

#### 1.04 Herpes Zoster in Mepolizumab Recipients. To Vax or not to Vax?

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**Background:** Herpes zoster is a significant health burden that affects individuals of any age. It is more common among individuals aged  $\geq 50$  years, those with immunocompromised status, and those on immunosuppressant drugs. This is likely secondary to the immunosenescence associated with advancing age <sup>2</sup>. An increased incidence has been reported in asthmatics <sup>1</sup>. **Methods:** A retrospective review was conducted of eosinophilic asthma patients who have commenced on Mepolizumab 100mg subcutaneously in Portiuncula University Hospital in 2021-2022. **Results:** 22.29% (n=2) of patients who received Mepolizumab developed Herpes Zoster after the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Mepolizumab. Individuals' ages ranged from 55-71 years and cases were deemed to be mild or moderate. **Conclusion:** GSK reports a 0%-2% incidence of Herpes Zoster across 10 phase 3 clinical trials. The rationale for the increased risk of Herpes Zoster virus in individuals receiving Mepolizumab is unknown. A population-based case-control study yielded results noting an increased incidence of Herpes Zoster in individuals with asthma <sup>1</sup>. The study recommended that consideration should be given to immunizing adults with asthma aged more than 50 years as a target group. **Future Recommendations:** Patients aged  $>50$  years with a known history of Asthma receiving mepolizumab are at an increased risk of Herpes Zoster. Vaccination should be considered.

#### **References.**

- 1 Kwon, H.J., Bang, D.W., Kim, E.N., Wi, C.-I., Yawn, B.P., Wollan, P.C., Lahr, B.D., Ryu, E., Juhn, Y.J., 2016. Asthma as a risk factor for zoster in adults: A population-based case-control study. *J. Allergy Clin. Immunol.* 137, 1406–1412. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2015.10.032>
- 2 Sheth, P., 2018. Epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of herpes zoster: A comprehensive review [WWW Document]. *Indian J. Dermatol. Venereol. Leprol.* URL <https://ijdv.com/epidemiology-treatment-and-prevention-of-herpes-zoster-a-comprehensive-review/> (accessed 8.2.22). **Conflict of Interest: None to declare**