

Influenza A virus vaccine H1N1

S

Various toxicities leading to multiple organ failure?: case report

A 38-year-old pregnant woman developed various toxicities, including adult respiratory distress syndrome and thrombocytopenia, that led to multiple organ failure after vaccination with influenza A virus vaccine H1N1.

The day after receiving the monovalent H1N1 vaccine [dosage and route not stated], the woman developed shortness of breath and muscle pain. By day 5 postvaccination, she had respiratory insufficiency and was admitted to ICU. Upon arrival, she had hypotension, tachycardia and tachypnoea. Chest x-ray revealed diffuse bilateral lung infiltrates and she was intubated and ventilated. An acute lung injury with pulmonary haemorrhage was suspected after bloody secretions were observed in her tracheal aspirate. A severe bilateral subconjunctival haemorrhage was revealed on examination. Blood test results included a WBC count of 2600/mm³, a haemoglobin of 10 g/dL and a platelet count of 40 000/mm³. A creatinine level of 3 mg/dL was indicative of acute renal failure. She also had proteinuria, mild transaminitis and pulmonary hypertension. She ultimately developed multiple organ failure, including shock, adult respiratory distress syndrome, thrombocytopenia and acute renal failure. Tests for autoimmune diseases, including systemic vasculitis, were negative. She received aggressive organ support and her condition gradually improved over the next 7 days.

Author comment: "[T]he diagnosis of this patient remains unclear; however, vasculitis or an autoimmune disease is unlikely, and a severe adverse event following the H1N1 vaccination could not be completely excluded."

Bhurayanontachai R. Possible life-threatening adverse reaction to monovalent H1N1 vaccine. Critical Care 14: 422, No. 3, 4 Jun 2010 - Thailand 803048734