

Living with a diagnosis of GBS, CIDP or MMN – are (corona) vaccines safe for me?

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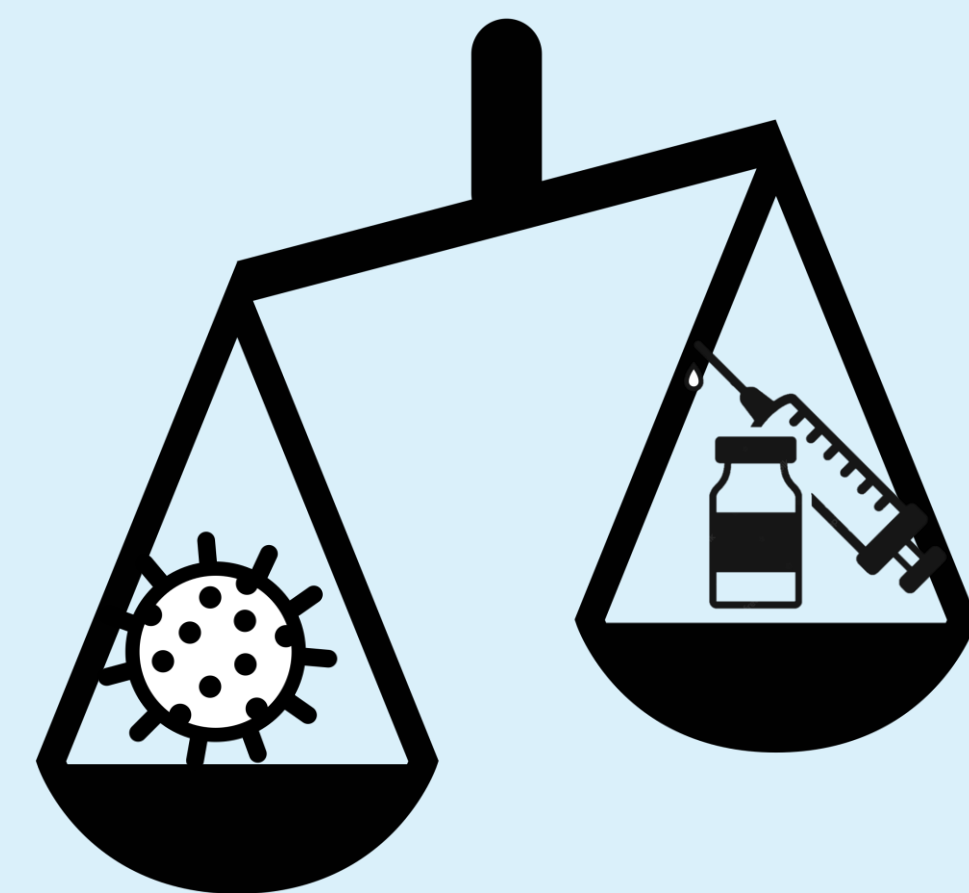
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BACKGROUND & AIM

During the corona virus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic, many people previously diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), or multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN) were worried.

Is it safe to protect themselves against the corona virus, and its potential serious complications?



Or could a vaccination against the corona virus trigger a recurrence of GBS or more (severe) symptoms of CIDP or MMN?

Aim: We investigated if there is a risk of getting GBS again, or experiencing more (severe) symptoms of CIDP or MMN after a corona vaccination.

DID YOU KNOW...

- As much as 16% of all participants (81 out of 521) were unsure about getting vaccinated at the start of the study.
- Most of these participants mentioned doubt on safety of vaccines after getting diagnosed with GBS, CIDP or MMN as reason for their hesitation.
- Of all participants, 19 reported getting vaccinated within 6 weeks before developing symptoms of GBS or CIDP. None of these participants reported worsening of symptoms after obtaining a corona vaccination.

CONCLUSIONS

- Based on our findings, we conclude:
- No recurrences of GBS were reported
- Worsening of symptoms occurred in 4-5% of patients with CIDP or MMN, but most recovered within 4 weeks
- Corona vaccinations seem to be safe for GBS survivors, and CIDP or MMN patients.

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RESULTS

GBS 195 participants	CIDP 248 participants	MMN 78 participants
50% men	60% men	74% men
Median age at diagnosis: 66 years Median time since diagnosis: 15 years	Median age at diagnosis: 55 years Median time since diagnosis: 6 years	Median age at diagnosis: 47 years Median time since diagnosis: 10 years
No recurrences of GBS	73% of participants (still) received treatment, mostly IVIg (76%) 5% reported worsening of symptoms 3% reported a change in treatment	97% of participants received treatment, almost all IVIg (99%) 4% reported worsening of symptoms 2% reported a change in treatment

METHODS

STUDY DESIGN

Who could participate?

- Patients in the Netherlands, 18 years of age or older
- Diagnosed with GBS, CIDP or MMN before the corona pandemic

What did we ask?

- We asked participants about the onset of their disease.
 - What happened before they got symptoms?
 - What did they experience in the period leading up to their diagnosis (e.g. muscle weakness, tingling etc)
 - GBS: did they ever had a recurrence? Do they still experience symptoms?
 - CIDP/MMN: did they ever receive treatment? Are they currently treated? What symptoms do they have?

