

Baby Born to Partially Vaccinated Mother Has Covid Antibodies

A baby girl born 3 weeks after her mother was vaccinated with the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has antibodies against the virus, according to a pre-print paper published on the medRxiv server. The paper hasn't been peer-reviewed yet.

The mother is a healthcare worker in Florida who developed COVID-19 antibodies after receiving the vaccine dose. Testing has shown that the antibodies passed through the placenta to the baby. Previous research has shown that mothers who have recovered from COVID-19 can deliver babies with antibodies, but this appears to be the first report showing that vaccination during pregnancy can also provide antibodies.



antibodies passed through the placenta to the baby. Previous research has shown that mothers who have recovered from COVID-19 can deliver babies with antibodies, but this appears to be the first report showing that vaccination during pregnancy can also provide antibodies.

New Clinical and Service Delivery Recommendations for HIV Released by Who

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently published new guidelines that provide new and updated recommendations on the use of point-of-care testing in children below 18 months of age and point-of-care tests to follow the treatment in people living with HIV; the treatment monitoring algorithm; as well as the timing of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in people living with HIV undergoing treatment for tuberculosis.

WHO has provided updates in several areas of this guideline like antiretroviral options for first- and second-line treatment, infant diagnosis, post-exposure prophylaxis, advanced HIV disease and management of cryptococcal infections and delivering HIV services.



The guideline development groups also developed good practice statements for HIV service delivery and revised the treatment monitoring algorithm for people living with HIV. These clinical and service delivery recommendations are being launched and published independently for rapid use and access by Ministries of Health, HIV programme managers, members of civil society and all other stakeholders. In July 2021, WHO will be updating the Consolidated HIV Guidelines and will integrate all new and older recommendations into one easy to use guidelines document.

The new recommendations delineate pivotal new actions for countries to enhance the delivery of HIV testing, treatment and care services. The new recommendations come as an update to the 2016 WHO Consolidated Guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for the treatment and prevention of HIV.

AIIMS Starts Virtual Autopsy

For a family that has lost someone to unnatural death, the grief is compounded when they have to witness the dissected and sutured body after the autopsy. To avoid this, All India Institute of Medical Sciences has decided to conduct virtual autopsy, wherever possible. The facility was inaugurated by Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)



Virtual autopsy, as the term suggests, involves examining the internal organs, tissues and bones without touching the body. Under this process, the body is packed in a bag and put in a CT scan machine. Within seconds, thousands of images of the internal organs are captured, which can be analyzed by forensic experts.

Dr Sudhir Gupta, professor and head of forensic medicine department at AIIMS, said they would be the first medical institution in south and southeast Asia to have this facility.

In a virtual autopsy, the deceased's records are available in digital format, which permits additional analysis by other forensic pathologists and hence permits to have a second or third opinion even after years if some allegations crop up in the future.

Aspirin May Decrease the Risk of ICU Admission and Death in Covid-19 Patients

Low-dose aspirin may have a role in protecting the lungs and decreasing the need for ventilators according to recent research.

In a report published in the journal *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, researchers stated that aspirin could keep patients out of ICUs and could also decrease the risk of death, possibly by preventing blood clots. Researchers assessed the records of 412 pa-



tients admitted to US hospitals for 3 months. Nearly 24% of the patients received aspirin within 24 hours of hospital admission, or in the seven days prior to hospitalization.

Aspirin use was found to be associated with a 44% decline in mechanical ventilation, a 43% reduction

in ICU admission and a 47% decrease in in-hospital mortality.

New Sleep Challenges Faced by Indians During Pandemic

Findings of the India Sleep Survey Report titled 'Philips Global Sleep Survey 2021' have been released. It focused on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on sleep health and the increase in the acceptance of digital health technologies owing to the pandemic.

About 60% of Indians stated that they have used or are willing to use telehealth for sleep-related issues. Since the onset of the pandemic, Indian adults experienced new sleep challenges: about 37% had difficulty in falling asleep, 27% reported difficulty in staying asleep and 39% reported waking up during the night.

