Reactions 1888, p329 - 8 Jan 2022

Tozinameran

Multiple sclerosis manifesting in the form of cervical myelitis: case report

A 40-year-old woman developed multiple sclerosis (MS) manifesting in the form of cervical myelitis following vaccination with tozinameran against COVID-19.

The woman, who had received the second dose of tozinameran [BNT162b2; Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine 2 weeks previously [route and dosage not stated], presented to hospital after developing numbness and sensory disturbance in the right hand, with gradual spread to the right shoulder over a week. After immunisation, she had developed transient high-grade fever. Medical history included treatment with unspecified steroids for left peripheral facial nerve palsy, with a full recovery 4 years previously. She was hospitalised. Neurological exam showed sensory disturbance in the dermatome of the right cervical fifth to eighth area. An MRI of the brain showed several periventricular or subcortical T2 hyperintense white matter lesions, without abnormal gadolinium enhancement, and an MRI of the cervical spine revealed a T2 hyperintense right spinal cord lesion along with gadolinium enhancement at the level of C5/C6. CSF studies showed slightly elevated leukocytes. The oligoclonal IgG band was found to be positive. Multiple tests were performed, and various differential diagnoses, including COVID-19 infection, were excluded. Subsequently, she was diagnosed with MS, which manifested in the form of cervical myelitis, secondary to vaccination with tozinameran [time to reaction onset not stated].

Therefore, the woman was treated with methylprednisolone, which resulted in recovery.

Fujimori J, et al. Initial clinical manifestation of multiple sclerosis after immunization with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Journal of Neuroimmunology 361: 1-3, 15 Dec 2021. Available from: URL: http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneuroim.2021.577755