

Cutaneous reaction to the first dosage of the Japanese encephalitis vaccine: a letter to the editor

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Dear Editor,

Japanese encephalitis is an important arbovirus infection that occurs in several tropical countries. Of interest, there is an effective vaccine against this infection. In endemic areas, it is suggested that the Japanese encephalitis vaccine is given as part of the pediatric vaccination program. Similar to any vaccine, adverse effects may occur. Here, the authors present a case of a cutaneous reaction to the first dosage of the Japanese encephalitis vaccine. This was a consulted case. The patient was a female infant aged six months who received the first dosage of Japanese encephalitis vaccine at a private hospital. The patient developed the generalized skin rash shown in Figure 1. The rash



Figure 1. Rash in the infant

appeared a few minutes after vaccination. The generalized exanthema rash can be seen on the cheek, trunk, and extremities of the infant; this was diagnosed as a side effect of the vaccine. The patient was treated with oral antihistamine and the rash disappeared within a week. Of interest, in this case, the vaccination was given too early. In general, the vaccination should be started at one year of age; hence, malpractice can also be observed in this case.

Focusing on the cutaneous reaction to Japanese encephalitis vaccination, it is an important dermatological problem that is sporadically reported. Acute skin reactions to the Japanese encephalitis vaccine are proposed to be due to sensitization to gelatin². In some severe cases, anaphylaxis can be seen³. Sometimes, the problem can last for many days and is associated with increased serum AST and ALT levels; such cases are referred to as the Gianotti-Crosti syndrome⁴. Nevertheless, in the present case, the clinical problem disappeared within a week and no laboratory investigations were conducted.

Conflict of interest: None declared.

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