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Guillain-Barré Syndrome and COVID-19 Vaccines: A Comment

Guillain-Barré Sendromu ve COVID-19 Aşıları: Bir Yorum

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Dear Editor,

Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) remains a critical public health problem worldwide. The disease has a high incidence in many countries, such as Ukraine, India, and Brazil. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can cause atypical clinical presentations, including neuropsychiatric presentations (1,2). Additionally, Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) has been reported as a possible clinical complication of COVID-19 (3). Recently, the available COVID-19 vaccines have become the hope in disease management; however, there are concerns regarding the vaccine adverse effects.

GBS is a possible adverse effect of all vaccines and is usually an essential consideration for any new vaccine. For example, GBS incidence associated with new swine flu is approximately 1-2 per million (4). Limited data have been reported regarding the new COVID-19 vaccines. Here, the authors want to discuss GBS resulting from vaccination with new COVID-19 vaccines based on the data available on post-vaccination adverse effect monitoring in the USA (5,6). Vaccination with neither COVID-19 classical vaccines nor new mRNA vaccines has resulted in post-vaccination GBS. The incidence of GBS is lower than that of anaphylaxis, which is another adverse effect of the new COVID-19 vaccine. Further, the data on post-vaccination GBS associated with classical vaccines, such as the influenza vaccine (3), report a significantly higher GBS incidence compared with that associated with COVID-19 vaccines. These findings imply the safety of the new COVID-19 vaccine concerning GBS induction.

Ethics

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