

- COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is not associated with an increased overall risk of blood clotting disorders.
- There have been very rare cases of unusual blood clots accompanied by low levels of blood platelets (components that help blood to clot) after vaccination. The reported cases were almost all in women under 55.
- Because COVID-19 can be so serious and is so widespread, the benefits of the vaccine in preventing it outweigh the risks of side effects.
- However, if you get any of the following after receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca:
 - breathlessness,
 - pain in the chest or stomach,
 - swelling or coldness in an arm or leg,
 - severe or worsening headache or blurred vision after vaccination,
 - persistent bleeding,
 - multiple small bruises, reddish or purplish spots, or blood blisters under the skin,
 - please seek prompt medical assistance and mention your recent vaccination.

Healthcare professionals have been advised as follows:

- Cases of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia, some presenting as mesenteric vein or cerebral vein/cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, have been reported in persons who had recently received COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, mostly occurring within 14 days after vaccination. The majority of reports involved women under 55, although some of this may reflect greater exposure of such individuals due to targeting of particular populations for vaccine campaigns in different Member States.
- The number of reported events exceeds those expected, and causality although not confirmed, cannot therefore be excluded. However, given the rarity of the events, and the difficulty of establishing baseline incidence since COVID-19 itself is resulting in hospitalisations with thromboembolic complications, the strength of any association is uncertain.
- EMA considers that the benefit-risk balance of the medicine remains positive, and there is no association with thromboembolic disorders overall. However, steps will be taken to update the SmPC and package leaflet with information on cases of DIC and CVST that have occurred.
- Healthcare professionals are urged to be alert for possible cases of thromboembolism, DIC or CVST occurring in vaccinated individuals.
- Recipients should be warned to seek immediate medical attention for symptoms of thromboembolism, and especially signs of thrombocytopenia and cerebral blood clots such as easy bruising or bleeding, and persistent or severe headache, particularly beyond 3 days after vaccination.

The product information has been updated with new information on cases of thrombosis and is available on our website: [COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, COVID 19 Vaccine \(ChAdOx1 S \[recombinant\]\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

More detailed information is available on EMA's website: [COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca: benefits still outweigh the risks despite possible link to rare blood clots with low blood platelets | European Medicines Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

In addition, a recording of EMA's press briefing is available: [EMA press conference - YouTube](#)

Best regards and wishing you a nice weekend!
HSC Secretariat