

Was It COVID or Not?

Gen. Powell, who died Monday morning at age 84 reportedly from complications related to COVID-19, was afflicted by other diseases including Parkinson's and the blood cancer multiple myeloma, Fox News reported Monday afternoon.

The former U.S. Secretary of State was fully vaccinated from COVID-19, the family announced in a Facebook post. But as reported, there were other underlying conditions that contributed to Powell's death. One of them was multiple myeloma, a cancer that forms in a type of white blood cell called a plasma cell. Healthy plasma cells help you fight infections by making antibodies that recognize and attack germs.

In multiple myeloma, cancerous plasma cells accumulate in the bone marrow and crowd out healthy blood cells. Rather than produce helpful antibodies, the cancer cells produce abnormal proteins that can cause complications.

Powell's family didn't specify when Powell received vaccine, or whether he had taken a booster shot.

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