The survey revealed that 80% of the patients with sleep apnea experienced daytime drowsiness while 52% of those without sleep apnea experienced the same. About 47% of the respondents stated that sleep apnea affecting their relationships.

WHO, EMA stick by AstraZeneca's vaccine

After a formal review, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) declared that the benefits of preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19 outweigh the possible risks of thromboembolic events and thrombocytopenia, which are clearly rare, after receiving AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine.

The statements come after 13 European countries put vaccinations with the AstraZeneca shot on hold in recent days.

Almost all of the cases of disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) or cerebral venous throm-

bosis (CVT) after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine were among women under age 55. Nine of these individuals died, according to the EMA statement.

Both the EMA's pharmacovigilance and risk assessment committee and the WHO COVID-19 subcommittee of the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety reviewed safety data on rare thromboembolic events, and determined that a causal relationship cannot be proven at this time.

The EMA cautioned that anyone who develops the following symptoms after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine should seek prompt

medical attention and mention their recent vaccination: breathlessness, pain in the chest or stomach, swelling or coldness in an arm or leg, severe or worsening headache, blurred vision, persistent bleeding, multiple small bruises or blood blisters under the skin. The EMA added that the AstraZeneca product information should be updated to include information on these risks.

First of its Kind Cardiac Procedure Performed at Apollo Hospital, Chennai

Japan had the record of three MitraClip therapies in a day and now, Apollo Hospitals in Chennai holds it with the highest of four procedures in a day.

MitraClip is a revolutionary device that provides a non-surgical alternative to treat patients with mitral valve leaks that can lead to cardiac failure. It avoids open-heart surgery and instead approaches the heart through a catheter insert-



ed through a vein in the thigh. The MitraClip is delivered to the heart using the catheter under real-time 3D Echocardiographic and fluoroscopic guidance.

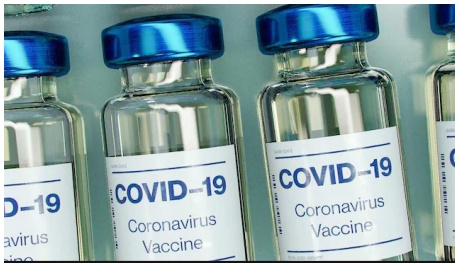
The procedure is helpful in patients with high surgical risk. All the four patients, the oldest of whom was

87 years old, were discharged from the hospital within three days and are currently doing well, said Dr Sai Satish, a senior interventional cardiologist who led the procedures at Apollo Hospitals.

Govt: Not everyone will be given Covid vaccine

The government recently ruled out the universal COVID-19 immunization saying every vaccine does not need to be administered to everyone.

“Every vaccine does not require universal immunization. Priority groups for inoculation have been carefully and scientifically determined. This priority group will eventually



expand. The advice on whom to inoculate is based on the opinions of experts and WHO guidelines. India’s National Expert Group on Vaccination is in touch with all scientific developments in this field. It is not necessary scientifically to give the vaccine to each and every person. The COVID vaccine is not going to be given to everyone on the globe. All things are based on scientific scrutiny and advice,” said Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

The minister also ruled out the fears related to COVID vaccine’s potential to alter the DNA of recipients or their progeny.

Health experts demand urgent investigation of adverse events

Health experts have demanded an "urgent investigation" into the deaths and serious adverse events following the administration of Covid-19 vaccine, in their letter to the central government.

“AEFIs (adverse events following immunization) are to be investigated through well-defined procedures for vaccine pharmacovigilance and the reports made available in the public domain for trust-building and transparency,” read the letter, signed by 29-odd public health representatives.

The letter said, "There are gaps in AEFI investigations at the local level, affecting the quality of evidence submitted to State and National AEFI Committees who depend on these findings for making causality assessments."

The development comes even as multiple global health regulators investigate adverse events including reports of blood clots being reported in their countries. Recently, the UK regulator and the European Medicines Agency investigated blood clot reports in recipients of the AstraZeneca-Oxford University vaccine. Two regulators and the World Health Organization weighed in on the benefits of the vaccine, but all of them flagged concerns on the rare blood clots that could be linked to the vaccine and needed to be investigated further.

