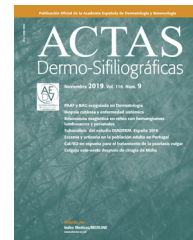
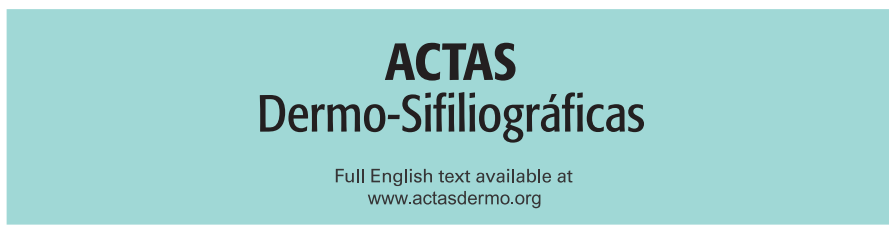




Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.



## CASE AND RESEARCH LETTER

### [Translated article] Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus and COVID-19: A Post-COVID-19 Complication or a Coincidence?☆

#### Herpes zoster oftálmico y COVID-19: ¿Complicación post-COVID-19 o coincidencia?

To the Editor,

Following the initial waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, an increasing number of case reports and series from around the world reported a potential association between herpes zoster and COVID-19.<sup>1,2</sup> We present a new case of herpes zoster ophthalmicus (HZO) associated with this disease. The case also highlights the increased risk of HZO among both immunocompromised and immunocompetent young patients, which is a cause for concern.

A 25-year-old woman presented with a 2-day history of painful papulovesicular skin lesions against an erythematous background. The affected skin was particularly painful to the touch, with an “electric-like” pain accompanied by paresthesia. The patient had experienced some relief from over-the-counter analgesics.

Her medical history was unremarkable except for a recent case of moderate to severe COVID-19, confirmed by spiral computed tomography (CT) of the chest, which showed irregular areas of ground glass opacity in both lungs, compatible with COVID-19 pneumonia. The patient denied similar skin lesions in the past. Her general state of health was good before the onset of symptoms.

Vital signs were normal during the physical examination. Examination of facial skin showed vesicular papulopustular lesions on the left side of the face, not crossing the midline (Fig. 1). A fluorescein eye stain test showed no signs of



**Figure 1** Vesicular papulopustular skin lesions on the left side of the face, without crossing the midline.

corneal involvement. No lesions were observed on the nose or ears, including the external acoustic meatus. The neurologic examination was normal. The patient was diagnosed with HZO and prescribed antiviral therapy and local care for 10 days, which led to a significant improvement in lesions.

Herpes zoster is an opportunistic reactivation of the varicella zoster virus that occurs in patients with a weakened immune system. Older age is one of the main risk factors, particularly in immunocompetent patients.<sup>3,4</sup>

Our patient was a young woman with no clear or classic risk factors for HZO or associated conditions, except for a moderate to severe COVID-19 infection several weeks earlier.

Although herpes zoster in a patient with a history of COVID-19 may be a coincidence in certain cases, it has been hypothesized that SARS-CoV 2 infection might be linked to reactivation of herpes zoster in immunocompetent patients

DOI of original article:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2021.10.001>

☆ Please cite this article as: Pourazizi M, Dehghani S, Abtahi-Naeini B. Herpes zoster oftálmico y COVID-19: ¿Complicación post-COVID-19 o coincidencia? Actas Dermosifiliogr. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2021.10.001>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2022.10.026>

0001-7310/© 2021 AEDV. Published by Elsevier España, S.L.U. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Please cite this article as: M. Pourazizi, S. Dehghani and B. Abtahi-Naeini, [Translated article] Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus and COVID-19: A Post-COVID-19 Complication or a Coincidence? ACTAS Dermo-Sifiliográficas, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2022.10.026>

with a history of moderate to severe COVID-19. Potential mechanisms underlying the pathophysiology of herpes zoster reactivation after acute COVID-19 include T cell immune dysfunction,<sup>2</sup> immunological aberrations, and immune dysregulation due to COVID-19.<sup>1</sup>

This case report highlights the possibility of concurrent herpes reactivation and SARS-CoV-2 infection. More clinical and epidemiological studies are needed to shed light on this link.

## Funding

No funding was received for this study.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

## References

1. Diez-Domingo J, Parikh R, Bhavsar AB, Cisneros E, McCormick N, Lecrenier N. Can COVID-19 increase the risk of herpes zoster? A narrative review. *Dermatol Ther.* 2021;1–8.
2. Desai HD, Sharma K, Patoliya JV, Ahadov E, Patel NN. A rare case of varicella-zoster virus reactivation following recovery from COVID-19. *Cureus.* 2021;13:e12423.
3. Cohen JI. Clinical practice: herpes zoster. *N Engl J Med.* 2013;369:255–63.
4. Petrun B, Williams V, Brice S. Disseminated varicella-zoster virus in an immunocompetent adult. *Dermatol Online J.* 2015;21.

M. Pourazizi<sup>a</sup>, S. Dehghani<sup>b</sup>, B. Abtahi-Naeini<sup>c,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Isfahan Eye Research Center, Department of Ophthalmology, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran*

<sup>b</sup> *School of Medicine, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran*

<sup>c</sup> *Pediatric Dermatology Division of Department of Pediatrics, Imam Hossein Children's Hospital, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran*

<sup>d</sup> *Skin Diseases and Leishmaniasis Research Center, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran*

\* Corresponding author.

*E-mail address:* [bahareh.abtahi@yahoo.com](mailto:bahareh.abtahi@yahoo.com)  
(B. Abtahi-Naeini)