Monitoring the clinical outcome of delayed urticaria after Spikevax® vaccine booster

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Introduction

Similar to other vaccines, mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been implicated in the occurrence of various skin reactions, including urticarial reactions. Most of the reports in association with the primary vaccinationsn described acute-onset urticaria and, more rarely, a delayed-onset urticarial reactions. However, a significant numer of cases of urticarial reactions with a delayed onset have been observed after the booster vaccination campaign, particularly after Spikevax® vaccine. These reactions occurred after a mean latency time of 10 days after immunization, and appeared in most cases to be non-self-limiting, with a prolonged clinical course (more than 6 weeks).

Aim

The aim was to describe a case series of delayed urticaria following booster vaccination with Spikevax® (mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) spontaneously reported by healthcare professionals to the Regional Pharmacovigilance Centre of Southern Switzerland, in order to characterize the clinical course and duration of these reactions.

Methods

Data on the clinical course of 76 cases of delayed urticarial reactions following booster vaccination with Spikevax® reported spontaneously between 01.12.2021 and 24.06.2022 were obtained by a questionnaire sent to healthcare professionals that initially reported the reactions.

Results

1. Characteristics of patients with delayed urticarial reactions following booster vaccination with Spikevax®

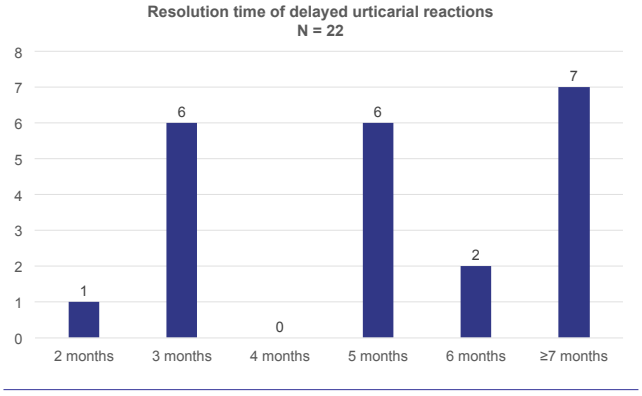
Characteristics of N=76 patients	
Sex, n (%)	
Female	45 (59.2)
Male	31 (40.8)
Age (years)	
Median [IQR]	43 [34-48.5]

Abbreviations: IQR interquartile range.

2. Clinical course of delayed urticarial reactions following booster vaccination with Spikevax®

Outcome of urticaria ≥ 6 months after onset in N=76 patients n (%)	
Not recovered/not resolved	20 (26.3)
Recovered/resolved	22 (29.0)
Recovering/resolving	14 (18.4)
Unknown	20 (26.3)

3. Time to resolution of delayed urticarial reactions following booster vaccination with Spikevax®



Limitations of a spontaneous reporting system

- The temporal relationship between the booster vaccination with Spikevax® vaccine and the onset of delayed urticarial in this case series was suggestive but does not prove causality.
- Lack of detailed information on medical history, clinical course and treatment (which could have influenced the timing of resolution).

Conclusions

- The findings confirm the results of other case series in which delayed urticaria after COVID-19 mRNA vaccine usually lasted for several months and tend to become chronic (lasted for more than >6 weeks).
- These data contribute to the knowledge about the clinical course of cutaneous adverse reactions of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines.

References

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