Eosinophilic fasciitis triggered by Shingrix vaccination

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The Shingrix® vaccination is an adjuvanted recombinant subunit VZV vaccine approved by the FDA in 2017 for the prevention of herpes zoster. As of February 1, 2020, there have been 30,341 cases of adverse events related to Shingrix®.

We report here a case of a 60 year old female patient who developed a significant localized soft tissue reaction at the injection site on the left deltoid 24 hours following Shingrix® vaccination. This was followed by several weeks of progressive edema which spread to the forearm. The patient did not respond to an empirical course of prednisone, and the clinical progression of the putative reaction necessitated a full thickness skin biopsy which confirmed a diagnosis of eosinophilic fasciitis (EF).

This case notes a clear temporal sequence and locational consistency between the site of vaccine injection and development of EF. In conjunction with existing literature of eosinophilic fasciitis secondary to other vaccinations as well as other autoimmune diseases triggered by VZV vaccination, we suggest a causal link between Shingrix® administration and this patient's EF. This would be the first reported case of EF triggered by the Shingrix® vaccine. Given the increasing use of Shingrix® since its introduction, more reports of this rare adverse event may be expected in the future.