

Tozinameran

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Reactivation of varicella zoster virus: case report

A 71-year-old woman developed reactivation of varicella zoster virus (VZV) following administration of tozinameran for immunisation against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [*route and dosage not stated*].

The woman was admitted to the hospital with painful blisters involving left arm for 2 days. On admission, rapid antigen test for COVID-19 was negative. Before 5 days of symptoms onset, she received tozinameran [BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine] for immunisation against COVID-19. She had a childhood history of chickenpox and she had not been vaccinated for VZV before. She had history of diabetes and hypertension for 30 years with good control. She was treated with metformin and sitagliptin for diabetes. She received losartan for hypertension. She was diagnosed with moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma of rectum for 18 months without evidence of distant metastasis. She received local radiotherapy, 38 days before the onset of symptoms. She was waiting of anterior resection. She was deemed to be unfit for neoadjuvant chemotherapy because of compromised cardiac functions as a result of past myocardial infarction with dual vessel disease. At the time of admission (current presentation), she was fever free. Examination showed pustular vesicles of differing age in postero-lateral aspects of left arm spreading to the anterior forearm in a multi dermatomal pattern involving C4, C5, C6 and T1 dermatomes sparing mammary and facial dermatomes. Her vitals were stable and systemic manifestations of varicella zoster were absent. On basis of clinical findings, she was diagnosed with VZV. Blister fluid for viral PCR was positive for VZV. Reactivation of VZV was attributed to tozinameran.

The woman was treated with aciclovir, unspecified antibiotics, framycetin [Soframycin] and potassium permanganate compression dressings after dermatology opinion. She made an uneventful recovery. Thereafter, she was discharged from the hospital to continue oral medication at home. After 1 month of recovery, investigations revealed normal levels of T-cell subsets on flow cytometry and normal immunoglobulin. Subsequent dose of the tozinameran vaccine was administered, 8 weeks after the first dose. This did not result in any adverse events.

Munasinghe BM, et al. Reactivation of varicella-zoster virus following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination in a patient with moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma of rectum: A case report. SAGE Open Medical Case Reports 10: Jan-Dec 2022. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1177/2050313X221077737> 803656490