

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 7

July 2023

ISSN 0189 - 160X

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# WAJM

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**WEST AFRICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE**

ORIGINALITY AND EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF**  
THE WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS *AND*  
WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Prevalence of Post COVID-19 Vaccination Side Effects amongst Corp Members in an NYSC Orientation Camp in North Central Nigeria

*Prévalence des Effets Secondaires Post-Vaccination COVID-19 Parmi les Membres du Corps dans un Camp D'orientation du Nysc Dans le Centre-Nord du Nigeria*

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#### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Covid-19 vaccination is recommended for the prevention of Covid-19 infection. However, there is a paucity of studies assessing post-vaccination side effects, especially in Africa, and thus, the need for this study.

**OBJECTIVES:** To determine the prevalence of post-covid-19 vaccination side effects; the frequency of occurrence of each side effect and the willingness to receive the second dose of the vaccine.

**METHODS:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among Corp members undergoing the three-week compulsory orientation course in a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) orientation camp in Keffi, North-Central Nigeria. A total of 552 Corp members received the Covid-19 vaccine (AstraZeneca), 268 consented and were enrolled in the study. Data were obtained through online Google forms and were analyzed using SPSS version 26.

**RESULTS:** The mean age of the respondents was 25 years (SD = 2.5). The prevalence of post-covid-19 vaccination side effects was 90.7%, 95% CI (86.8 – 93.8). The most common side effects were weakness (53.5%), pain at the injection site (52.7%), and headache (52.7%). There was a weak association between the duration of symptoms and intake of medications (Cramer's V = 0.148) which was not statistically significant. About a quarter, 62 (24.0%), of the respondents who received the first dose of the vaccine, were unwilling to accept the second dose, mainly due to their fear of the side effects – 53 (85.5%).

**CONCLUSION:** Our study population had a high prevalence of post-covid-19 vaccination side effects. Thus, the need to educate recipients on possible side effects and remedies. **WAJM 2023; 40(7): 742–747.**

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Vaccination, Side effects.

#### RÉSUMÉ

**CONTEXTE:** La vaccination contre le Covid-19 est recommandée pour la prévention de l'infection par le Covid-19. Cependant, il existe peu d'études évaluant les effets secondaires post-vaccinaux, en particulier en Afrique, d'où la nécessité de cette étude.

**OBJECTIFS:** Déterminer la prévalence des effets secondaires post-vaccination contre le Covid-19, la fréquence d'apparition de chaque effet secondaire et la volonté de recevoir la deuxième dose du vaccin.

**MÉTHODES:** Une étude descriptive transversale a été menée parmi les membres du Corps qui suivaient le cours d'orientation obligatoire de trois semaines dans un camp d'orientation du National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) à Keffi, dans le centre-nord du Nigeria. Au total, 552 membres du Corps ont reçu le vaccin Covid-19 (AstraZeneca), 268 ont consenti à participer à l'étude. Les données ont été obtenues à l'aide de formulaires Google en ligne et ont été analysées à l'aide de SPSS version 26.

**RÉSULTATS:** L'âge moyen des personnes interrogées était de 25 ans (écart-type = 2,5). La prévalence des effets secondaires post-vaccination était de 90,7 %, IC à 95 % (86,8 - 93,8). Les effets secondaires les plus fréquents étaient la faiblesse (53,5 %), la douleur au point d'injection (52,7 %) et les maux de tête (52,7 %). Il y avait une faible association entre la durée des symptômes et la prise de médicaments (V de Cramer = 0,148) qui n'était pas statistiquement significative. Environ un quart, 62 (24,0%), des répondants ayant reçu la première dose du vaccin, n'ont pas voulu accepter la seconde dose, principalement en raison de leur crainte des effets secondaires - 53 (85,5%).

**CONCLUSION:** Notre population étudiée présentait une prévalence élevée d'effets secondaires post-vaccination. D'où la nécessité d'informer les bénéficiaires sur les effets secondaires possibles et les remèdes. **WAJM 2023; 40(7): 742–747.**

**Mot-clés:** COVID-19, Vaccination, Effets secondaires.

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