

2025 to discuss the viability of petitioner's claim given the lack of an expert witness. During the status conference, petitioner's counsel noted that two qualified experts, one of whom regularly testified in the program, declined to offer an opinion in support of petitioner's claim. The undersigned issued a Show Cause Order on June 12, 2025. Petitioner's counsel filed a status report the next day, indicating that he was still unable to reach petitioner or locate an expert witness to support petitioner's case. Status Rept., June 16, 2025 (ECF No. 24).

The matter is now ripe for adjudication.

II. Legal Standard and Analysis

To receive compensation through the Program, petitioner must prove either (1) that she suffered a "Table Injury"—i.e., an injury listed on the Vaccine Injury Table—corresponding to a vaccine that she received, or (2) that he suffered an injury that was actually caused by a vaccination. See §§ 11(c)(1), 13(a)(1)(A); *Capizzano v. Sec'y of Health & Hum. Servs.*, 440 F.3d 1317, 1319-20 (Fed. Cir. 2006). Because petitioner does not allege that she suffered a Table Injury, she must prove that a vaccine she received caused her injury. To do so, she must establish, by preponderant evidence: (1) a medical theory causally connecting the vaccine and her injury ("*Althen* Prong One"); (2) a logical sequence of cause and effect showing that the vaccine was the reason for her injury ("*Althen* Prong Two"); and (3) a showing of a proximate temporal relationship between the vaccine and her injury ("*Althen* Prong Three"). § 13(a)(1); *Althen v. Sec'y of Health & Hum. Servs.*, 418 F.3d 1274, 1278 (Fed. Cir. 2005). Petitioner cannot establish entitlement to compensation based solely on his assertions; rather, a vaccine claim must be supported either by medical records or by the opinion of a medical doctor. § 13(a)(1). In determining whether petitioner is entitled to compensation, the special master shall consider all material in the record, including "any...conclusion, [or] medical judgment...which is contained in the record regarding...causation." § 13(b)(1)(A). In addition to petitioner's lack of a medical opinion to support her off-Table claim, petitioner's medical records also do not support vaccine causation. While the records support the fact that petitioner received the TDaP vaccine on February 11, 2021, and support a diagnosis of MCTD, none of petitioner's treating providers attributed her MCTD to the vaccine. Thus, petitioner's medical records, as they stand, fail to meet the *Althen* standard on their own, and she must have an expert to support vaccine causation.

III. Conclusion

Upon review of the record as a whole, petitioner has failed to provide sufficient evidence that TDaP vaccination she received caused her to suffer from mixed connective tissue disorder, as she is unable to find an expert to support her claim. Therefore, petitioner has failed to show cause why her claim should not be dismissed, and the petition therefore must be **DISMISSED**. The Clerk of Court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with this decision.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Thomas L. Gowen

Thomas L. Gowen

Special Master