

Adenopathy following COVID-19 Vaccination

Women who screen for breast cancer shortly after receiving COVID-19 vaccination have been experiencing higher rates of unilateral axillary adenopathy. This appears to be particularly common with the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. The ABCSP has posted an FAQ on the screeningforlife.ca website recommending that [women try to either book their screen before their vaccination or 4-6 weeks after](#). However, we recognize that this is not always practical. [The Canadian Association of Radiologists have provided some guidance for radiologists and healthcare providers for managing patients while vaccinations continue](#).

Documentation

COVID-19 vaccination needs to be part of the differential diagnosis for women who were recently vaccinated and present with adenopathy. This recent paper may help to provide further details <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7817408/>.

The adenopathy should also be reported as an adverse event following immunization, if it meets the following criteria:

1. Enlargement of one or more lymph nodes, > 1.5 cm in diameter;

AND/OR

2. Draining sinus over a lymph node.

AND

3. Onset is within 7 days following immunization with an inactivated vaccine, or occurs between 5 and 30 days following immunization with a live vaccine.

For more information, please consult [Alberta Health's Adverse Event Following Immunization policy](#).