Surveillance system for adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination

PSQ11248
Kornelia Chrapkova, Stanislav Gregor, Michal Hojny
Hospital Pharmacy, Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Prague, Czech Republic

What was done?

A surveillance system was created to encourage and facilitate the reporting of vaccine adverse events (VAE) after healthcare professionals and patients received a COVID -19 vaccine that was administered in our vaccination centre (VC).

Why was it done?

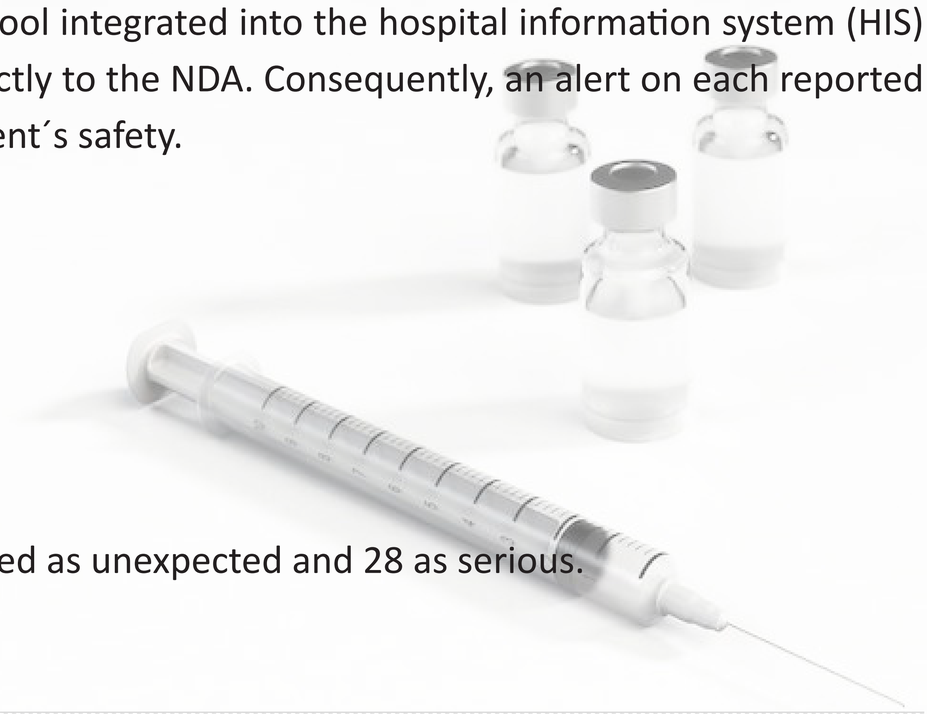
A passive surveillance system exists in our country, giving limited options for the reporting of adverse drug reactions (ADR) to our National drug Agency (NDA). The current system does not consider different patient´s criteria such as, age, variety of disabilities and preferences and does not enable healthcare professionals to report ADR in an easily accessible and comprehensive way.
In addition, our aim was to provide support to patients during the pandemic lockdown when accessing their general practitioner was difficult.

How was it done?

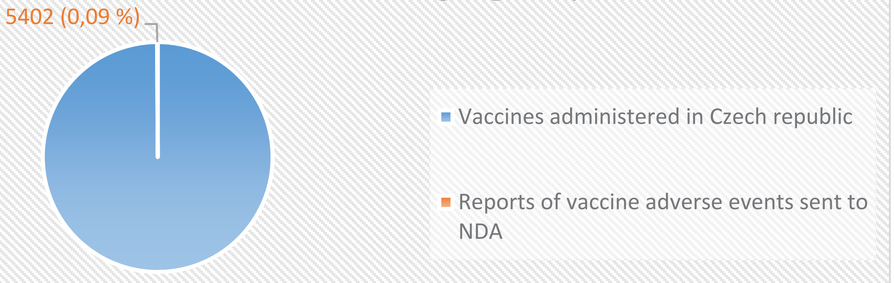
Following patients receiving a COVID-19 vaccination they were sent a text message with an information that in case of VAE they could contact us via text message, email, fill an electronic questionnaire or call us.
We assembled a team of 10 pharmacists providing a non-stop service for reporting VAE. To ensure consistency in advice given to patients a manual was created for a management of the most common and likely VAE.
By liaising with the Information Technology department, we created an electronic tool integrated into the hospital information system (HIS) for recording VAE. This enabled us to make a comprehensive report and sent it directly to the NDA. Consequently, an alert on each reported VAE after the first dose of vaccine was available for every clinician to maximise patient´s safety.

What has been achieved?

Between 4th January 2021 and 8th June 2021:
6 109 732 vaccines were administered throughout our country.
5402 (0,09%) reports of VAE were sent to NDA.
43 409 vaccines were administered in our VC.
3 456 (7,96%) reports of VAE were received in our VC out of which 816 were classified as unexpected and 28 as serious.



Number of reports of vaccine adverse events sent to National Drug Agency



Number of reports of vaccine adverse events received in our VC

What next?

Presenting of the results of the project will be used as a part of the education of healthcare professionals in our hospital. By this sharing of knowledge our aim is to maximise patient's safety and treatment. The integrated electronic tool for recording and reporting ADR will be also applied for all other medications.