

**PP134 BENEFITS VERSUS RISKS :
VACCINE-INDUCED IMMUNE
THROMBOTIC
THROMBOCYTOPENIA**

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INTRODUCTION

Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) following COVID-19 vaccination was first highlighted in April 2021 by United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Following reported cases post administration of AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Until 13th September 2021, Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 21,372,278 of Malaysia population has received at least 1 dose of COVID vaccination with 1,709,782 (8%) receiving AstraZeneca vaccine.

CASE

30 years old gentleman with no previous comorbidities presented with 8 days history of persistent bifrontal headache which started 5 days following his first dose of AstraZeneca vaccination. It was not relieved by painkillers and worsens over the last 3 days, associated with persistent episodes of vomiting. Otherwise, no initial symptoms of visual disturbance, chest pain, shortness of breath or limbs affected.

RESULTS

Blood investigations revealed low level of Platelet and Fibrinogen with Positive D-Dimer which together with the presenting symptoms and history fulfills the diagnostic screening of VITT. CTA Brain reported

filling defect in superior sagittal sinus with corresponding dense clot and Probable VITT diagnosis was established. Patient was started on anticoagulant and immunosuppressant therapy per protocol. He was discharged well 7 days after hospitalization and planned for Pfizer vaccination for his second dose.

DISCUSSION

In Malaysia, rate of adverse event post AstraZeneca vaccine is 0.53 per 1,000 doses. Only 0.04 per 1,000 doses were categorised as serious effect with no vaccination related death reported so far. Breakthrough death was reported at 0.0012% in a fully vaccinated individuals and 0.028% in partially vaccinated individuals, resulting in effectiveness rate of 99.42% and 75.9% respectively. Recommendations for targeted administration toward older population and stringent inclusion criteria may further reduce incident of adverse event following AstraZeneca vaccination.

CONCLUSION

The FDA, CDC and MOH is continuously monitoring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, with benefits and possible risks remain under review. The expected benefits of vaccines in preventing COVID-19 and its complications far outweigh currently known side effects. On the basis of this ongoing review, the global advice remains that the benefits of vaccine outweigh the risks in majority of people