

GUAM DAILY POST • TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

US sends monoclonal antibodies to states but those may not work against omicron

(The Washington Post) - The federal government has resumed shipping all three monoclonal antibody treatments authorized for early-stage COVID-19 to states despite evidence that two might be ineffective against the omicron variant of the coronavirus that is sweeping the country.

The move has drawn mixed reactions from physicians and experts. Some are concerned many of the costly infusions will be useless, causing confusion among patients who have heard glowing reports about the treatments. They note that it can be difficult for doctors to determine whether their patients are infected with omicron or the previously dominant delta variant, making treatment decisions tricky.

But other physicians remain eager to receive even less-effective treatments because of a severe shortage of sotrovimab, the monoclonal antibody therapy that, according to laboratory tests, works best against



TREATMENT: Maj. Roseann Apuron, a nurse with the Guam Army National Guard, talks about the new monoclonal antibody treatment clinic that opened in the Mangilao Senior Center, Sept. 23, 2021. Health experts in the nation have acknowledged in recent days that certain monoclonal antibody treatment still works for patients with the delta variant but for infections caused by omicron, newly reauthorized therapies will have little effect.

Post file photo

omicron. They say they would rather have access to some monoclonal antibodies than none, partly because some of their patients may be infected by the delta variant.

That raises difficult questions. "Is it ethical and practical to give those treatments to people who you think almost certainly have omicron?" said Jeanne Marrazzo, director of infectious diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "Most patients are demanding something."

She said the current situation is "a transition period," as omicron overtakes delta. "But it is very murky, very confusing to patients."

David Kessler, the chief scientific officer for the administration's COVID-19 response, said the government has been responding to requests from state and local health officials in making all three monoclonal antibodies available. But the administration has made clear that the two that don't work against the omicron variant represents a significant proportion of infections in the region and then only with the explicit understanding that these treatments would be ineffective if the patients are infected with the omicron variant.

The bottom line, he said, is "don't use [those treatments] unless you have the testing that shows that a patient does not have omicron." He added that the administration this week will re-evaluate whether it should continue making all three antibody treatments available considering omicron's overwhelming dominance.

After the omicron variant emerged around Thanksgiving, the Department of Health and Human Services briefly halted shipments of sotrovimab, made by GlaxoSmithKline and Vir Biotechnology to stockpile it for the time when omicron became more preva-

lent. Shipments resumed weeks after that, as omicron became increasingly rampant.

On Dec. 23, the department announced it would pause shipments of two other monoclonal antibody treatments, made by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Eli Lilly, which laboratory tests have shown are less effective against the new variant.

Could help where delta variant persists

Last week, the administration resumed shipments of those two medications. The latest reversal followed complaints from Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and some doctors that the Regeneron treatments could help in places where the delta variant of the virus is still infecting people. DeSantis also said he was not convinced the Regeneron and Lilly cocktails were ineffective against the omicron variant.

Those two treatments were used heavily last year to prevent hospitalizations of people infected by the delta variant, but have proven less effective against omicron in lab tests. (An injectable monoclonal antibody, AstraZeneca's Evusheld, was approved last month for pre-exposure use in immunocompromised people; the company said lab studies show it "retained neutralizing activity" against omicron.) New antiviral pills also are expected to be effective against both the delta and omicron variants.

The Regeneron and Lilly medications, given to outpatients by infusion or injection, are free and have caused few side effects. They are authorized for anyone with mild to moderate disease who doesn't need supplemental oxygen. They also can be given prophylactically to high-risk patients, including people 65 and older, who have been exposed to the virus.

The Biden administration agreed

Dec. 31 to start shipping the Regeneron and Lilly products last week. In a news release Tuesday, DeSantis, one of the most vocal proponents of monoclonal antibody treatments, took credit for forcing the administration to change course. He said the state would soon receive an additional 30,000 doses of monoclonal antibodies.

In an email, DeSantis's spokeswoman, Christina Pushaw, asserted that "there have been Omicron cases treated with other (monoclonal antibodies) that showed significant improvement, contrary to the initial study that came out and apparently informed the now-reversed HHS policy."

A spokeswoman for HHS's assistant secretary of preparedness and response, who is in charge of distributing the monoclonal antibodies, referred a reporter to updates on the agency's website that announced the change of strategy.

The latest update attributed the change of heart to a recommendation from a panel at the National Institutes of Health, which concluded that "if the Delta (variant of concern) still represents a significant proportion of infections in the region and other options are not available or are contraindicated, patients can be offered" the other two monoclonal antibody treatments.

