# Adverse Events Following ChAdOx1nCoV-19 Vaccine in the First Phase of Vaccine Roll Out in Sri Lanka

DS Govindapala[1#], WMID Nakkawita[1], UTN Senaratne[2], W Wijenayake[1], RMUS Senarath[1], TD Wijewardena[1], P Kawyangana[1], AD De Silva[1] and NS Fernando[1]

[1]*Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University*

[2] *Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University*

[#]dumithagovindapala@kdu.ac.lk

Phased distribution of ChAdOx1nCoV-19 vaccine commenced in Sri Lanka in January 2021. Since the scarcity of safety data on this vaccine in the Asian population, a prospective observational study was conducted to profile the adverse events following immunization (AEFI) among recipients of the ChAdOx1nCoV-19 vaccine at the University Hospital, KDU between 30th January to 5th February, 2021. A cohort of 688 hospital staff was followed up till the completion of vaccination and 53 were lost to follow up. Data were collected using an interviewer-administered questionnaire and through telephone interviews. AEFI were classified based on WHO criteria. Median age was 32 years (range19-76 years) and the majority were males (61.6%). Following the first dose 517(75.1%) experienced AEFI, of which 380(73.5%) reported both systemic and local symptoms, 110(21.2%) had systemic symptoms and 27(5.2%) experienced local symptoms. After the second dose AEFI were less common (n=134,21.1%, $p<0.001$). Fever being the commonest reported symptom after the first dose (n=389,75.2%), vaccination site pain was frequent (n=85,63.43%) following the second dose. Severe reactions (seizures) were observed only after the first dose in two recipients and no serious AEFI were reported. Following each dose, the onset of AEFI was frequent within 12 hours of the vaccination (77.1% and 67.9% respectively) and symptoms lasted less than 72 hours in most recipients (79.1% and 81.3% respectively). No association was observed between the age and the incidence of AEFI. The study findings are comparable with published world data and the absence of serious AEFI indicates a good safety profile of the ChAdOx1nCoV-19 vaccine.

***Keywords:*** *ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine, adverse events, vaccine roll out, Sri Lanka*