Clinical Evaluation Tool for Smallpox Vaccine Adverse Reactions

Ophthalmologic Reactions / Eye Splash or Other Potential Exposure to Vaccinia Virus

Consult with state/local health department and CDC to obtain clinical guidance and to report inadvertent exposure to vaccinia virus contained in smallpox vaccine. Management of the adverse reactions discussed in this Tool may be different when risk factor(s) are present. See Consultation and Reporting Information.

Vaccine recipients or close contacts with risk factor(s) should be reported, whether or not an adverse event develops. See Consultation and Reporting Information.

Risk Factor
- History of potential inadvertent exposure to vaccinia virus in or near the eye(s).
- No lesions or inflammation present.
- History of known risk factors for smallpox vaccine adverse reactions?
- Yes
- No
- Report incident of possible inadvertent inoculation in or near eye from laboratory setting or direct splash from smallpox vaccine.
- Less than 7-10 days since exposure?
- Yes
- No
- Close observation.
- No immediate treatment indicated.
- Obtain ophthalmology consultation if symptoms develop.

Consultation and Reporting Information
Civilian health care providers who need clinical consultation with or without release of vaccinia immune globulin (VIG) (first line agent) or cidofovir (second line agent) for potential smallpox vaccine adverse reactions should contact their state/local health department or the CDC INFO Line at (800) 232-4636. Military health care providers (or civilian providers treating a DoD healthcare beneficiary) requesting clinical consultation should call (866) 210-6469, and if requesting VIG release should call (888) USA-RID or (301) 619-2257. Health care providers should report smallpox vaccine adverse events to their state/local health department and to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at http://www.vaers.org/ or (800) 822-7967.

Please call (888) 246-2675 (Español (888) 246-2857, TTY (866) 874-2646) or visit http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp for general public information about smallpox vaccination. Persons experiencing urgent or life-threatening medical events should seek immediate medical assistance.

Disclaimer The CDC and its partners in the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) network have developed Clinical Evaluation Tools to help health care providers manage patients with potential adverse reactions from smallpox vaccination in the absence of circulating smallpox virus (pre-event setting). These Tools are based on studies conducted before routine US childhood smallpox vaccination was discontinued in 1972 and on expert opinion; they are not entirely evidence-based. The Tools may not apply to all patients with smallpox vaccine adverse reactions and are not intended to substitute for evaluation by a trained clinician. This Tool was last updated on 1-19-11. Please direct feedback on these Tools to spoxtool@cdc.gov.