

COVID-19 vaccines safe in people living with HIV

COVID-19 vaccination appears to be safe in people living with HIV (PLWH), according to findings of a Spanish study published in *AIDS*.

Adverse reactions were investigated 4 weeks after the second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine [mRNA-1273] (90%) or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine [BNT162b2; tozinameran] (10%) in 100 PLWH who were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and were followed up at the University Hospital of A Coruña, Spain.

All patients seroconverted after vaccination (≥ 33.8 BAU*/mL).

In total, 56 patients experienced mild or moderate adverse reactions; no severe adverse reactions were reported. Patients experienced injection site reactions only (n=7), systemic symptoms only (15) or both local and systemic symptoms (34). Adverse systemic events included musculoskeletal pain (n=35), headache (24), chills/fever (19) and fatigue (16). No increase in viral load or decrease in CD4 cell counts was observed.

"In conclusion, two dose vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 with mRNA-based vaccines in PLWH on affective ART is safe and generates early protective spike-specific IgG AB levels," concluded the investigators.

* binding antibody (AB) units