

AZD-1222/tozinameran

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Various toxicities: 3 case reports

A case report described 3 women aged 29–76 years, who developed recurrence of alopecia areata, mild fever, arthralgia or moderate pain at the injection site following first dose of AZD-1222 or tozinameran for immunisation against COVID-19 [*routes and dosages not stated; not all exact duration of treatments to reaction onsets and outcomes stated*].

Case 1 (a 76-year-old woman): the woman with a history of alopecia areata was admitted for acute hair loss. She had a single episode of ophiasis in 2019 treated with unspecified topical and systemic steroids achieving total hair regrowth in February 2020. Since then, she was stable. On 25 March 2021, she received her first dose of tozinameran [BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine; manufactured by Pfizer–BioNTech]. However, after 2 weeks, she developed a rapid and progressive hair loss. Upon admission, widespread hair loss was noted on the whole scalp. Also, the pull test was diffusely positive and trichoscopy demonstrated many black dots and broken hairs. Based on these findings and considering history of alopecia areata, she was diagnosed with recurrence of alopecia areata secondary to tozinameran. The woman was treated with unspecified topical steroids and was on clinical follow-up.

Case 2 (a 59-year-old woman): the woman had autoimmune thyroiditis and previous two mild episodes of patchy alopecia areata, successfully treated with unspecified topical steroids with complete hair regrowth. Since then, she had been stable for 30 years. She received her first dose of AZD-1222 [AZD1222/ChAdOx1 vaccine; manufactured by Oxford–AstraZeneca]. However, a day after vaccination, she developed mild fever and arthralgia which resolved within 24 hours following treatment with paracetamol. After 3 weeks of vaccination, she developed a single patch of alopecia on the scalp. A trichological examination demonstrated an oval bald patch localised at the vertex. Also, pull test was positive at the peripheral region. Trichoscopy revealed numerous black dots and broken hairs. Based on these findings and personal history of alopecia areata, she was diagnosed with recurrence of alopecia areata. The woman was treated with unspecified topical steroids and vitamin-D with 1 month clinical follow-up. Her mild fever, arthralgia and recurrence of alopecia areata were attributed to AZD-1222.

Case 3 (a 29-year-old woman): the woman had an episode of patchy alopecia areata 4 years ago treated with unspecified topical and systemic steroids with complete hair regrowth and without further relapses. She received her first dose of AZD-1222 [AZD1222/ChAdOx1 vaccine; manufactured by Oxford–AstraZeneca] on 04 March 2021. Immediately after the vaccine, she developed moderate pain at the injection site. After 2 weeks, she experienced a sudden and progressive hair loss. Generalised hair loss was noted on the scalp alongside partial loss of eyebrows and eyelashes. Trichoscopy demonstrated multiple black dots and broken hairs. These findings confirmed the diagnosis of recurrence of acute alopecia areata. She was treated with unspecified topical steroids and was scheduled for the 4 weeks follow-up. Her moderate pain at the injection site and recurrence of acute alopecia areata were attributed to AZD-1222.

Rossi A, et al. Recurrence of alopecia areata after covid-19 vaccination: A report of three cases in Italy. *Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology* 20: 3753-3757, No. 12, Dec 2021.

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