CDC director: Reauthorized therapies will have little effect on omicron

But experts worry that patients and doctors will be flummoxed by the advice they must digest about different monoclonal antibody treatments. In the vast majority of cases, they noted, physicians making treatment decisions do not know whether their patient is infected by the omicron or delta variants, because little genomic sequencing is being done. Even when tests are sequenced, the results are usually too late to be considered in treatment deliberations.

If omicron now accounts for 95% of all new U.S. cases, as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky said Wednesday, the newly reauthorized therapies will have little effect.

"When delta and omicron were 50-50, fighting it out, I was very enthusiastic about continuing to use the Regeneron and Lilly monoclonals as long as there was a way of differentiating between the two," said John W. Mellors, chief of infectious diseases at UPMC School of Medicine in Pittsburgh. "The dilemma was there wasn't a rapid FDA-approved test to differentiate omicron from delta. And the reality is sequencing takes several days."

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPARTAMENTU SA'LUT PUBLIKU IYAN SERBISAN SUSA'

The Guam Board of Examiners for Dentistry
Regular Virtual Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00PM.
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9475724442?pwd=WDh6MVB2L2dvRzgzczgwN25neUduQT09>
Meeting ID: 947 5724 4442 Passcode: 177208

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Proof of Publication
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes
- VI. Treasure Report
- VII. HPLD Administrative Report
- VIII. Old Business
 - (a) Dr. Elie Suzuki - Dentist
 - (b) Dr. Dania H. Lee - Dentist
- IX. New Business
 - (a) Personal Interview
 - (b) Initial Applications for Review and Approval
 - (c) Renewal Applications for Dental Ancillary
- X. Other Business
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:
<http://guamdentistry.org>
To view the LIVE Streaming link:
<https://facebook.com/HPLDGuam>

For more information, please contact the Board office at (671) 735-7404/10 thru12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact (671) 475-8339.

This advertisement was paid for by DPSS/Health Professional Licensing Office-Local Funds

Palestinian American dies after detention by Israeli soldiers in West Bank

JERUSALEM (The Washington Post) - An 80-year-old Palestinian American man died Wednesday after being detained by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank, prompting U.S. officials to call for an investigation into the circumstances of his death.

The victim, identified as Omar Abdalmajeed As'ad, was still wearing a plastic restraining zip tie on one wrist when he was found early Wednesday morning in a village outside of Ramallah, according to Palestinian officials.

The Israeli military confirmed Wednesday that As'ad had been stopped during a security check of the area and detained after he "resisted a check." A spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces said As'ad was held for only a short time and that he was alive when he was released.

“He was lying face-down on the ground, and when we turned him over we found an elderly man with no sign of life.”

- Mamdouh Elaboud, witness

As'ad was returning home from visiting relatives when he was stopped in the village of Jiljilya by Israeli soldiers, according to a statement by the Palestinian Health Ministry. Witnesses told Palestinian media that he was handcuffed and led away about 3 a.m. Wednesday morning.

As'ad was later found unresponsive by a resident walking in the neighborhood. Photographs circulating on social media showed a black plastic tie around at least one of his wrists.

"He was lying face-down on the ground, and when we turned him over we found an elderly man with no sign of life," the resident, Mamdouh Elaboud, told Reuters.

After a local physician tried unsuccessfully to revive As'ad, he was taken to a Ramallah hospital, where his body was being held until an autopsy can be performed.

As'ad had a history of cardiac and respiratory illness, according to his family.

"I don't understand how a man that age can be considered a danger," a brother of the victim told the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

'Body parts on the street': Car bomb kills 8 in Somalia capital

By Feisal Omar and Abdi Sheikh Reuters

MOGADISHU - A car bomb exploded on a road leading to the airport in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Wednesday, killing at least eight people, the head of the city's ambulance services said.

Mogadishu resident Mohamed Osman said the shock of the blast hit the walls and roof of a mosque he was praying in nearby.

"When I came out of the mosque, I saw several old houses collapsed, body parts on the street, hands, legs," Osman told Reuters.

"Destroyed cars, burnt tuk tuks (rickshaws); all this mess and loss of lives in a minute. I survived."

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the bombing.

Osman said he had seen nine bodies at the scene. Abdikadir Abdirahman, director of Aamin Ambulance service, put the death toll at eight.



