

AZD-1222

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New relapse of multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica: 9 case reports

In a study of 9 patients (three men and six women) 22–62 years were described, of whom eight patients developed new relapse of multiple sclerosis (MS) while one patient developed new relapse of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder following administration of first dose of AZD-1222 vaccination for COVID-19 [*dosages and routes not stated*].

The patients had a history of relapse-remitting multiple sclerosis (6 patients), secondary progressive MS (1 patient), primary progressive MS (1 patient) or neuro myelitis optica spectrum disorders (1 patient). Following administration of the first dose of AZD-1222 vaccination for COVID-19, the patient experienced adverse events like headache, myalgia, fever, fatigue, chills or pain on the site of injection. Around 7 to 25 days following the administration of vaccine, all the patients presented with a new relapse of multiple sclerosis (8 patients) and neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (1 patient) secondary to AZD-1222 vaccination. Clinical manifestation of relapse included facial paralysis, hemiparesis, ataxia, loss of vision and papillitis in the left eye, worsening of disability, could not walk, severe weakness of both legs, right hemiparesis, rapidly progressive weakness in both arms, incoordination of right arm and hand hypoesthesia in both arms, motor and sensitive deficits in right leg and foot or loss of vision in the left eye. MRI showed Non-Gd tumefactive lesion, lesions in the left eye, high lesion load, new lesions, lesions in spinal cord, lesions in brainstem, lesions in cervical cord, new lesions or lesions in left optic nerve.

The patients were treated with methylprednisolone, immune-globulin [Immunoglobulin] or prednisone. Five patients did not recover, one patient was recovering while three patients recovered in 3 weeks.

Fragoso YD, et al. New relapse of multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica as a potential adverse event of AstraZeneca AZD1222 vaccination for COVID-19. *Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders* 57: 103321, Jan 2022. Available from: URL: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/725776/description#description

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