

Idiopathic Ipsilateral External Jugular Vein Thrombophlebitis After Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Vaccination

Edgar Lorente, MD¹

Submitted: Feb 15, 2021 ■ Revision requested: Feb 17, 2021 ■ Revision received: Feb 17, 2021 ■ Accepted: Feb 19, 2021 ■ First published online: Feb 24, 2021
The author declares that there are no disclosures relevant to the subject matter of this article.

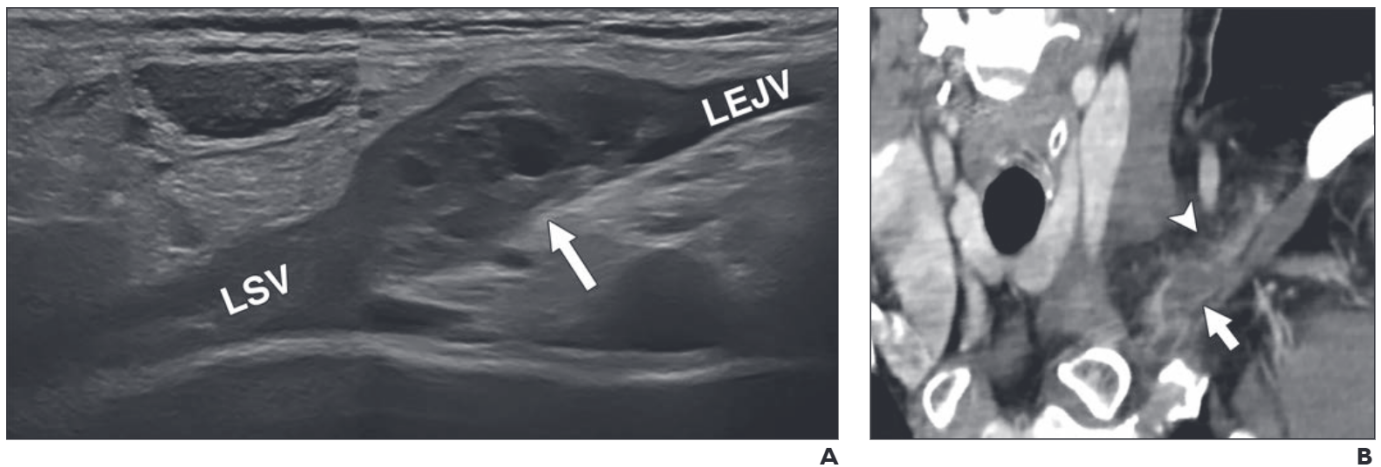


Fig. 1—55-year-old woman with left supraclavicular lump.

A and B, Transverse panoramic ultrasound of left supraclavicular region (**A**) and coronal oblique contrast-enhanced CT (**B**) show thrombus (*arrow*) in left external jugular vein (LEJV) extending to left subclavian vein (LSV) with adjacent fat stranding (*arrowhead*, **B**) consistent with acute thrombophlebitis.

A 55-year-old woman reported having a left supraclavicular lump for 2 weeks that manifested 2 days after she received her second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine. The patient also experienced malaise for 1 day and ipsilateral axillary lymphadenopathy for 7 days after the second dose. No side effects occurred after the first dose. Ultrasound showed left external jugular vein thrombus (Fig. 1A). Complete blood cell count, coagulation profile, procoagulant mutation testing, COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction, whole-body CT for malignancy, evaluation of family history for clotting disorders, and evaluation of personal history for trauma, infection, drug use, smoking, or predisposing conditions had negative findings. CT

showed fat stranding adjacent to the thrombus (Fig. 1B) that was consistent with thrombophlebitis. The ipsilateral presentation after vaccination suggests an association, though causation is not found. Given that over 180 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered worldwide [1], the thrombophlebitis may be coincidental. This case does not alter vaccination recommendations given the well-established safety profile of the vaccine.

Reference

1. Ritchie H, Ortiz-Ospina E, Beltekian D, et al. Statistics and research: coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccinations. Our World in Data website. ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations. Accessed February 17, 2021

¹Doctor Peset University Hospital, Gaspar Aguilar Ave 90, 46017, Valencia, Spain. Address correspondence to E. Lorente (edgarlorente@gmail.com).