



Christopher Grunseich
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35 Convent Drive
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

3/19/2021

Re: COVID19 vaccination in patients with spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy

To whom this may concern,

I am a staff clinician at the National Institutes of Health and have evaluated patients with spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA) in multiple clinical studies. SBMA is a slowly progressive neuromuscular disease that typically results in weakness of the extremities and difficulty with swallowing and controlling secretions. Patients with SBMA may also experience shortness of breath. The diagnosis of SBMA can place patients at high risk of developing serious, life-threatening complications of COVID19. This risk would be mitigated with COVID19 vaccination. We would highly recommend patients with SBMA receive the COVID19 vaccination as soon as it is available to them. The vaccine is safe and there are no anticipated complications unique to those with a diagnosis of SBMA.

Be safe and stay well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Grunseich".

Christopher Grunseich, MD
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