

PROFILE OF COVID-19 VACCINATED MEMBERS OF AN ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HTLV (HTLVIDA) IN BAHIA, BRAZIL

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Background:

In January 2021, the vaccination strategy against Covid-19 in Brazil focused on health professionals, the elderly, and patients with comorbidities. HTLV infection was not included in the list of diseases to be prioritized for vaccination. In this study, we describe the profile of vaccinated HTLV patients and possible adverse reactions to the vaccine.

Methods:

Together with HTLVida, an association of people living with HTLV in Bahia, Brazil, we contacted vaccinated members by telephone to obtain data on age, presence of comorbidities, mobility difficulties, vaccine platform received, and adverse reactions after vaccination.

Results:

In January 2022, the HTLVida Association registered 81 of 258 members who had received Covid 19 vaccination according to the following criteria: 37 (46%) by age, 27 (33%) by mobility limitations, 8 (10%) by comorbidities, 6 (7%) immunosuppressed, 3 (4%) healthy professionals. We successfully contacted 52 of 81 patients, of whom 40 (77%) were female and had a mean age of 55 years (SD±16). Of them, 38 (73%) patients were in regular treatment at the Bahiana HTLV Center and 41 (79%) had a HAM / TSP diagnosis. Ten patients (19%) reported having COVID -19 before vaccination, one of whom required intensive care. Fourteen patients (27%) were vaccinated with Coronavac/SinoVac, 24 (46%) with AstraZeneca/Oxford, 11 (21%) with Pfizer/BioNtech, and 2 (4%) with Janssen/Johnson. Twenty-four (46%) patients received two vaccinations and 25 (48%) received a third vaccination. Mild adverse events were reported by 38 (73%) patients, with the most common symptoms being injection site pain in 26 (50%), 11 (21%) headache, 10 (19%) fever, 9 (17%) severe fatigue, 6 (11%) chills, and 5 (10%) muscle aches.

Conclusion:

Patients were vaccinated according to priorities established by the Brazilian Ministry of Health (advanced age, comorbidities, walking disability, etc.). Patients reported only mild side effects after vaccination.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None.