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(071) JUST ANOTHER VACCINE – VAERS ANALYSIS COMPARES GENITOURINARY SYMPTOMS OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE AND OTHER COMMONLY ADMINISTERED VACCINES

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Introduction: There has been a concern in mainstream media about adverse effects of the COVID-19 vaccine including those on the genitourinary system.
Objective: Our objective was to evaluate the rate of patient-reported genitourinary symptoms after the COVID-19 vaccine. We hypothesized rates of genitourinary side effects was not different compared to other commonly used vaccines.
Methods: We queried the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) database for all genitourinary symptoms reported after receiving the COVID-19, influenza, shingles, and pneumonia vaccines. Symptoms were placed into one of five categories – lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS), sexual side effects, infectious, hematuria, or other disorders of the penis/scrotum/testis. Rates of genitourinary symptoms were compared between the vaccines. Data collection occurred 7-8/2022.
Results: Out of 13,568,650 symptoms reported after the COVID-19 vaccine, 9,022 were genitourinary (0.066%). Genitourinary symptoms included LUTS (39.71%), infectious (32.38%), hematuria (17.42%), disorders of the penis/scrotum/testis (5.99%), and sexual side effects (4.50%). Rates of genitourinary symptoms after the COVID-19 vaccine was significantly lower than the influenza (0.128%) (Table 1) but higher than the shingles (0.030%) and pneumonia (0.037%)

vaccines (Table 2). There was no significant differences in the penis/scrotum/testis symptoms category. Rates of sexual side effects were overall low after the COVID vaccine (0.0030%) and not significantly different to rates of sexual side effects after the influenza vaccine (0.0036%) but were higher than after the pneumonia and shingles vaccines.

Conclusions: Genitourinary symptoms from the COVID-19 vaccine are rare. The rate of side effects is lower than the influenza vaccine, and while sexual and overall side effects are higher than the pneumonia and shingles vaccines, these rates are overall very low and unlikely to be clinically significant.

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Table 1: Side Effect Rate Comparison – Covid-19 vs. Influenza for patients 18 years or older

	COVID-19 (≥ 18-years-old) (n = 13,568,650)	Influenza (≥ 18-years-old) (n = 523,690)	
	Adverse Event Rate	Adverse Event Rate	P
Overall	9022 (0.066%)	669 (0.128%)	**<0.001**
Hematuria	1572 (0.012%)	75 (0.014%)	0.083
LUTS	3583 (0.028%)	400 (0.076%)	**<0.001**
Infection	2921 (0.022%)	155 (0.030%)	**<0.001**
Penis/Testes/Scrotum	540 (0.0040%)	20 (0.0038%)	0.945
Sexual	406 (0.0030%)	19 (0.0036%)	0.489

Table 2: Side Effect Rate Comparisons – Covid-19 vs. PNA & Shingles

	Covid-19 (≥ 60-years-old) Rates (n = 4,940,878)	PNA (≥ 65-years-old) (n = 443,164)		Shingles (≥ 50-years-old) (n = 847,882)	
		Rate	P	Rate	P
Overall	4251 (0.086%)	133 (0.030%)	**<0.001**	311 (0.037%)	**<0.001**
Hematuria	676 (0.080%)	9 (0.0020%)	**<0.001**	30 (0.0035%)	**<0.001**
LUTS	1655 (0.033%)	81 (0.018 %)	**<0.001**	211 (0.025 %)	**<0.001**
Infection	1721 (0.035%)	36 (0.0081%)	**<0.001**	55 (0.0065%)	**<0.001**
Penis/ Testes/Scrotum	128 (0.0026%)	6 (0.0014%)	0.154	13 (0.0015%)	0.073
Sexual	71 (0.0014%)	1 (0.0002%)	**0.030**	2 (0.0002%)	**0.001**