agent in adults. The rash is mostly asymptomatic or may be associated with mild pruritus. It resolves spontaneously in 2–18 days in children and 1–3 months in adults without any residual scarring or pigmentation. Recurrent episodes have been reported. Diagnosis is mostly clinical. Histopathology shows non-specific features such as dilated dermal blood vessels with perivascular lymphocytic infiltrates and plump endothelial cells.

ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 corona virus vaccine (COVISHIELD/Oxford-AstraZeneca) is a recombinant vaccine containing replication deficient chimpanzee adenovirus vector encoding the SARS-CoV-2 (S) glycoprotein used for active immunization against corona virus infection. It acts by locally expressing SARS-CoV-2 S glycoprotein, thereby stimulating neutralizing antibody and cellular immune response. There is some evidence for the safety of mRNA vaccines in patients with dermatologic diseases treated with standard dose of systemic immunosuppressive therapy. However, the data pertaining to the safety of adenovirus vectored vaccines are scarce. Mucocutaneous reactions ranging from injection site reactions, urticaria, morbilliform reactions to anaphylaxis have been reported. EPA has been reported in patients with COVID-19 infection as a paraviral manifestation of the disease. Due to its benign self-limiting nature, no active intervention is required. The occurrence of self-limiting EPA after both doses of vaccination is confirmatory of the role of vaccination on EPA rather than of immunosuppression. Our case is novel because of the occurrence of EPA following the vaccination for COVID-19. Therefore, reporting such events after vaccination is crucial because it aids in allaying unwarranted anxiety among patients as well as physicians regarding such innocuous adverse reactions, and the development of such manifestations should not discourage vaccine administration.

**Acknowledgement**

We thank the patient for granting permission as written informed consent to publish the case details and for clinical photography.

**Conflicts of interest**

None declared.

**Funding source**

None.

**Data Availability Statement**

Not applicable.

Re: Dear Editor,

We have read with interest the letter by Piccolo et al. on COVID vaccine–induced lichen planus (LP) on vitiligo-affected areas. Since the beginning of the immunization programs, COVID vaccine–induced rashes have been documented in several cases. We report the case of a 29-year-old woman with vitiligo on her hands that appeared more than 10 years ago. One week after administration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, she developed LP-like lesions on depigmented areas, which progressed after the second vaccine administration, involving skin areas not previously affected by vitiligo. At the time of consultation, erythematous, polygonal papules were seen on the dorsum of the hands, wrists, eyelids, submammary region, and lower extremities. Oral mucosa examination revealed reticular white marking and white plaques (Fig. 1).

The skin biopsy of abdominal lesions confirmed LP diagnosis, showing acanthosis and basal cell degeneration with civatte bodies and band-like dermal lymphocytic infiltrate. Blood tests including biochemical and hematological parameters were normal. Antinuclear antibodies (ANAs) and serologies for hepatitis B, C, and HIV were negative. Topical clobetasol propionate and systemic prednisone were prescribed, with partial resolution of the lesions. Subsequently, treatment with methylprednisolone 10 mg a week was started with progressive improvement.
Considering the clinical and histopathological findings, and the onset and worsening of the skin eruption in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine, diagnosis of vaccine-induced LP was rendered.

The exact pathogenesis of the association of LP and COVID-19 vaccinations is still unknown. A recent review of this association found 33 cases of LP arising after various vaccinations, including hepatitis B, influenza, and herpes zoster vaccines. It is known that LP dermatitis is induced by CD8\(^+\) cytotoxic T cells and maintained by the release of IL-2, TNF-\(\alpha\), and IFN-\(\gamma\) by CD4\(^+\) lymphocytes. All COVID-19 vaccines induce a T-cell driven response with B-cell activation, antibody production, and increased levels of cytokines, including IL-2, TNF-\(\alpha\), and IFN-\(\gamma\).\(^{3,4}\)

In addition to the case described by Piccolo \textit{et al}, there are four other published reports of oral or cutaneous LP in association with COVID-19 vaccination (Table 1).\(^{5-9}\) Here, we report a new case of LP triggered by COVID-19 vaccination with development of cutaneous lesions, initially on vitiliginous depigmented areas, and subsequently on normal skin and oral mucosa. In our case, because of the clinical exacerbation following the administration of the second dose of the vaccine, immunomodulatory treatment with methotrexate was required. We encourage dermatologists to screen patients presenting with recent onset of dermatologic disease or sudden worsening of preexisting conditions to inquire about COVID-19 vaccination to increase awareness in this particular area.

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The patients in this manuscript have given written informed consent to publication of their case details.
Table 1 Reported cases of lichen planus associated with COVID vaccination

| Sex/Age   | COVID-vaccine                  | LP onset     | Successive doses | Type of LP                  | Diagnosis                                                   | Treatment                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Troeltzsch M, et al.⁵ | Male/49 year                  | Ad26.COV2.S (Johnson & Johnson) | 6 days after | NA                          | Oral mucosa biopsy                                          | Topical clobetasol                           |
| Merhy R, et al.⁶ | Female/56 year                  | Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine | 1 week after 1st dose | NR                          | Cutaneous Skin biopsy                                      | NR                                            |
| Hiltun I, et al.⁷ | Female/56 year                  | Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine | 2 days after 2nd dose | NA                          | Flare of preexisting cutaneous LP Skin biopsy               | High-potency topical corticosteroids         |
| Sharda P, et al.⁸ | Female/35 year                  | Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine | 2 weeks after | NA                          | Oral mucosa biopsy                                          | NR                                            |
| Piccolo V, et al.⁹ | Female/64 year                  | Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine | 5 days after 1st dose | Recurrence                  | Cutaneous LP over vitiligo areas Clinical findings         | Topical and systemic corticosteroids         |
| Present report | Female/29 year                  | Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine | 1 week after 1st dose | Exacerbation                | Cutaneous LP over vitiligo and normal skin areas Skin biopsy | Topical and systemic corticosteroids methotrexate |

NA, non-applicable; NR, non-registered.

Conflicts of interest
The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Data availability statement
The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

E. Bularca,* J. Monte-Serrano, P. Villagrasa-Boli, A. Lapeña-Casado, S. de-la-Fuente
Department of Dermatology, Lozano Blesa University Clinical Hospital of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain
*Correspondence: E. Bularca. E-mail: eabularca@gmail.com

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Reply to “Dermatoses caused by face mask wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic”

Editor,

We read with interest the paper of Yu Olisova et al. recently published on JEADV about different dermatoses caused by face mask wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors warned on the localization of lesions, typically observed only under the mask on cheeks, chin, and nasal bridge. We present a case series observed in our centre, which adds some hints of discussion.

Ten patients (four females and six males, aged 32–74 years) presented with psoriasis on retro-auricular area induced by COVID mask. Eight of them were affected by psoriasis and received biological treatment, including etanercept (2/8 pts), adalimumab (2/8 pts), brodalumab (1/8 pt), ustekinumab (1/8 pt), secukinumab (1/8 pt) and guselkumab (1/8 pt). The patients had good control of the psoriasis with 5/8 patients with complete remission, while 3/8 patients presented a minimal residual...