

Ipilimumab/nivolumab/tozinameran

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Severe necrotizing myopathy: case report

A 41-year-old man developed severe necrotizing myopathy during treatment with ipilimumab and nivolumab for melanoma; and following administration of COVID-19 vaccination with tozinameran [*routes not stated; not all dosages stated*].

The man was diagnosed with stage IIIB melanoma in November 2015. Thereafter, he was enrolled in the clinical trial and received pembrolizumab for a year. In January 2021, he was diagnosed with melanoma metastasis. Therefore, he started receiving treatment with nivolumab 1 mg/kg along with ipilimumab 3 mg/kg every 3 weeks. He received his first infusion dose of nivolumab on 25 February 2021 and ipilimumab on 19 March 2021. Then, he received COVID-19 vaccination with tozinameran [BTN162b2, Pfizer-BioNTech]. Following three days of the second infusion of ipilimumab and nivolumab, he developed severe muscle pain, weakness of the limbs, bulbar symptoms and dyspnea; and required hospitalisation. His physical examination showed the asymmetric and severe weakness of the quadriceps, psoas, deltoids, biceps and neck flexor muscles. Also, his blood analysis revealed increased creatine phosphokinase (12647 IU/L). Subsequently, his MRI demonstrates myositis. Then, he underwent electromyography, which showed severe myogenic syndrome in the four limbs. Also, his muscle biopsy showed necrotizing myopathy. Therefore, he was diagnosed with grade 4 necrotizing myopathy.

Therefore, the man's treatment with ipilimumab and nivolumab was stopped and started receiving treatment with unspecified glucocorticoids for 3 days. Then, he received prednisone. Subsequently, his condition showed improvement. Other laboratory findings normalised following 2 months. On follow up after 6 months, he completely recovered.

Blaise M, et al. Severe necrotizing myopathy after COVID-19 vaccine with BNT162b2 and regimen with ipilimumab plus nivolumab in a patient with advanced melanoma. *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology* 36: No. 2, Feb 2022. Available from: URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jdv.17760>

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