

Nephrotic Syndrome Following ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 Vaccine Against SARS-CoV-2



To the Editor: There have been multiple reports of nephrotic syndrome following the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus disease 2019 vaccine.¹⁻³ We report a similar case of nephrotic syndrome which developed shortly after receiving ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 (Chimpanzee Adenovirus vectored Oxford university - novel CoronaVirus 2019 vaccine) vaccine against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca (Covishield, Serum Institute of India, Pune, India). It is a viral vector vaccine developed using the modified chimpanzee adenovirus ChAdOx1 as a vector.

A 19-year-old girl presented with generalized body swelling, which started 8 days after the first dose of the Covishield coronavirus disease 2019 vaccine. Clinical examination was unremarkable except for generalized edema. Blood tests revealed serum creatinine, 1.09 mg/dl; albumin, 2.15 g/dl; and total cholesterol, 274 mg/dl; and a urine protein creatinine ratio of 3.18 g/g. Additional evaluation for secondary causes was negative. Kidney biopsy results revealed 11 glomeruli with normal capillary walls with diffuse and global mesangial cell proliferation on light microscopy (Figure 1). The glomerular walls did not stain for immunoglobulins or complement, but there was mesangial trapping of immunoglobulin M (IgM[1+]) and C3(1+). A diagnosis of a mesangial proliferative variant of minimal change disease was made. She responded to oral prednisolone 1 mg/kg body weight with clinical and biochemical remission.

To the best of our knowledge, this is a first ever report of nephrotic syndrome after the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine. The temporal profile of nephrotic syndrome after the coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination and absence of any other precipitating factors points toward the vaccine as a possible trigger. It is uncertain if she should be advised to take the second dose and when it can be safely taken.

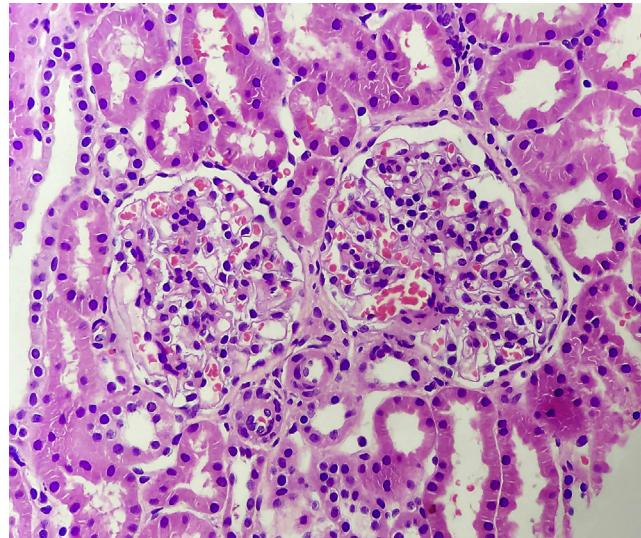


Figure 1. Glomerulus revealing mild to moderate increase in the mesangial cellularity globally (hematoxylin and eosin stain, original magnification $\times 40$).

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Y.J. Anupama¹, Ravi G.N. Patel¹ and Mahesha Vankalakunti²

¹Department of Nephrology, Nanjappa Hospital, Shivamogga, India and ²Department of Pathology, Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru, India

Correspondence: Y.J. Anupama, Nanjappa Hospital, No.660, Kuvempu Road , Shivamogga, Karnataka, India 577201. E-mail: anupamay@gmail.com

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