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Pandemic vaccines and autoimmune neurological diseases- potential harmful effects of adjuvants

Serefnur Ozturk

Selcuk University, Selcuklu Medical Faculty
-Department of Neurology, Turkey

During pandemics vaccines are generally considered a simple compound and clinicians are sometimes unaware of the possible dangers related to the new adjuvanted vaccine. Due to their cost effectiveness and in order to obtain stronger response with a lower antigen dose, adjuvanted vaccines are preferred during pandemics. It is important to discuss the suitability of pandemic vaccines (with or without adjuvant) in patients with multiple sclerosis and other neurological diseases with immunological etiologies. Vaccine adjuvants are used to improve the potency of the immune response to co-administered antigens. They are represented by different classes of compounds, such as microbial products, mineral salts, emulsions, microparticles, and liposomes, which exert their function by diverse and often poorly characterized mechanisms of action. Adjuvants are strong immunostimulants and may be harmful in some special patient groups, such as in multiple sclerosis. Although at present, there is insufficient clinical evidence regarding of the possible harmful effects of the vaccine in this group of patients, changes in vaccination techniques and new additional products like adjuvants necessitate reevaluation of the situation in light of the current knowledge. Despite the rarely reported adverse events in the population, this immunostimulating effect of adjuvanted vaccines must be reevaluated before application of the vaccine in special diseases like multiple sclerosis. Systemic immune responses to vaccine adjuvants may affect the multiple sclerosis disease course and the course in other neurological diseases with immune alteration. In patients with immunogenic diseases like multiple sclerosis, vaccination with nonadjuvanted vaccine formulations must be suggested.

Biography

Serefnur Ozturk, Prof of neurology, graduated from Ankara University Medical faculty in 1987. She completed neurology training in 1994 at Ankara Numune Education and Reseach Hoapital, Dept. of Neurology. Currently, she is the head of the department of Neurology , Selcuk University Selcuklu Medical Faculty. He worked in Arizona and Pittsburgh Universities on stroke and critical care in 1994 and 1999. Since 2004, she is Secretary General of the Turkish Neurological Society and President of Turkish Neurology Board Committee. She is UEMS representative of Turkey since 2006 and UEMS- EBN exam committee. She is founder member and executive board Member of Neurointensive Care Scientific Working Group and Cerebrovascular Diseases Scientific Working Groups of Turkish Neurological Society. She vise president of The Turkish Cerebrovascular Disease Society. Her interest areas are cerebrovascular diseases, critical care, dementia, history of neurology, art and neurology, and neurology education. She has more than 70 international and national publications and various activities in congress and other educational meetings.