

A summary of “COVID-19 vaccination, acceptance, safety, and side-effects in European patients with severe asthma”.

Vaccination against COVID-19 played an important role in preventing illness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Severe asthma is a disease characterised by poorly controlled asthma despite medication and patients were recommended to have a COVID-19 vaccination. There have always been doubts about the safety of vaccination by a small proportion of the general population and these doubts, expressed in the social media and elsewhere at the time, could have had a negative impact on vaccination in severe asthma. We therefore wished to establish to what extent people with severe asthma were vaccinated and to establish the evidence for side effects including a worsening of asthma control. During May-June 2021 660 severe asthma patients from 12 European countries completed a survey on their experience of vaccination. 88% of patients reported that they had been or intended to be vaccinated. 9% reported they were undecided and 3% reported that they were not going to be vaccinated. 48% of patients who had been vaccinated reported no side effects, 44% reported mild side effects and 6% reported severe side effects. 89% reported no change in asthma symptoms after vaccination, 2.4% reported an improvement, and 6.5% reported a deterioration. Asthma control varies spontaneously in people with severe asthma so some change in control (both positive and negative) could be due to spontaneous variation. Almost all vaccinated (98%) patients would recommend vaccination to other severe asthma patients. As part of this survey, we assessed the patient's attitudes towards vaccination. The results show that side effects were more likely in those who had negative beliefs about vaccination. The reporting of side effects was influenced by patients' prior beliefs. This study shows that COVID-19 vaccination was safe and well-tolerated for people with severe asthma and that few patients had been adversely influenced by negative beliefs about vaccination.

Visit <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10680029/> to read the full paper.