



Serious Side Effects Associated with the Administration of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Antigens after Immunisation: A Case Report from the Wapinda Health Area (North-Ubangi) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Abstract:

On March 10, 2020, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, there have been a total of 95,738 cases, comprising 95,736 confirmed cases and 2 probable cases, with 84,321 recoveries and 1,464 fatalities. Following the guidance of the World Health Organization (WHO), African nations have been actively working to establish and expand vaccination programs. Starting the vaccination campaign in the DRC on April 19, 2021, a total of 10,893,593 individuals, estimated to be 20.18% of the target population, have received vaccines. Among them, 882,106 individuals, or 1.65%, have received their first dose, while 8,576,320 individuals or 15.89% of the target population, and have been fully vaccinated. The Democratic Republic of the Congo aims to vaccinate 53.9 million people against COVID-19, according to the technical response secretariat. This article focuses on the post-vaccination symptoms observed in a resident of the Wapinda sector, Yakoma territory in Nord-Ubangi Province, which has raised curiosity and serves as the subject of discussion.

Keywords:

COVID-19; Johnson & Johnson Vaccine; Post-vaccination manifestation; Democratic Republic of the Congo

I. Introduction

COVID-19 is a viral infection triggered by SARS-CoV-2, which gains entry into the body through the ACE2 receptor (Matena et al., 2023). The COVID-19 epidemic affected all 26 provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Until now, there were 97,794 cases, including 97,792 confirmed cases, 2 possible cases, 85,468 recovery cases, and 1,468 deaths (Report of the Multisectoral Committee for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response in the DRC on July 20, 2023). In order to combat the virus effectively, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has introduced the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition to vaccination campaigns, it is important to integrate COVID-19 vaccination into the routine health services that meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Currently, 12 African countries have begun to integrate COVID-19 vaccination into their normal health services. COVID-19 vaccines remain essential to prevent serious diseases and death, as the virus continues to circulate and mutate. The aim of this study is to determine the management of serious side effects after vaccination in a resource-limited environment using Johnson and Johnson vaccines with lot number 8006441, expiry date 01/2024 and well-preserved conditions.

II. Research Method

The method used consisted of observing a 23-year-old male patient living in the Wapinda I health zone in Vangbo Village, who showed general skin and fever symptoms during the consultation.

III. Result and Discussion

On examination, generalized skin rashes of varying diameters were noted on the face, in the retro-auricular area, above the clavicles, in the elbow folds, and on the back, along with fever and chills on the 5th day post-vaccination



Figure 1. Photos taken at the reception on Day 5 post-vaccination

On the 7th day, we observed almost a 50% loss of eyebrows, a 33% loss of eyelashes, and a 50% decrease in visual acuity. The following conclusion is evident in light of the above: We have considered a post-vaccination allergic reaction and a post-vaccination reactive conjunctivitis.



Figure 2. Photos taken on Day 7 during the in-hospital progression

These results reignite the debate on the use of medicinal plants. Indeed, here are some potential advantages of using medicinal plants in the context of general health:

- a. Medicinal Tradition: In many cultures, medicinal plants have been used for centuries to treat various conditions. Traditional knowledge can sometimes provide clues about plants that may have medicinal properties.
- b. Accessibility: Medicinal plants may be more accessible in certain regions, especially in rural areas where modern medical resources may be limited.
- c. Fewer Side Effects: Compared to some pharmaceutical drugs, medicinal plants may have fewer undesirable side effects, although this depends on the plant and how it is used.
- d. Complement to Conventional Treatments: In some cases, medicinal plants can be used as supplements to conventional medical treatments to help alleviate certain symptoms or strengthen the immune system. In this regard, molecular modeling using molecular docking and molecular dynamics has indeed demonstrated in silico the relevance of using secondary metabolites in the alternative management of COVID-19 (Falanga et al., 2020; Falanga et al., 2021; Inkoto et al., 2020; Mbadiko et al., 2020; Mbadiko et al., 2022; Mpiana et al., 2020a, b; Mpiana et al., 2021; Mulongo et al., 2022; Ndaba et al., 2020; Ndaba et al., 2021a, b).

IV. Conclusion

Evidence-based alternative medicine can be a reliable and sustainable approach for vulnerable groups in Africa, which are often seen as human subjects in health emergencies

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