

JCCP Clinical Advisory Group

Advisory notice: Potential reaction between dermal fillers and Coronavirus vaccine

The JCCP Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) are aware of a potential reaction after dermal filler treatments in patients who have had, or may have, the coronavirus vaccine. There is increasing understanding of the role of infection, including viral infection, in delayed hypersensitivity reactions¹, and it should be considered that this may extend to vaccinations. Whilst such reactions are perceived as being very rare with only a small number of reported cases internationally, the anticipated uptake of this vaccination highlights the need to take an informed and risk-assessed approach to dermal filler procedures.

The American Society for Dermatologic Surgery highlight three incidences of facial or lip swelling in patients who had received dermal fillers² and which was reported to the FDA³ during clinical trials.

The JCCP CAG support the subsequent guidance provided by the [ASDS](#), and in particular we restate the following points.

- Given currently available data, patients already treated with dermal fillers should not be discouraged or precluded from receiving vaccines of any kind. Similarly, patients who have had vaccines should not be precluded from receiving dermal fillers in the future.
- JCCP encourages its members to continue their current practices with regards to dermal fillers including obtaining a pertinent medical history on all patients.
- It is the position of JCCP that dermal fillers should be administered by competent practitioners who are experts in both the injection of dermal fillers and management of complications arising from them.

Regulated healthcare professionals have a duty to promote health and prevent ill health and the JCCP CAG believe that this extends to positive reinforcement of the vaccination campaign, including encouraging patients who are receiving dermal fillers to elect to receive the Covid vaccine.

Prior to undertaking a dermal filler procedure, practitioners should consider the following further guidance.

Consent

All persons considering a dermal filler procedure must be notified of the risk of a reaction in the presence of the Coronavirus vaccine, or in the event that the vaccine is administered at a later date. They should be made aware of the current lack of detailed data relating to this problem along with factors which may mitigate or aggravate the risk, including those identified in the individual's medical history.

Treatment

Treatment of an adverse incident must be provided on a case-by-case basis and as an outcome of individual assessment and physical examination. To date, symptoms of facial/lip swelling have resolved without long term morbidity, but practitioners must take appropriate action in emergency situations. For uncomplicated facial angioedema, practitioners should consider prescribing a course of prednisolone, along with hyaluronidase to accelerate hyaluronic acid degradation where indicated.

Prescribing

The JCCP CAG advise that, in the event of an adverse incident in these or any circumstances, the patient must be assessed in person and that remedial treatment can only be provided after a physical examination which leads to a diagnosis after differential diagnostic considerations.

For practitioners that are not prescribers, we advise a coordinated approach with your supervising prescriber to ensure the availability of the prescriber and to safeguard patient safety. The prescriber maintains responsibility for their prescribing decisions and for the ongoing assessment of outcomes.

This is in-line with [JCCP's responsible prescribing guidance](#) as approved by professional statutory regulators.

Practitioners should take appropriate Covid-19 precautions, but we do not believe that the Covid-19 pandemic should preclude face-to-face assessment in these circumstances.

Adverse incident reporting

We would remind JCCP registrants and all registered healthcare professionals of their requirement to report such incidents to the MHRA using the yellow card scheme, and to the product manufacturer or licensed distributor. We would also remind practitioners of their obligation to source products from appropriate supply channels to enable reporting and to ensure product traceability.

The JCCP CAG also advise members of the public who experience such a reaction, or any adverse incident from a cosmetic procedure, that they may report these concerns independently using the yellow card scheme. Unregulated practitioners should also report adverse incidents in this way, or otherwise ensure that this has been done by their prescribing supervisor.

The yellow card scheme is available as an app for android and apple devices.

CPD

We advise all practitioners to keep up to date in all aspects of this rapidly changing, dynamic situation, and to modify practice accordingly.

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References

- 1 [Delayed hypersensitivity reaction to hyaluronic acid dermal filler following influenza-like illness \(nih.gov\)](#)
- 2 [ASDS SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Guidance - 12.28.20](#)
- 3 [Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee December 17, 2020 Meeting Briefing Document – FDA.](#)

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Notes to Editors:

For general information and enquiries on the JCCP and a full version of the JCCP Guidelines on use of Social Media go to: www.jccp.org.uk

For further information on standards for non-surgical aesthetic treatments and hair restoration surgery please go to: www.cosmeticstandards.org.uk

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