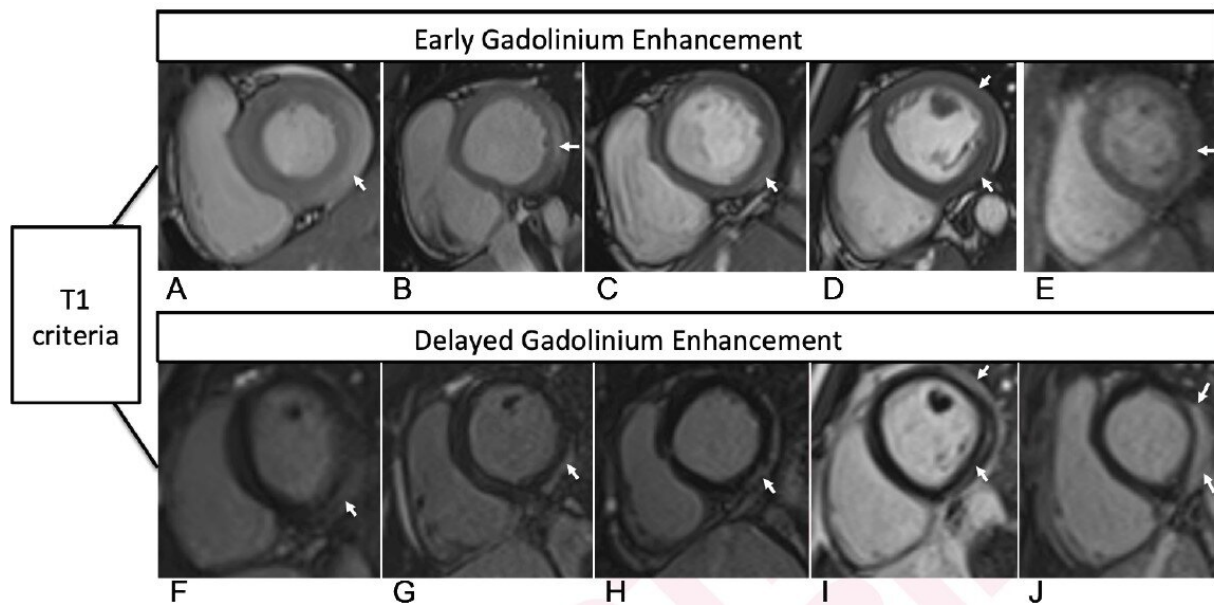


# Cardiac MRI of myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination in adolescents

October 29 2021



Early gadolinium enhancement (EGE) compared with precontrast SSFP sequence (not shown) is observed on early postcontrast short-axis SSFP images in (A) 16-year-old male, (B) 17-year-old male, (C) 16-year-old male, and (D) 19-year-old male, and on early postcontrast short-axis perfusion image in (E) 17-year-old male (arrow, A-E). Late gadolinium enhancement (LGE) is also present (arrows) in all 5 patients (F, G, H, I, and J; same patients as in A, B, C, D, and E, respectively). EGE and LGE predominantly affect subepicardium of the inferior, inferolateral, or anterolateral walls. EGE extends beyond confines of LGE in patient shown in (A) and (F) and in (B) and (G). Basilar LV involvement is present in patient shown in (A) and (F), (B) and (G), and (C) and (H). Mid-cavity LV involvement is present in patient shown in (D) and (I) and in (E) and (J). Credit: American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS), American Journal of Roentgenology (AJ

According to ARRS' *American Journal of Roentgenology* (AJR), radiologists need to be cognizant of the association between coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mRNA vaccination and myocarditis, as well as the role of cardiac MRI for assessing suspected myocarditis postvaccination.

"In this small case series, all [patients](#) with myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination were adolescent males and had a favorable initial clinical course," explained first author Lydia Chelala from University of Chicago Medicine. Noting that every patient's cardiac MRI examination showed findings typical of myocarditis from other causes, "late gadolinium enhancement (LGE) persisted in two patients undergoing repeat MRI."

Chelala and team's retrospective study included patients who underwent cardiac MRI between May 14, 2021 and June 14, 2021 for suspected myocarditis within 2 weeks of COVID-19 mRNA vaccination—without known prior COVID-19. With clinical presentation, hospital course, and postdischarge events recorded, the cardiac MRI examinations were reviewed in consensus by a cardiothoracic radiologist and cardiothoracic imaging fellow.

Of the 52 patients who underwent cardiac MRI during the study period, Chelala and colleagues identified 5 [male patients](#) (age range, 16–19 years; mean age, 17.2 years) who presented within 4 days of the second dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. After mean hospitalization length of 4.8 days, all 5 patients were discharged in stable condition with improved or resolved symptoms. However, two patients underwent repeat cardiac MRI that showed persistent, albeit decreased, LGE.

Acknowledging that their article is the first report to describe additional results of short-term follow-up in this patient population, the authors of

this *AJR* article also conceded, "the observations do not establish causality."

**More information:** Lydia Chelala et al, Cardiac MRI Findings of Myocarditis After COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination in Adolescents, *American Journal of Roentgenology* (2021). [DOI: 10.2214/AJR.21.26853](https://doi.org/10.2214/AJR.21.26853)

Provided by American Roentgen Ray Society

Citation: Cardiac MRI of myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination in adolescents (2021, October 29) retrieved 10 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-10-cardiac-mri-myocarditis-covid-vaccination.html>

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