

Introduction

Malaysia’s National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme is currently providing homologous vaccination (1st and 2nd doses of the same vaccine). The prospect of mixing vaccines are said to further boost the immunity provided; however, there are no concrete data published yet on their efficacy and possible AEFIs. We wish to report an adverse effect following immunisation (AEFI) case of status epilepticus in a recipient receiving combination vaccination of PFIZER (COMINARTY) and SINOVAC vaccines.

Case Report:

A 21-year-old female who reportedly received her first dose of PZIFER vaccination weeks ago, came for her “second” dose of vaccination. In the PPV, she was given a dose of SINOVAC instead. This has led her to develop a focal seizure on her non-vaccine arm during observation post vaccination. She was later moved to Emergency Department for further monitoring and subsequently developed status epilepticus refractory to conventional treatment requiring intubation to secure her airway, conversely this was not her fault. Upon further history patient had multiple history of drug allergies including established allergic reaction to first dose of PFIZER. In view of the first dose allergy reaction, SINOVAC vaccine was chosen as the second dose vaccine based on the existing guideline as shown below.

All blood investigations and imaging revealed normal findings including contrast enhance CT scan (CECT) and electroencephalogram (EEG). Patient was discharged neurologically intact, with a diagnosis of severe adverse effect following immunisation. (AEFI)

Discussion and conclusion:

In conclusion, status epilepticus has not been reported as adverse effect following COVID-19 vaccination before. It can be a rare occurrence in homologous vaccination, but it could be one of the adverse effect when combining vaccine doses. Further clinical trial is needed before such “mix and match” vaccines being rolled out. Nevertheless, clinician should be aware of the possible atypical neurological complications in patients receiving vaccines and to initiate the appropriate treatment.

References:

1. Flow chart for consideration in vaccinating selected groups of hypersensitivity population, Clinical guidelines on COVID 19 Vaccination in Malaysia ,3rd edition.
2. WHO warns individuals against mixing and matching COVID vaccines , Reuters , July 14, 2021

3.9. Flow chart for considerations in vaccinating selected groups of hypersensitive population (AFTER 1st VACCINATION)

