

# Prebunk

## MISINFORMATION

#ThinkBeforeSharing

### Is this misinformation? Check before sharing


Misinformation often uses several well-known techniques to mislead people:

- Claiming that one scientific article is proof. This alone should raise alarm because no single study ever offers proof – it offers evidence that needs to be interpreted in the light of previous research.
- Dismissing contrary evidence as untrustworthy or illogical. This is a hallmark of pseudoscientific argumentation.
- Claiming that there is a malevolent actor behind everything. This is extremely unlikely.
- Seeking to create negative emotions and an “us versus them” scenario. This distracts from the facts. No scientific article would do this.

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# Debunk (example)

## Fighting disinformation

**The benefits of the safe Covid-19 vaccines clearly outweigh their risks.**  
**Serious side effects of Covid-19 vaccines are extremely rare.**

One Covid-19 vaccine myth states that the vaccine is dangerous due to its serious side effects. The claim that the side effects of the vaccine are more harmful than the virus itself is wrong. On the contrary, the benefits clearly outweigh the risk of the vaccine.

The article uses several well-known techniques to mislead people:



- It claims that one scientific article is proof. This alone should raise alarm because no single study ever offers proof—it offers evidence that needs to be interpreted in the light of previous research. Existing research supports the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.
- It dismisses contrary evidence as untrustworthy or illogical. This is a hallmark of pseudoscientific argumentation.
- It claims that there is a malevolent actor behind everything. This is extremely unlikely. The safety of vaccines has been confirmed by multiple independent teams of scientists.
- It seeks to create negative emotions and an “us versus them” scenario. This distracts from the facts. No scientific article would do this.

Covid-19 vaccines are extremely safe and offer a path out of the pandemic.

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## EU Science Hub

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