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"COVID arm:" Delayed local hypersensitivity reaction to ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 coronavirus vaccine

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A 26-year-old lady presented with a low-grade fever, malaise, and a solitary erythematous plaque surmounted by a tense bulla, over the left arm [Figure 1a] She had received the first dose of COVISHIELD vaccine, 2 days before the onset of the lesion. She was diagnosed with a "COVID arm," a localized delayed-type hypersensitivity reaction to the vaccine. She was prescribed paracetamol 500 mg twice daily for 3 days, and calamine lotion, and the lesion resolved with a scab [Figure 1b].

COVID arm is a delayed hypersensitivity skin reaction that occurs on or around the injection site. Its symptoms show up several days to 1 week or more after the first or second vaccination. Vaccination against COVID-19 is on the rise, and we need to sensitize the mass, that such events should not discourage getting vaccinated.



Figure 1: (a) Tense bulla on the top of erythematous plaque on the left arm (Day 2 after the first dose of vaccination), (b) Scab formation on the injection site (Day 12 after the first dose of vaccination).

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Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Conflicts of interest

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