AFTER-MATH: A general view shows the scene of an explosion in the Hamarweyne district of Mogadishu, Somalia, on Wednesday. Feisal Omar/Reuters

"A car bomb targeted a convoy, including bulletproof cars using Avisone Street. We do not know who owns the convoy. We carried eight dead people from the scene," Abdirahman told Reuters.

Earlier, a Reuters photographer saw four bodies and four damaged cars and two motor rickshaws while Ahmed Nur, a shopkeeper nearby, said he had seen at least five bodies.

A paramedic was seen attending to at least one wounded person, Reuters

photographs from the scene showed. Earlier attacks

In the past, al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab group has taken responsibility for similar attacks.

The group aims to overthrow the central government and impose a strict interpretation of Islamic law. It carries out frequent gun and bomb attacks on security and government targets, but also on civilians.

It also carries out attacks against African Union peacekeeping troops.

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPARTAMENTON SALUD PUBLIKO YAN SETESION SUSA

The Guam Board of Medical Examiners
Regular Virtual Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 4:00PM.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99722487838?pwd=enJmVHJQVThOZ2RkTlF4NkdESDZrQT09>
Meeting ID: 997 2248 7838 Passcode: 438890

Meeting Agenda:
I. Call to order:
(a) Roll Call
(b) Confirmation of Public Notice advertised in the Guam Daily Post.
II. Adoption of Agenda:
III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 17, 2021
IV. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Philip J. Flores
V. HPLO Administrator's Report: Zenina C. Pecina, M. S.N. R.N.
VI. Chairperson's Report: Nathaniel B. Berg, M. D.
(a) Emergency Issued Licenses
VII. Old Business:
(a) Complaint(s): (1) GBME-CO-19-010
(2) GBME-CO-19-012 (3) GBME-CO-19-013
(4) GBME-CO-19-014 (5) GBME-CO-19-015
(6) GBME-CO-19-016 (7) GBME-CO-19-017
(8) GBME-CO-20-001 (9) GBME-CO-20-005
(10) GBME-CO-20-006 (11) GBME-CO-20-007
(12) GBME-CO-21-005 (13) GBME-CO-21-006
(14) GBME-CO-21-007 (15) GBME-CO-21-008
(16) GBME-CO-21-009
(b) Reinstatement of License:
(c) Application(s) for Temporary Licensure.
VIII. New Business:
(a) Complaint(s): (1) GBME-CO-21-010
(2) GBME-CO-21-011
(b) Application(s) for Full Licensure
(c) Application(s) for Temporary Licensure
(d) Full Licensure Renewal(s) 2021
(e) Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLCC) Applicant(s)
IX. Other Business: The next Guam Board of Medical Examiners Regular Virtual Meeting is scheduled for February 09, 2022 at 4:00p.m via ZOOM.
To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:
<https://guammedical.org>
To view the LIVE Streaming link:
<https://facebook.com/HPLOGuam>
For more information, please contact the Board office at (671) 735-7404/10 thru 12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact (671) 475-8339.
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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XII. Adjournment
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GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPARTAMENTON SALUD PUBLIKO YAN SETESION SUSA

The Guam Board of Barbering and Cosmetology
Regular Virtual Board Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2022 at 9:00AM (ChST)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98190601114?pwd=VlFHOWERTRZrZNOYONRQ9ZekVsdz09>
Meeting ID: 981 9060 1114 Passcode: 129697

Meeting Agenda:
I. Call to Order
II. Confirmation of Publication
III. Roll call
IV. Elections
V. Approval of Agenda
VI. Approval of Minutes
VII. HPLO Administrative Report
VIII. Treasurer Report
IX. Old Business
(a) Rules and Regulations - On-Going
(b) Complaints
(1) GBBC-CO-2021-0001 - Date Received: 07/02/2021 (A. Taitano)
(2) GBBC-CO-2021-0002 - Date Received: 07/08/2021 (A. Taitano)
(3) GBBC-CO-2021-0003 - Date Received: 07/19/2021 (A. Taitano)
(4) GBBC-CO-2021-0004 - Date Received: 07/20/2021 (A. Taitano)
(5) GBBC-CO-2021-0005 - Date Received: 08/19/2021 (A. Taitano)
X. New Business
(a) Applications for Establishment
(b) Applications for Examination
(c) Applications for Apprentice
(d) Applications for Reciprocity
(e) Applications for Re-Examination
XI. Other Business
XII. Announcements
XIII. Adjournment
To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:
<https://guambarberingandcosmetology.org>
To view the LIVE Streaming link:
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