

Mark R. Davies, Liam McIntyre, Ankur Mutreja, Jake A. Lacey, John A. Lees, Rebecca J. Towers, Sebastián Duchêne, Pierre R. Smeesters, Hannah R. Frost, David J. Price, Matthew T. G. Holden, Sophia David, Philip M. Giffard, Kate A. Worthing, Anna C. Seale, James A. Berkley, Simon R. Harris, Tania Rivera-Hernandez, Olga Berking, Amanda J. Cork, Rosângela S. L. A. Torres, Trevor Lithgow, Richard A. Strugnell, Rene Bergmann, Patric Nitsche-Schmitz, Gusharan S. Chhatwal, Stephen D. Bentley, John D. Fraser, Nicole J. Moreland, Jonathan R. Carapetis, Andrew C. Steer, Julian Parkhill, Allan Saul, Deborah A. Williamson, Bart J. Currie, Steven Y. C. Tong, Gordon Dougan & Mark J. Walker

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In the version of this article initially published, in the subsection ‘GAS vaccine target variation’ in the Results, the text “The analyses revealed that 2,083 isolates carry the J8.0 allele of the M protein” should have read “The analyses revealed that 37% of the 2,083 isolates carry the J8.0 allele of the M protein.”