

Multiple drugs

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Lack of efficacy and adult-onset Still's disease flare: case report

A woman in her 40's exhibited lack of efficacy with prednisolone, methotrexate and azathioprine for adult-onset Still's disease (AOSD). Further, at the age of 49 years, she developed AOSD flare after receiving tozinameran COVID-19 vaccine [routes not stated; not all dosages stated].

The woman, who was diagnosed with AOSD, had been receiving high levels of prednisolone 60 mg/day, methotrexate 15 mg/week, azathioprine 100 mg/day and ciclosporin from April 2014. She was admitted after experiencing five flare-ups a year with arthritis, fever and evanescent skin rash, despite receiving the aggressive therapy. She was found to be refractory to prednisolone, methotrexate and azathioprine (lack of efficacy) therefore, she started receiving tocilizumab and azathioprine was discontinued in May 2015. She received prednisolone 7.5–60mg between April 2014 and October 2021. She received tocilizumab for 76 months, without any flares, until she presented to emergency department with a 16-day history of mild fever, myalgia and nausea. She developed these symptoms 4 days after receiving the first dose of tozinameran [BNT162b2] COVID-19 vaccine (27 August 2021). One week prior the presentation, she received tocilizumab and prednisolone was adjusted to a moderate dose of 30 mg/day however, the symptoms persisted. On admission, her vitals were normal. Laboratory tests revealed low haemoglobin and elevated levels of CRP, LDH and ferritin. Based on the findings, the symptoms were attributed to AOSD flare following the vaccination. Despite receiving increased steroids, high-spiking quotidian fever, low haemoglobin and worsened ferritin elevation were noted.

The woman was then treated with methylprednisolone. After the treatment, her haemoglobin level and other laboratory findings recovered. Prednisolone dose was maintained at 30 mg/day for the following 2 weeks. Further, she received tocilizumab and prednisolone dose was decreased to 20 mg/day. She was maintained on tocilizumab along with methotrexate 10 mg/week with gradual prednisolone dose reduction. It was stated that the AOSD flare was secondary to the tozinameran COVID-19 vaccine.

Kim JW, et al. Flare of adult-onset Still's disease following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination: a case report and review of literature. [Review]. *Clinical Rheumatology* 41: 1583-1589, No. 5, May 2022. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10067-022-06106-1>

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