Urticarial vasculitis after influenza vaccination

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A 70 year old woman presented with a 10 day history of painful burning rash on her buttocks associated with fever, rigor, and generalised myalgia, which started 48 hours after receiving inactivated influenza vaccine Split-Virion (Sanofi Pasteur MSD, UK; batch K8383). Tender urticated erythematous plaques on her buttocks left bruise-like confluent patches after three days. Biopsy confirmed urticarial vasculitis. Cutaneous and systemic vasculitis can develop after flu vaccination, usually within a few weeks. Clinicians must be aware of this complication and inform patients accordingly. The official product labelling lists this side effect, but the frequency unknown. The photo was taken 26 days after vaccination; her disease activity was fluctuating.

Patient consent obtained.

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