

PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 vaccination may trigger dermatomyositis

(Hong Kong, 10 February 2025) – **The first local case of dermatomyositis following coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination has been reported, demonstrating that this rare inflammatory disease can be induced by the widely used COVID-19 vaccination, ignorance of which and of the diagnostic clinical signs would lead to delayed diagnosis and management. The case was published in the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*.**

A 59-year-old Chinese woman presented in April 2024 with progressive weight loss, muscle aches/weakness, hand arthralgia; cough and shortness of breath; and dizziness. Examination revealed proximal muscle weakness, fine crepitations heard at lung bases, and a rash on her hands characteristic of an autoimmune disease called dermatomyositis, which explained her muscle and respiratory symptoms. The clinical diagnosis of dermatomyositis with myopathy and interstitial lung disease was confirmed by a special antibody test. She had received her fourth COVID-19 vaccination. Her illness onset following COVID-19 vaccination the month before suggested a trigger by vaccination, further aggravated by her subsequent COVID-19 infection.

Twenty-four cases of post–COVID-19 vaccination dermatomyositis have been reported worldwide, including two Chinese, but neither of them was from Hong Kong. Knowledge of this complication of vaccination and of the characteristic skin signs of dermatomyositis would help reduce its delayed diagnosis and management.

The article “Dermatomyositis following COVID-19 vaccination” was published in the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2411797>

新聞稿

接種新冠疫苗或會引發皮肌炎

（香港，2025 年 2 月 10 日） — 香港錄得首宗接種新冠疫苗後皮肌炎案例，反映廣泛使用的新冠疫苗可引發這種不常見的炎症疾病。若忽視此病及臨床診斷病徵，會延誤治診斷及治療。該案例已在《香港醫學雜誌》發表。

一名 59 歲中國籍女患者於 2024 年 4 月求診，她的體重驟降、肌肉痠痛無力、手關節痠痛，持續咳嗽和氣喘，以及頭暈。檢查顯示她的肩膊和臀部肌肉無力、肺底有捻發音，手指出現皮疹。這是一種稱為皮肌炎的自體免疫疾病的特徵，她的特殊抗體檢測呈陽性，證實了皮肌炎這臨床診斷，亦解釋了她的肌肉和肺部症狀。她於發病前 1 個月接種了第四劑新冠疫苗，顯示皮肌炎可能是疫苗接種後引發，而其後她又感染了新冠肺炎，令病情進一步惡化。

全球已通報了 24 例接種新冠疫苗後皮肌炎病例，其中包括 2 例中國患者，但均非來自香港。認識接種疫苗可能會有這後患和及早發現皮肌炎引起的手指皮疹特徵有助減少診斷和治療的延誤。

詳細內容可參閱《香港醫學雜誌》原文《接種新冠疫苗後皮肌炎》。

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Source: TK Kong. Dermatomyositis following COVID-19 vaccination. Hong Kong Med J 2025;31:Epub 10 Feb 2025. <https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2411797>.

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