Encouraging news about COVID-19 vaccination in people with MS!

Many thanks to all that contributed data to the COVER-MS study. The initial results are in! In summary, having MS does not appear to increase the likelihood of experiencing COVID-19 vaccine reactions, and the frequencies of different types of reactions are similar to those reported in the vaccine clinical trials.

719 participants were included in this analysis, over half (57%) received the Pfizer vaccine, followed by Moderna (36%), Johnson & Johnson (4%) and Oxford/AstraZeneca (3%). The most common vaccine reactions were pain, fatigue and headache. These reactions were more likely in younger people, women, those with a prior COVID-19 infection and those who had a reaction after the first shot. Factors that did not correlate with vaccine reactions included being on disease modifying therapy, the type of MS an individual had, or how long they had MS.
A summary of the initial results, including a breakdown of demographics and MS disease modifying therapies used, can be found on the iConquerMS website. A more detailed analysis has been accepted by a medical journal, and we look forward to sharing that with you as soon as possible. For those interested, COVER-MS data analyst Dr. Farren Briggs describes what we've learned to date in an Ask an Expert webinar that was hosted by the National MS Society in September.

COVER-MS is open to anyone who has received a COVID-19 vaccine or plans to receive one. If you are an iConquerMS member that has received a COVID-19 vaccine, please login today and share your experience by clicking on “Participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Study.” Have you received an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine recently? Please let us know about it! We’re also interested in learning about any new or changed MS symptoms you’ve experienced and if you’ve had a breakthrough case of COVID-19. We appreciate you keeping your information up to date! If you’re not yet a member of iConquerMS, please join the network and start powering MS research today!