



2021 Annual Spring Virtual Meeting | Abstract Submission

Novel Cutaneous Rash after Second Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

Giovanni Torres, MS-2, Brian Johnson, MD, Abby Van Voorhees, MD

Eastern Virginia Medical School

A 37-year-old female presented to clinic with a pruritic, urticarial rash that appeared several hours after receiving her second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Interestingly, she endorsed a localized rash on her chest 20 days after the first dose of the vaccine that resolved on its own (Figure 1). On examination, she had blanching, erythematous macules, patches, and thin plaques on her face, neck, upper chest, and legs (Figures 2A-D). The rash on her chest presented in the same distribution as her initial rash after the first dose of the vaccine. Initial treatment in the emergency room with intramuscular Hydroxyzine, Benadryl, Pepcid, and Medrol dose pack provided no improvement. She was subsequently started on a 6-day tapering regimen of 80mg Prednisone and an antihistamine regimen of 20mg Cetirizine twice daily plus 75mg Hydroxyzine at night as needed. Her rash persisted for over a week.

Using the joint FDA and CDC Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), we discovered one case with similar findings, but due to the limited information provided, we could not make a sufficient comparison.¹ Given the novel nature of the vaccine, current literature on cutaneous adverse events is limited and should be reported.²

Lastly, a discussion about the risks versus benefits of continuing systemic steroids to treat this novel cutaneous rash was had due to the theoretical risk of dampening her immune response to the vaccine and potentially decreasing the vaccine's long-term efficacy, however, there is no current literature that supports or refutes this theory.

Figures:





Figure 2C: Right posterior leg.



Figure 2D: Left anterior thigh.

References:

1. Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). (2021, February 02). Retrieved February 20, 2021, from <https://vaers.hhs.gov/data.html> VAERS ID 0993159-1
2. US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Fact sheet for healthcare providers administering vaccine: Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>. Published December 11, 2020. Accessed February 20, 2021.