

A Case of Sever Erythema Multiforme Following Covid-19 Vaccination: A Severe Cutaneous Reaction!

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Vaccination against COVID-19 has brought hope for controlling this new pandemic. Several vaccines with different mechanisms of action have been developed. Adverse events following vaccination have been closely monitored, particularly cutaneous manifestations. We report a case of major erythema multiforme following administration of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer). A 42-year-old patient with no particular medical history, not reporting recurrent herpes labialis, who presented with fever of 39°C and oral ulceration three days after receiving their third dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Progression over two weeks was marked by worsening oral involvement with feeding difficulties and the appearance of new lesions on the extremities. The patient with a fever, was generally unwell. Dermatological examination revealed lesions in targetoid form with bullous rings on the extremities and thighs, erosions post-bullae, pseudo-targetoid lesions on the scrotum, hypersalivation with endo-buccal ulcers, erosive cheilitis, and bilateral conjunctivitis. No particular pleuropulmonary signs or palpable adenopathy were noted. The blood count revealed: Neutrophilic leukocytosis, elevated CRP, HIV serology, IgM anti-Mycoplasma and COVID PCR were negative. A biopsy with direct immunofluorescence confirmed the diagnosis.

The patient received local care, IV hydration, acyclovir 10mg/kg/day, analgesics, antipyretics, Vitamin C and topical corticosteroids, with significant improvement after 10 days.

Three main types of COVID-19 vaccines exist: mRNA vaccines such as Pfizer-BioNTech, adenovirus vector vaccines, and whole inactivated virus vaccines. Cutaneous side effects have been reported, particularly local reactions at the injection site. Other adverse cutaneous effects observed include pruritus, urticaria, angioedema, DRESS syndrome, PEAG or maculopapular exanthem, vasculitis, vulgar psoriasis, morbilliform eruption, diffuse cutaneous erythema, fixed pigmented erythema, chilblains, livedo racemosa, and Shulman's fasciitis [1, 2]. Some cases of post-vaccination erythema multiforme have also been reported following Moderna vaccine inoculation, also an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The European Medicines Agency has indeed concluded a link between the Moderna vaccine and the risk of erythema multiforme [3]. Practitioners should therefore be aware of these cutaneous manifestations that may call into question the continuation of vaccination.

Références

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