequent electron

microscopy analysis.

The cDNA encoding SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike was synthesized (GenBank ID:

ULC25168.1) and cloned into the pCAG vector. There were six sites mutated to proline and these

substitutions occurred at F817, A892, A899, A942, K986 and V987. Furthermore, 'GSAS'

substitutions were introduced to the S1/S2 furin cleavage site. The SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike

ectodomain (1-1213) with a C-terminal Strep tag for purification and a foldon tag for trimerization

was expressed in FreeStyle 293-F cells (Invitrogen). The plasmid was transiently transfected at a

density of 2×10^6 cell per ml using polyethyleneimine (PEI) (Sigma) with a mass ratio of 1:4, and

the supernatant was collected 4 days later. The supernatant was concentrated with buffer changed

into Tris buffer (50 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl). The SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike

ectodomain was purified by Strep-Tactin beads (IBA) and eluted with 10 mM Desthiobiotin in

Tris buffer. Then the protein was purified by gel-filtration chromatography using a Superose 6 gel

filtration column (GE Healthcare) pre-equilibrated with HBS buffer (10 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 150

mM NaCl). Fractions containing the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike ectodomain were collected and

concentrated for subsequent electron microscopy analysis.

Preparation of Fab fragments

F61 and D2 Fab fragments were prepared by digesting F61 and D2 IgG with papain (Sigma),

respectively. And then Protein A beads (GenScript) were used to separate Fab fragments,

following by gel-filtration chromatography using a Superdex 200 column (GE Healthcare)

pre-equilibrated with HBS buffer.

Cryo-electron microscopy sample preparation, data collection and processing

The purified SARS-CoV-2 Spike ectodomain was mixed with F61 and D2 Fab with a molar ratio

of 1:3, respectively. The purified SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike ectodomain was mixed with F61

and D2 Fab with a molar ratio of 1:3:3. The final concentrations of the three mixtures were 0.82,

1.37 and 0.91 mg/mL in HBS buffer, respectively. Then, Spike trimer - Fab complexes (4 μl) were

applied to the pre-glow-discharged holey carbon grids (Quantifoil grid, Cu 300 mesh, R1.2/1.3).

The grids were then blotted for 2 seconds with filter paper in 100% relative humidity and 8 ℃ and

plunged into the liquid ethane to freeze samples using FEI Vitrobot system (FEI).

Cryo-EM data were collected using FEI Titan Krios (Thermo Fisher Scientific) electron

microscope operating at 300 kV with a Gatan K3 Summit direct electron detector (Gatan Inc.) at

Tsinghua University. 2905 movies were collected for Spike-F61 complex, 5082 movies were

collected for Spike-D2 complex and 5620 movies were collected for Omicron-Spike-F61-D2

complex using the SerialEM software[68]. These data were collected at a magnification of 29,000

with a pixel size of 0.97 Å and at a defocus range between 1.2-1.5 μm. Each movie had a total

accumulate exposure of 50 e$^-$/Å^2 fractionated in 32 frames of 66 ms exposure.

MotionCor2 v.1.2.6[69] was used for beam-induced motion correction of whole frames in each

movie, and GCTF v.1.18[70] was used to estimate the parameters of contrast transfer function (CTF)

for each micrograph. Particles were automatically picked using Gautomatch

(http://www.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/kzhang/). And ~820,000 particles for Spike-F61 complex,

~2,380,000 particles for Spike-D2 complex and ~2,580,000 particles for Omicron-Spike-F61-D2

complex were extracted using RELION 3.0.8[71], which were used for subsequent 2D classification.

Spike-F61 complex used RELION 3.0.8[71] for subsequent data processing. Spike-D2 complex and

Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 complex used cryoSPARC[72,73] for subsequent data processing. After one

or two rounds of 2D classification, the preferable classes were selected and these selected particles

were used to create 3D initial model and perform 3D classification. Finally, a total of 412,558

particles for Spike-F61 complex, 790,425 particles for Spike-D2 complex and 670,525 particles

for Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 complex were applied to 3D refinement to generate density map and

post-processing was performed. Based on the gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) cutoff

of 0.143 criterion, the resolutions were 3.62 Å for Spike-F61 complex, 3.25 Å for Spike-D2

complex and 3.04 Å for Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 complex. Local refinement was then performed

to further improve the density of the interaction interface of the spike and the Fabs. Local

resolution variations were estimated using ResMap 1.1.4[74]. Data collection and processing

statistics of Spike-F61 complex, Spike-D2 complex and Omicron-Spike-F61-D2 complex were

listed in Table S1.

Model building and refinement

The structure of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike in complex with ACE2 with 3-up RBDs (PDB: 7KMS)

was used to generate the initial model of Spike for Spike-F61 and Spike-D2 structures, the

structure of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Spike in complex with JMB2002 with 3-up RBDs (PDB:

7WPF) was used to generate the initial model of Omicron Spike for Omicron-Spike-F61-D2

structure, and the initial model of Fabs were predicted using AlphaFold2[75]. These atomic models

were fit into the final density maps using UCSF Chimera v.1.16[76]. Coot v.0.9.2[77] was subsequently

used for manual adjustment and correction according to the protein sequences, map densities,

Ramachandran plot, rotamers and bond geometry restraints. The Real Space Refinement of

PHENIX v.1.18.2[78] was also used to refine these structures. The quality of the final models was

evaluated by PHENIX v.1.18.2[78]. The validation statistics of these structural models were listed in

Table 1. Figures were generated using PyMOL 2.0.7[79], UCSF Chimera v.1.16[76], UCSF ChimeraX

v.1.13[80].

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Author contributions

X.W., X.Y., M.L. and K.D. conceived and designed the study. X.L. carried out protein purification,

cryo-EM sample preparation, data collection and processing, model building and refinement with

the help of L.Z. and J.Y.. X.L. analyzed the structural data and made related figures. S.S., Y.Q.,

F.G., J.L. Z.J. and T.H. performed the biochemical experiments and provided original data. Q.Y.,

L.S. and W.W. analyzed data. Y.P., Z.W., X.S. and J.L. contributed reagents, materials and analysis

tools. X.L., D.L., S.W. and L.Z. analyzed and discussed the data. X.L., Q.Y., L.S. and W.W. wrote

the manuscript, and X.W., X.Y., M.L. and K.D. edited the manuscript.

Data availability statements

The coordinates of SARS-CoV-2 Spike-F61, SARS-CoV-2 Spike-D2 and SARS-CoV-2 Omicron

Spike-F61-D2 have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) with the accession numbers

7XMX, 7XMZ and 7XST, respectively; their corresponding maps have been deposited in the

Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB) with the accession numbers EMD-33307, EMD-33308

and EMD-33434, respectively.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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