



Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination in systemic lupus erythematosus and anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis

Jackie Sim¹ · Cynthia Ciwei Lim²

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We refer to the article “A practical approach for vaccinations including COVID-19 in autoimmune/autoinflammatory rheumatic disease: a non-systematic review” recently published in this journal [1]. The reasoned and practical suggestions are useful in guiding physicians in their recommendations to their patients with autoimmune diseases. Our prior data showed that systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) were some of the most frequent biopsy-proven glomerulonephritides to require potent immunosuppressive therapy [2], while immunosuppressants predisposed to increased risk of infections [3]. In light of the raging COVID-19 global pandemic and that COVID-19 infection is associated with significant mortality in chronic diseases, including immunosuppression and kidney disease [4, 5], we agree that vaccination against COVID-19 should be advocated for these autoimmune conditions to protect against severe infection [6]. However, early studies of the general population have noted variable acceptance or intention to vaccinate [7]. While such data among those with SLE, lupus nephritis, and AAV is scarce, it is troubling that coverage of even established vaccinations such as those for influenza and pneumococcus remained low among these patients primarily due to concerns about autoimmune disease flares and adverse events [8, 9]. Such barriers may persist and prevent uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination among patients with SLE and AAV. Other authors have similarly highlighted that past experience with other vaccines in identifying individual-level determinants of vaccine hesitancy (known as the 5C model of drivers of vaccine hesitancy, namely confidence, complacency, convenience or

constraints, calculation of risk, and collective responsibility) can help focus research into COVID-19 vaccine acceptance or hesitancy and tailor strategies to address their concerns [10]. In the meantime, we eagerly anticipate more information regarding the effectiveness and safety of COVID-19 vaccination in individuals with SLE and AAV on various immunosuppressive therapies to allow physicians and patients alike to make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination.

Declarations

Disclosures None.

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✉ Cynthia Ciwei Lim
cynthia.lim.c.w@singhealth.com.sg

¹ Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore

² Department of Renal Medicine, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore, Singapore

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