

AAO-HNS issues guidance for Bell's palsy treatment during COVID-19

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(HealthDay)—In a statement issued by the American Academy of

Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, recommendations are presented for the treatment of Bell's palsy after COVID-19 vaccination and for unvaccinated patients.

C. W. David Chang, M.D., from the AAO-HNS Patient Quality and Safety Improvement Committee, and colleagues developed recommendations to guide physicians on treatment of patients who develop Bell's palsy shortly after COVID-19 vaccination and unvaccinated patients who develop Bell's palsy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The authors note that the overarching guidance remains timely access to and administration of vaccines against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, which is considered vital to curbing the COVID-19 pandemic. Corticosteroid therapy and/or antiherpes viral therapy is recommended for patients who develop Bell's palsy shortly after vaccination. Although the effect of corticosteroids on the safety and efficacy of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines is currently unknown, immunocompromising conditions and use of immunocompromising medications are not contraindications to vaccination. Corticosteroid therapy and/or antiherpes viral therapy is recommended in unvaccinated patients who develop Bell's palsy. Patients may proceed with vaccination while being treated with corticosteroids for Bell's palsy. The broad underlying [differential diagnosis](#) should be considered as in all cases of facial paralysis, as per clinical practice guideline recommendations.

"At this time, there is [insufficient evidence](#) to conclude the existence of a causal relationship between vaccination against COVID-19 and Bell's palsy," according to the press release. "The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will continue surveillance for cases of Bell's palsy as vaccination efforts continue."

More information: [More Information](#)

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