India though has not seen any such public discussion on the issue nor have details on adverse events been shared in public domain, point out the experts.



“We are for vaccination and not anti-vaxxers. And we are concerned over the hesitancy there is among people to take the vaccine,” said Amar Jesani, Editor - Indian Journal of Medical Ethics (IJME), who signed the letter. The government needs to give details on the adverse events and the response of the system in caring for these individuals who have had reactions, however limited the number may be, he added.



Premas Biotech Develops Oral Vaccine in Capsule Form For Covid-19

New forms of Covid-19 vaccine are now being developed by several pharma companies across the world. The latest is the oral Covid-19 vaccine in a capsule form that has been developed by Indian pharma company, Premas Biotech.

Premas Biotech has collaborated with American company Oramed Pharmaceuticals Inc. and recently announced that the candidate who received an oral Covid-19 vaccine has shown efficacy after a single dose.

A single dose of the Oravax Covid-19 capsule has been found effective and its efficacy has been proven in a pilot study on animals. Oravax's oral vaccine promoted both systemic immunity by producing Neutralizing

Antibodies (IgG) as well as (IgA) immune response, which protects the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts against infection.

Premas' protein-based VLP (Virus Like Particle) vaccine provides triple protection against three parts of the SARS CoV-2 virus i.e., Spike S, Membrane Mand Envelope E targets (but not against Nucleocapsid N antigen).

Centre tells states to widen the gap between Covishield doses

The central government told the states and Union territories to administer the two doses of the Covishield vaccine against the coronavirus disease in a gap of 4 to 8 weeks, instead of the earlier prescribed interval of 4 to 6 weeks.

The announcement came after the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) and the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) discussed the time period needed for the second dose of the vaccine following "emerging scientific evidence" and recommended a gap of 6 to 8 weeks.

The Health Ministry also clarified that the decision of revised time interval between two doses is applicable only on Covishield, the made-in-India version of the Oxford-AstraZeneca AZD1222 vaccine, and not on Covaxin.

The move will enable hospitals and clinics administering the jabs to give out more first doses to people instead of remaining cautious about stocking adequate supplies for second doses for the time being. This implies that the new practice may help cover more people during the ongoing second phase of the immunization drive.



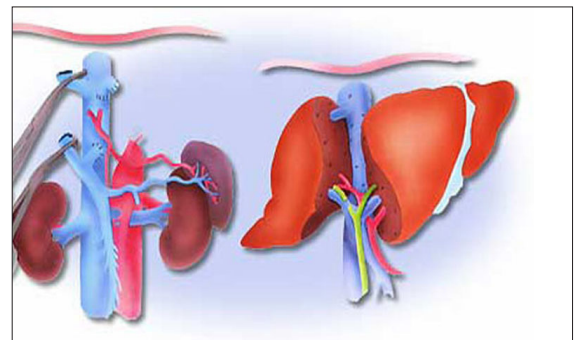
Mother and her two Sons Underwent Surgery Together for Dual Organ Transplant

At the end of a 14-hour procedure that required doctors at Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital to carry out simultaneous surgeries on three people, Mumbai resident Tabish Mulla, 25, received a new lease of life owing to organ donations from his brother and mother.

6 years ago, Mulla was diagnosed with primary hyperoxaluria, a rare condition characterized by recurring kidney stones. His liver failed to produce the enzyme alanine glyoxylate aminotransferase (AGA), which led to kidney stones. In 2019, after his kidney failed, Mulla was put on dialysis. Every alternate day, he would receive di-

alysis for six hours. After some time, his liver also started showing signs of damage. The only way to save Mulla was with dual kidney and liver transplantation.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a significant drop in cadaveric donations. However, Mulla's mother Shabana, 53, and elder brother Danish, 28, said they would donate their organs. "The patient could be saved because of his mother and brother," said Dr Percy Chibber, Mulla's doctor and chief kidney transplant surgeon at the hospital



Mulla, Danish and Shabab went into surgery at the same time. It took 14 hours and a group of 35 doctors to complete the simultaneous surgeries.